



Full Council – 10 November 2025

Motion for Non-Cabinet Member debate

Broken Promises and Failing Finances – Brent Deserves Better than Labour’s Short-Term Thinking

16 months since the general election that promised “change”, the Labour Government has failed to deliver the financial support that local authorities like Brent urgently need. Instead of providing sustainable funding allowing councils to plan properly, invest in essential services, and rebuild local infrastructure, ministers have continued the same pattern of uncertainty, offering only one-year settlements and short-term sticking plasters.

In Brent, the Labour Council’s response has been unacceptable. Rather than standing up for local residents and demanding a fair deal, the Council has meekly accepted the Government’s excuses while presiding over neglected streets, crumbling pavements, and services stretched to breaking point. Local people pay some of the highest Council Tax in London but see little in return - roads full of potholes, littered streets, unreliable waste services and a backlog of repairs to Council homes.

Brent Liberal Democrats have long campaigned for investment in the essentials: clean and safe neighbourhoods, well-maintained roads and pavements and public services that work. Yet Labour at both national and local level have failed to deliver the stability and competence.

This Council notes that:

- Despite a year of promises from the new Labour Government, Councils have still not received the multi-year funding settlements needed to plan ahead and invest efficiently.
- Brent’s own budget forecasts show continuing shortfalls in funding for street maintenance, waste and recycling, local infrastructure, and adult social care.
- The Labour Council’s record of financial management has been characterised by short-term fixes, rising debt levels, and an over-reliance on developer income, none of which provide sustainable solutions.
- Residents repeatedly raise concerns about potholes, broken pavements, overflowing bins and poorly maintained estates, everyday issues that the Council consistently fails to prioritise.

- The Labour Administration's focus on photo opportunities has too often come at the expense of basic services that matter most to residents.

As a result, this Council believes:

- The Government's failure to deliver long-term, predictable funding for local authorities show their election promises to "rebuild Britain" and "empower local communities" have not been delivered.
- Brent Labour has failed to use its voice or influence to fight for our borough, choosing instead to remain silent while residents and front-line services suffer.
- Councils must be given multi-year settlements, fair funding formulas and greater flexibility to raise and manage revenue locally.
- Cleaning up our streets, fixing our roads, and investing in neighbourhood infrastructure are not optional extras. They are the basic responsibilities of any competent local authority.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) To highlight that the Labour Government and Labour-run Brent Council have failed to secure and plan for long-term financial stability in Brent.
- (2) Urge the Government to introduce three-year funding settlements for Councils by 2026 and to provide additional ring-fenced investment for highways, pavements, and public-realm maintenance.
- (3) Support the commitment (as made by Brent Liberal Democrat Group) to campaign for a cleaner, safer, better maintained borough, with proper investment in local infrastructure, transparent budgeting and accountability for how every pound is spent.

Councillor Paul Lorber
Sudbury Ward