

Appendix 3 – Current council poverty commitments

1. Council Strategies and Plans

Strategy / Plan	Focus / Commitment
Borough Plan	<p>The desired outcome 'Easing the cost-of-living crisis' focuses on reducing poverty through benefit support, employment support and poverty alleviation projects. There are also commitments around tackling homelessness, employment and skills, education and health inequality.</p> <p>As part of the Borough Plan's quarterly performance monitoring, most of the key performance indicators (KPIs) directly and indirectly contribute to tackling poverty and are related to the various activity outlined in this report. Collectively, these KPIs provide a general overview Brent's progress to tackling poverty – the Q2 2025/26 report can be found here.</p>
Brent Youth Strategy 2025-2028	References improvements based on the Poverty Commission Report and includes commitments around skills development and employment opportunities.
Brent Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh	A focus on reducing health inequalities, including tackling period poverty through the Period Dignity Brent initiative.
Food Strategy (upcoming)	The council is currently leading on the development of a Food Strategy for all in Brent, which has six strands (or Missions) that address system-wide challenges related to food. This will be ready for consultation in 2026. Once the strategy has been implemented, there will be data provided to share the impact of the food strategy and its accompanying action plan.
Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy	Refreshed commitment to increase the supply of affordable homes across the borough, from 2026-2031.

Brent Employment & Skills Strategy 2026-2030 (upcoming)	Aims to create a more inclusive, dynamic, and resilient workforce by addressing key employment challenges and promoting sustainable career opportunities.
Brent Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021 - 2030	Addresses issues around fuel poverty and ensuring that people are living in warm and comfortable homes
EDI Strategy	Focus on tackling inequalities, including improving social mobility and creating employment opportunities for residents.
Inclusive Growth Strategy	Long term strategy tackling unemployment and poverty through adult apprenticeships, older residents in poverty as well as energy and food poverty.

2. Projects, Community work and council groups

Project / Group	Focus / Activity
Gambling Reform Project – Public Affairs	A focus on improving the quality of residents' lives through advocacy for gambling reform. This is tied to health inequality and deprivation.
Commissioning, Procurement & Social Value approach	A prevention-first and outcome-focused approach to designing & commissioning services, adopted across the Council and by relevant partners, building the capacity of our local VCS and ensuring good value for money for the council and high-quality services for residents
Radical Place Leadership	Tackling poverty through key localised aims based on data: Homelessness, Debt and School Readiness, as well as a new 'test and learn' Neighbourhood Prevention Team in Harlesden as part of the Radical Place Leadership programme. This multidisciplinary team will work alongside residents who are identified as 'at risk' of homelessness to provide holistic, wraparound, relational support.

Cost of Living Working Group	<p>Cross council group which shares info and provides a steer on various resident support initiatives including financial support, food, fuel and other areas of support ensuring links with employment and skills related support.</p> <p>Projects that frequently report to the board: projects from the Cost-of-Living OBR including New Horizons Centre and Community Wellbeing Service, Debt Advice Service, Immigration Advice Service as well as Well and Warm, Warm Places, Joy App, RSF / HSF, new NCIL school uniform work and others.</p>
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3. Commitments

Commitment	Details
Adopting the Socioeconomic Duty	<p>In November 2025, the council formally adopted the socio-economic duty, with the consequence that socio-economic status as is now an internally recognised protected characteristic, and is considered as part of Equality Impact Assessments, which is a commitment. This was a commitment within the EDI Strategy 2024-2028.</p>