

Full Council – 30th June 2008

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

Maintaining a cohesive Brent.

Council notes with sadness and disappointment the vote in Parliament on 11th June setting a new 42 day limit for detaining residents without charge.

Council further notes that while 36 Labour members of parliament voted with Brent East Liberal Democrat MP Sarah Teather against the Government, in line with their principles, these sadly did not include either Labour MP elected to represent the interests of Brent residents.

In re-emphasising the importance to this Council of community cohesion, we congratulate the Council's Diversity team on developing an approach to preventing extremism that highlights how the Council will work with its diverse communities and is based on a clear strategy for success, and a sound knowledge of the aspirations and concerns of our communities.

Council notes that this Administration's positive approach is in stark contrast to the counterproductive action taken by the Labour Government in further reducing basic freedoms, which is likely to heighten fears among Brent's communities about discrimination and possible targeting.

Council therefore asks the Leader to write to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and Brent's Labour MPs expressing this Council's concern about the implications of the 42 day limit and its potential impact in the Borough in respect to community cohesion and citizens' empowerment.