

**Full Council  
26<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

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

Brent teaching Primary Care Trust Budget deficit

This Council expresses its grave concern at the potential impact of plans by Brent teaching Primary Care Trust to tackle a deficit totalling some £ 22 million.

The Council notes that the need to find such savings, in priority to meeting local demand, is being forced on the tPCT by the Labour Government, and will have to be done if the tPCT are to avoid formal recovery procedures and further imposed regimes from the Government.

This Council accepts however its role in scrutinising and commenting on such plans with a view to protecting vital local services. With this in mind, we urge the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, once appointed, to consider and comment on:

- proposals by Brent tPCT to slash £800,000 from the Joint Commissioning Budget that supports local voluntary services
- a proposed cut of £ 53,000 to Brent Citizen's Advice Bureau that would see the end of advice surgeries in GP surgeries, and further proposed cuts to organisations such as Brent Bereavement Service, Safe Haven and many others
- the value of preventative and community services and Drug and Alcohol strategies in tackling the causes of health problems at an early stage, providing support, and preventing loss of life and health
- the importance of funding for such services as an effective use of resources that reduces pressures on local Hospitals and Accident and Emergency departments

We further call for an overarching Health Strategy for Brent to be developed which :

- recognises the importance of preventative strategies and early, pre-crisis, non-statutory intervention
- involves the voluntary sector in service planning

- harnesses the contributions of Health, local authority and voluntary bodies, and identifies and aims to fill any gaps in provision
- reflects the community outreach that our voluntary and support services provide
- assesses the contribution made by the voluntary and community sector in reducing Health inequalities across Brent's diverse communities, and the potential to do so to a greater degree within a proper, strategically planned approach.