

**Full Council
11th September 2006**

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

Proposed new powers for the Mayor of London.

Council notes with dismay proposals by the Labour Government to further increase the powers of the Mayor of London at the expense of local authorities.

Council notes the negative impact of the London Mayor's interference in local matters, such as the increase in height of the proposed tower at Copland School to 28 storeys - well above the locally agreed brief. We regret the lack of resistance by the former Labour administration to such interference.

Brent Council expresses concern at plans to allow the Mayor to decide densities, numbers and types of houses in each area ; where Housing Corporation investment will go ; and determine Planning applications and negotiate Section 106 agreements himself. We firmly believe that planning matters are best decided by councils, who have most knowledge of local need.

"Double devolution" should not mean stripping powers from both Government and councils and putting them in the hands of one person. We instead ask the Government to devolve more power currently held at London and Government level, as a step to empowering residents.

We instruct the Chief Executive to convey our view to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, all Brent Members of Parliament, the ALG, LGA and other stakeholders and partners.

We ask that this resolution should inform any responses to consultation on the proposed new powers and their use, and be reflected in the Council's submissions and public comments on draft London-wide plans. We further ask the Executive and Planning Committee to take full account of the Council's view when considering and developing policy on related issues.