

Full Council – 7 July 2025

Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Stop Messing Up Brent

This Council notes:

- In 15 years, Labour-run Brent Council has contributed to the visible deterioration of our streets and public spaces through:
 - The blue bag fiasco.
 - Removing litter bins from our streets.
 - Reduced refuse collections.
 - Massive cost rises for the Too Big for the Bin Service.
- Labour-run Brent Council's failure to:
 - - Meet the recycling targets in volumes and costs.
 - Ensure Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) have enough bins.
 - Tackle Chewing Tobacco spitting causing street cleaning & public health issue.
 - Tackle the rise in anti-social behaviour.
- Other Councils are taking creative steps to improve their local environment:
 - Kingston Council has piloted AI-powered cameras and achieved an 80% reduction in fly-tipping in targeted areas.
 - Manchester, Edinburgh, and Liverpool explored or implemented tourist taxes to raise funds for local services and public realm improvements.
- Liberal Democrats regularly raise these issues and call for action, but little effective action takes place.

This Council believes:

- Problems with fly-tipping, street mess, and anti-social behaviour are not isolated incidents, but the result of long-term neglect and poor decisions by the current administration. This neglect has created a vicious cycle - consistent with the “Broken Windows” theory, first applied in New York City, which demonstrated that visible signs of disorder encourage more disorder.
- Brent deserves better: residents expect and deserve clean, safe, and well-maintained neighbourhoods — and they are not getting it.

This Council resolves to:

1. Request that Cabinet consider the use of NCIL Funds to invest in:
 - Reinstalling litter bins where needed most.
 - Ensuring that all HMOs have sufficient bin capacity and that landlords take responsibility for waste management.
 - Deploying AI-powered cameras in fly-tipping hotspots.
2. Introduce a local Tourist Tax with income ringfenced for enforcement to keep the streets clean and free of anti-social behaviour - increasing funding for street cleaning teams and enforcement officers.
3. Request that the Cabinet Member Realm & Enforcement:
 - (a) revise working hours of the Council’s Enforcement Officers so they cover late night time shifts when dumping and anti-social activities take place.
 - (b) Give the choice of a wheelie bin in place of the blue bag as promised to Scrutiny prior to the introduction of the new recycling scheme.
4. Seek the introduction (subject to the necessary powers being identified) of planning/licensing requirements requiring all outlets with take aways service to provide recycling and litter bins outside their premises and take responsibility for daily emptying to keep the bin(s) and the area around them clean.
5. Introduce by-laws requiring outlet using or employing delivery drivers to take responsibility for their behaviour and a requirement that they cease to use them if they see them spitting or littering local streets or taking part in any form of anti-social behaviour including causing noise in residential areas late at night.
6. Call on the Government to implement a bottle and cans deposit scheme and pass on any surplus generated to local authorities to invest in improved litter management services.

Cllr Charlie Clinton
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