

**FULL COUNCIL
31st January 2005**

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

The Cost of Ken Livingstone

Council notes with concern the latest Fare Price Hike on London Transport from the New Labour London Mayor Ken Livingstone, and the serious deterrent that this will present to people in terms of being happy to pay the fare, or use Buses.

Council also notes in particular the other problems with the lack of a sensible Bus strategy, such as :

- the increasing number of Buses using residential streets in and around Willesden and Brondesbury while the London Mayor refuses to agree a proper strategic route to Northwick Park Hospital
- the use of local Brent streets by EMPTY Buses – often chucking passengers off the bus first - so that short-cuts can be taken because of the current lack of a Depot
- the design of the new Bendy Buses, which is often allowing passengers to hop on and hop off without paying
- the fact the new ticket machines will not give change for £2 coins – and the extra cost in time delays of the rise from £1 to £1.20, meaning that drivers have to refund the change and it takes longer to pay

Council further notes that income from the Congestion Charge, also being increased further, was meant to facilitate a switch to Bus travel, but that Bus travellers are still paying more ; that all these Transport rises come on top of a more than doubling of the precept imposed by Ken Livingstone, the New Labour London Mayor ; and that despite these burdens on residents he has not once been “capped” by New Labour Ministers.

Council therefore believes that the London Mayor’s Bus strategy will result in nothing but people being forced back into their cars, and resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the London Mayor expressing this Council’s grave concerns and demanding a review of the Transport Strategy as it affects Brent, particularly in relation to Buses.