

Full Council – 18 November 2024

Conservative Group Motion

Effect of Labour Government Budget on residents in Brent

On the day Sir Keir Starmer took office he said he wanted to restore trust to British politics “with actions, not words” but he chose to break Labour’s manifesto promises, hit working people and thrown pensioners into the cold, University tuition fees are going up 3.1%.

The October Labour Budget is littered with broken promises. We Conservatives warned that Labour would tax, borrow and spend far beyond what they told the country. As at September 2024 inflation was 1.7% down from 2.2% in the previous month, reflecting the sound state of the economy passed over by the Conservative Government. We left Labour with inflation back on target, interest rates falling, the fastest growing economy in the G7 with four million more people into work.

You can already see the Chancellor making excuses about their economic inheritance and the unsubstantiated basis of the fiscal £22 billion black hole they claim to have inherited. The Budget fiscal rules changed, borrowing increased by £70billion, inflation busting handouts for trade unions, Britain’s poorest pensioners squeezed, welfare spending out of control and inflation busting tax rises.

This Council Notes:

- The harsh reality under Labour with National Insurance Up, Inheritance tax Up, Energy taxes Up, Businesses rates Up, First time buyer stamp duty Up and Tax on Pensions Up.
- When Covid hit, the Conservative Government took responsible decisions and spent an estimated £400 billion to protect British people and businesses from the impact of Covid. They brought in Furlough and provided funding to the NHS and delivered the fastest vaccine roll out in the world.

This Council recognises:

- The need to support residents through the crises by creating a package of support for anyone facing hardship.
- That small business owners in Brent will be hit hard with higher NI contributions and a rise in national minimum wage.

- Whilst taxes impacting on Brent residents are going up, including young couples saving to buy their first home families wanting to pass on their home or business to their children, parents sacrificing to give their kids the best start in life, , the only thing that's going down is what's left in people's pockets.
- This Budget laid bare that Sir Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves are following the same old Labour rhetoric: higher public spending, sky-rocket taxes in our country's history and record-high borrowing. This will deliver a hammer blow for Brent families and pensioners' pockets.
- The Labour Party has no experience of business and enterprise. Relentlessly talking down our economy. Delivering a tidal wave of anti-business regulations and destroying our flexible labour market. It is the classic Labour agenda: higher taxes, higher borrowing; no plan for growth and working people of Brent will pay the price.

This Council, therefore, resolves to request that the Leader of the Council write to Sir Kier Starmer seeking a restoration of the Winter fuel supplement and reverse of the NI increases.

Councillor Kanta Mistry
Queensbury Ward