

Full Council – 10 November 2025

Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Affordable Homes for Brent – Standing Up to Labour’s Failure and the Mayor’s Retreat on Housing

For years, Brent Liberal Democrats warned that Labour-run Brent Council and the Labour Mayor of London are failing on housing.

Despite endless press releases and photo opportunities, the delivery of *genuinely affordable* and *council-owned* homes has fallen well short of what is needed. Developers have been allowed to dictate terms, pushing up their profits while the Council accepts watered-down deals that do little to help local people.

In a move that is a retreat from responsibility, the Mayor of London has announced that he will lower the affordable housing target from 35% to just 20% for new developments seeking fast-track planning approval. This decision represents a complete capitulation to developer pressure and a betrayal of Londoners who were promised a fairer, more affordable city. Instead of standing up for communities, Labour in London is bending to corporate interests, allowing “viability” arguments to trump the moral imperative of providing homes people can actually afford.

This Council notes:

- The Mayor of London has reduced the GLA affordable housing requirement for major developments from 35% to 20% to “unblock” stalled sites.
- This comes at a time when tens of thousands of Brent residents are struggling with housing costs, and over 25,000 people remain on the borough’s housing waiting list.
- Brent’s Labour Council has consistently failed to deliver on its own council housing targets, while approving developments that contain too few genuinely affordable homes and too many at so-called “affordable” rents far beyond local incomes.
- Brent Liberal Democrats have long campaigned for stronger requirements on developers, for investment in new council homes, and for affordability standards based on what people *actually earn*, not arbitrary percentages of market price.

- That while the building sector faces cost pressures, cutting affordable housing obligations is not the answer, it merely passes the problem on to those already priced out.

As a result, this Council believes:

- That the Mayor's decision represents a serious backward step that will reduce the number of homes affordable to Brent residents, deepen inequality, and damage public trust in the planning process.
- That Labour, both locally and at City Hall, has chosen to side with developers instead of Londoners.
- That *targets for their own sake* mean nothing if the homes being built are unaffordable to the people who need them most.
- That national government must also shoulder responsibility, its "*build, build, build*" slogan rings hollow when councils lack the powers and funding to build the right homes.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Oppose the Mayor of London's decision to reduce affordable housing targets.
- (2) Request the Leader of the Council publish within three months a detailed plan setting out how Brent will:
 - (a) Increase the number of new council homes built or acquired each year;
 - (b) Enforce stronger Section 106 obligations to deliver genuinely affordable housing;
 - (c) Publicly report on how viability assessments are used and challenge developer claims.
- (3) Call on the Government to provide sufficient funding for council-led building and land acquisition to support a new generation of council homes.

Councillor Paul Lorber
Sudbury Ward