

Full Council – 23 November 2020

2nd Labour Group Motion

Thank you to our Keyworkers

This Council celebrates:

- The resilience and resourcefulness of Brent Council staff in responding to the challenges posed by a global pandemic, stepping in as the fourth emergency service to support the most vulnerable in our communities.
- That testament to the tireless work of our staff both before and during this pandemic, the Local Government Chronicle awarded this organisation ‘Council of the Year for 2020 – highlighting the council’s ability to ‘convene communities’ as ‘an antidote to today’s fractured society’.
- The enormous and continuing contribution of our entire family of essential keyworkers either employed or residing in Brent.
- That keyworkers on the frontline – from NHS colleagues, our social care heroes, Transport for London staff, our school teams, council officers, contractors, emergency services, refuse collectors, parking officers, and our retail workers keeping essential services open – have all made personal sacrifices without parallel; for the betterment of our borough.
- That communities across Brent have come together in a rousing display of solidarity to support their fellow residents. This network of mutual aid groups, our voluntary organisations, foodbanks, local businesses and faith groups – they have shown true leadership when it has been found wanting in the corridors of power.

This Council believes:

We join the Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer in his declaration that:

- We can see so clearly now who the key workers really are.
- When we get through this it will be because of the hard work and bravery of every key worker as they took on this virus and kept our country going.
- For too long they have been taken for granted and poorly paid. They were last and now they should be first.
- In their courage and their sacrifice and their bravery, we can see a better future.

This Council resolves:

- To convey this Chamber’s collective debt of gratitude to all of our keyworkers and recognise the personal sacrifices made in our borough’s hour of need.

- To do all we can to stand up and speak up for our key workers throughout the continuing pandemic.
- To call on the Government to recognise this moment of opportunity to thank all workers across the public sector, in deeds and not just words – by committing to a sector wide pay rise, acknowledging the vital services that keyworkers sustain and accounting for the decade of real-terms pay cuts since austerity began in 2010.
- To call on the Government to commit to giving the councils a funding package at the Spending Review that puts our essential services on long-term sustainable financial footing. This includes the urgent need for the Government to make good on the promise of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to fund the cost of ‘whatever it takes’ to tackle the pandemic.

Councillor Robert Johnson
Northwick Park Ward