

**Full Council – 12 July 2021**

**Labour Group Motion**

**The road to recovery**

This Council recognises how deeply the pandemic has impacted on the lives and livelihoods of the people of Brent.

This Council acknowledges the toll taken on all residents, not least those already enduring, pre-COVID19, the enormous difficulties of poverty and deprivation.

This Council commends the huge civic effort that enabled the speedy and sustained provision of essential support to those prevented by various lockdown restrictions from meeting their own needs.

This Council applauds communities that have come together in these difficult times, and commends key workers that have given so much of themselves in keeping vital services running.

This Council notes:

- The implementation of the invaluable Resident Support Fund through which thousands of households could access desperately needed financial assistance
- The delivery of the Covid-19 Winter Grant Scheme supporting families in need over the winter period
- The provision of nearly £100m for local business impacted by Covid-19
- Its ability to help meet the third highest level of demand in England for self-employment support packages
- The enhancement of Brent Start and Brent Works to ensure that Brent's workforce remains connected to nearby employment opportunities
- The outstanding help and support provided to high numbers of clinically extremely vulnerable residents
- The public health partnerships that have enabled the large scale and ongoing roll out of vaccinations

This Council commits itself to continue building on these successes and embraces the fact that there remains much to be done on this borough's road to recovery.

To that end, this Council is determined to:

- Deliver on its Climate and Ecological Emergency pledge to become a carbon neutral borough.
- Launch the Business Support Fund and Additional Grant Scheme, providing local enterprise with access to a wide range of financial and advisory resources.
- Collaborate locally to provide affordable and creative co-working space in response to people's new working patterns.

Councillor Ihtesham Afzal  
Preston Ward