

Full Council – 8 July 2024

Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Dealing with increasing rubbish on Brent streets

This Council notes:

Brent streets are filthier than ever. It is hard to walk by any road, whether residential or close to a busy shopping area or High Road, in the borough, without coming across a fly tip or a pile of dumped rubbish. Sadly, even the BBC have noticed and place Brent at the top of their list of dirtiest boroughs in the country!¹

Recent changes made by the Administration to the contract with Veolia have made things even worse. Rather than prioritising the need to keep Brent clean, the new contract has in fact reduced the need for Veolia to regularly cleanse local streets and made it harder for the Council to hold them to account when the contractors are not doing a good enough job.

Residents are not happy. Over the course of the last few weeks, councillors have been out speaking with local people. The message from them is clear. It is time Brent Council got to grips and dealt with increasing rubbish on our streets.

This Council therefore believes that:

1. Keeping local streets clean and free of rubbish and illegal fly tipping must be a priority.
2. We need urgent action to address the rubbish problem and redouble our efforts to prosecute those who continue to illegally fly tip in our area.
3. The new modified contract with Veolia, which scraps regular street cleaning on all streets in the borough, both residential and close to busy shopping areas, and the introduction of the 'intelligence-led' approach, is not working.

This Council therefore calls on Cabinet to:

1. Seek a variation in the current contract with Veolia to:

¹ London boroughs among those with highest fly-tipping increase: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-68029786>

- *Reintroduce regular street cleaning on all roads and in all areas of the borough.*
 - *Scrap the 'intelligence-led' approach which is not working.*
 - *Ensure the contractor can be held to account better, when they are not fulfilling their set out obligations. Particularly in relation to the length of time it takes to clear fly tips and accumulated rubbish.*
2. Beef up enforcement, by employing more officers (apprentices) to assist Neighbourhood Managers in their activities on the ground across the borough.
 3. Adapt our approach to tackling fly tipping in our borough by working with other London boroughs who have similar issues and are achieving better results.
 4. Prioritise enforcement and the collection of evidence, to better guarantee successful prosecution of those who continue to illegally dump rubbish locally.
 5. Request that the Mayor of London and other stakeholders, including TfL, Housing Associations, local businesses, take responsibility for land that they manage and ensure it is free of rubbish and dumping. This will ensure a joint up approach to dealing with this growing issue in our area and feed into the wider objective to keep Brent clean and tidy at all times.

Cllr Anton Georgiou
Alperton Ward