

Full Council – 21st January 2008**Motion selected for debate by Councillor Bob Blackman,
Leader of the Conservative Group****Cancer Services**

This Council notes that the Labour Government have had seven years to improve cancer services since their last cancer strategy, but cancer survival rates in this country still lag behind the European average, let alone the best in Europe or the world.

The announcement of a new strategy provides few indications as to how the dramatic improvement that is needed will be secured. This Council further notes that, if the UK achieved European-best levels of cancer survival rates, then 95 lives each day could be saved.

This Council believes that the current system of funding for cancer services is unfair across the country. The Labour Government strategy continues to discriminate against areas with the highest concentrations of older people. The Government is still refusing to scrap central targets, and has undermined cancer prevention by allowing public health budgets to be raided during the NHS financial crisis.

In Brent each cancer sufferer receives just £9,166 a year – by contrast, cancer sufferers in Nottingham receive £17,028 a year.

The figures may help to explain not only why inequalities in cancer death rates have widened during Labour's ten years in power, but also why access to drugs for the treatment of cancer varies so much across the country.

This Council believes that there is a need to improve cancer services in the UK but that the Government's strategy neglects key areas in which change is needed to improve survival rates, specifically:

1. This Council supports the call for a funding allocation formula to local NHS Trusts that better reflects the relative burden of disease.
2. This Council calls on the Labour Government to end narrow top-down targets which only focus on part of a patient's care.
3. This Council supports calls for a separate public health budget to end the raiding of public health resources that has taken place under this Government.