

## **SUMMONS ITEM 11(ii)**

### **FULL COUNCIL 26<sup>th</sup> January 2004**

#### **Motion selected for debate by Councillor Lorber, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group**

##### THE STATE OF BRENT, THE STATE OF OUR STREETS

This Council notes with regret the recent disappointing Comprehensive Performance Assessment result , which shows Brent slipping down the bottom half of the table following the Council's re-assessment by the Audit Commission, and failing to improve on its mark of 2 out of 4 for basic services.

Members note that of the 150 Councils assessed , 82 were found to be Good or Excellent, while Brent fell into the bottom 68 which were Fair, Weak or Poor. Four more London Councils were marked as Good or Excellent this year, but Brent was not among them despite the 22 per cent Council Tax rise imposed on residents last March.

Members further note that, in falling further behind other Councils, Brent is heading in the opposite direction to its stated aim of achieving an Excellent rating , with apparently little or no idea what to do about it. This is clearly a failure of political Leadership by the Labour Executive.

Council therefore requests the Executive in its forthcoming Budget deliberations to give greater consideration to the need to improve, invest in and enhance Brent's frontline services to increase resident satisfaction by reducing the amount spent on Spin, Propaganda, Special Allowances, the Mayor's Office and other such waste.

Council further requests that improving the local environment be made a top priority, with significantly more funds invested in cleaning up our streets , a more concerted effort to increase Brent's abysmal recycling rate, and much tougher contract monitoring of and penalties applied to contractors who repeatedly fail to deliver while residents pay the price in Council Tax and poor services.