

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Full Council – 27th October 2008

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

Mobility Benefits for Blind Residents

This Council notes:

1. That blind people experience significant barriers to independent mobility
2. That blind people are often isolated and can find it difficult to access basic services without mobility assistance
3. That many blind residents in Brent find it difficult to access Shops, Supermarkets, Doctors, Dentists and Community facilities and centres
4. That blind residents find it difficult to access many services without mobility support, and face additional costs as a result.

This Council further notes:

1. That blind people are not entitled to the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance
2. That loss of usable sight clearly causes significant independent mobility problems and incurs significant additional and unmet costs
3. That due to a lack of Government funding, some blind people are excluded from social care support because their needs are not considered “critical” or “substantial”.

This Council resolves:

1. To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Rt. Hon James Purnell MP, expressing these concerns

2. To ask the Leader of the Council to write to Brent's three MPs asking that they sign up to EDM number 1982 and that they write to the Secretary of State expressing these concerns
3. To support the Royal National Institute of Blind People's (RNIB) campaign on securing the higher rate mobility component of DLA for blind people.