

**Full Council – 10 November 2025**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Labour Group Motion**

**Reforming the Two-Child Limit – A Fair Deal for Families, Funded by Fair Gambling Reform**

**This Council notes:**

- That the two-child limit and household benefit cap are among the most punitive welfare policies in recent history, pushing hundreds of thousands of children into poverty and disproportionately affecting single parents and larger families.
- Nationally, over 1.6 million children are impacted by the two-child limit, with affected families losing around £3,500 per year, while 115,000 households are affected by the benefit cap, most of them single-parent families.
- Research from the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) shows that removing these two policies would lift around half a million children out of poverty overnight, at a cost of around £3 billion a year.
- The IPPR and former Prime Minister Gordon Brown have proposed a credible and fair funding route – a reform of gambling taxation, raising around £3 billion per year by increasing duties on online casinos, slot machines and general betting, ensuring gambling companies contribute more to repairing the social harms they may help create.
- In September 2025, the Chancellor confirmed that reforming the two-child limit is “on the table”, signalling a welcome willingness to consider compassionate and fiscally responsible reform.
- Brent continues to experience some of the highest child-poverty levels in London, with around 35 per cent of children under 15 living in poverty after housing costs, and many families struggling with food and fuel insecurity.

**This Council further notes:**

- Brent’s leadership in tackling gambling-related harms, including our partnership with the Social Market Foundation (SMF), to examine how high-street gambling impacts communities and to develop evidence-based solutions.

- The recent Brent Council and SMF report, recommending reform of the licensing objectives that underpin the Gambling Act 2005 and the “aim to permit” principle – so that councils and communities have greater powers to protect public health, fairness and local wellbeing.

**This Council believes:**

- That no child should grow up in poverty because of the number of siblings they have or where they were born.
- That reforming the two-child limit and benefit cap, funded through fair taxation of the gambling industry, offers a responsible way to reduce child poverty while remaining fiscally disciplined.
- That gambling firms should contribute their fair share, linked to their profits, toward addressing the harm, in line with the principles of prevention, responsibility and fairness.

**This Council therefore resolves to:**

- (1) Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and to the Chancellor, expressing Brent’s support for reforming the two-child limit and benefit cap, funded by progressive gambling-tax reform.
- (2) Reaffirm Brent’s leadership in tackling gambling harms, building on our work with the Social Market Foundation to strengthen local licensing powers and protect communities.
- (3) Share this motion with Brent’s Members of Parliament and the Local Government Association, urging them to support a fair, compassionate and fiscally responsible approach to ending child poverty.
- (4) Contact all landowners in Wembley to encourage them to replicate the Council’s advertising policy, which prevents gambling operators from advertising in the public realm.

Councillor Jumbo Chan  
Harlesden and Kensal Green Ward