

**Full Council  
23<sup>rd</sup> April 2007**

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

**Tackling Crime and the Fear of Crime.**

This Council recognises that:

- Crime and the fear of crime, remain a major concern for Brent residents, fuelled in particular by persistent low level crime and anti-social behaviour, high-profile violent incidents in the Borough, a shortage of Police Officers on the beat, and difficulty in getting adequate response times from an overstretched police force;
- The public's confidence in safely visiting all parts of Brent by day or night must be reinforced, particularly by tackling at source known centres of disorder;
- Partnership working between the Police and Council has led to better co-ordination on law enforcement and a greater Police presence in parts of Brent, but this has been hampered by lack of resources overall, and misdirected government policies.

Council welcomes:

- The Administration's substantial capital investment in CCTV cameras and decision to provide extra money in this year's Budget to keep cameras working effectively
- The Executive decision to recruit 16 Police Community Support Officers, over and above those provided in Safer Neighbourhood Teams, as an effective contribution to local community safety

However, this Council believes that:

- More Officers on patrol are urgently needed, and these could be provided by switching billions of pounds wasted on the Government's ineffective national Identity card scheme into Police budgets
- Local communities should have more power to close local pubs and clubs that are frequent trouble spots
- Current sentencing policy, with sentences that do not mean what they say, is confused and does not provide an adequate deterrent

- With over 60% of released prisoners re-offending within 2 years, a new approach is needed.

Council therefore resolves to lobby the relevant Secretaries of State, the Mayor of London and Brent MPs for action to:

- Strengthen licensing enforcement powers against pubs and clubs that are a source of trouble;
- Raise the level of visible police presence on the streets, and provide Officer numbers that reflect the level of crime in Brent ;
- Develop existing arrangements for victim support to identify the scope for compensation and reparations to be paid by offenders;
- Bring honesty to sentencing – for example, Life should mean Life;
- Examine the scope for introducing Community Justice Panels and other community engagement in the administration of justice.