



Full Council – 8 July 2024

Labour Group Motion

The path we choose with a new government

This Council notes:

There has never been a more difficult time for local government. Rising demand, increasing costs and reductions in funding have left councils with impossible choices, between cutting one essential service and another.

Wages, living conditions, and opportunities have stalled and entered serious decline for over a decade now. 1 in 3 children are now living in destitution.

The challenges any new government will face will take a long time to put right. From the collapse of Thames Water, flat-lining public sector pay, a crisis in prisons and both universities and local government in financial crisis. Councils now face an overall deficit of £4bn over the next two years, and more councils issued bankruptcy notices last year than in the previous 30 years.

We have always argued the only limit to our ambition is the golden thread of funding. With the right resources, we stand ready to help rebuild alongside a new government after fourteen lost years; and truly bring about the change Brent deserves.

This Council further notes:

Now is the time for a brighter future for Brent and for the country. Local government is the key to solving some of our national challenges, rooted in a democratic mandate in the heart of our communities; delivering tailored services for our residents. But this task requires a strong partnership with a bold new government, and a mutual understanding of the shared obstacles we face.

We call on the new government to:

1. Set out a fair, multi-year funding settlement for councils, reforming Council Tax once and for all.
2. Extend the Household Support Fund for at least another 12-months or introduce a new scheme.

3. Fix the housing and homelessness crisis, supporting shovel-ready schemes and new developments.
4. Invest in fixing public infrastructure like schools, the NHS, police and councils.
5. Transform life chances by reversing the decline in living standards and rising poverty across the country.
6. Make Britain a clean energy superpower to cut bills and deliver security with cheaper, zero-carbon electricity.
7. Push for an urgent ceasefire and resolution to the conflict in Gaza, particularly in recognition of those Brent residents with family and friends trapped in Gaza and who continue to be impacted by increased tensions in the community.
8. Put prevention and the health of the nation at the heart of all future plans.
9. Unlock funding for the Mayor of London to fulfil transport commitments such as the Bakerloo upgrade and extension, the West London Orbital, and the electrification of the Chiltern Railway Line.

This Council resolves:

- (1) To work with the new government on their missions to improve the country and to deliver for Brent.
- (2) To continue using the limited resources we have in the best way possible to protect life-saving services and those affected by the cost-of-living crisis.
- (3) To continue working in partnership with organisations such as the LGA, London Councils and our new MPs on lobbying opportunities to strengthen Brent's voice on the national stage.

Councillor Ryan Hack
Brondesbury Park Ward