

Full Council – 6 July 2026

Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To add the wording underlined and delete the wording indicated:

Providing Choice to Improve Recycling Rates Across Brent

This Council notes:

- Brent continues to lag behind many London boroughs on household recycling, although evidence shows Brent is the leading the way with food waste collection with the 6th highest figures in London. While residents overwhelmingly support recycling and want to help tackle climate change, the Council's current system must continue to be made easier, clearer and more consistent for residents. ~~does not make recycling easy enough.~~
- Brent's household recycling rate remains around 30%, with the Government's Simpler Recycling reforms now requiring separation of waste streams, including paper and card by default, Brent has a responsibility and opportunity to improve its approach and deliver a recycling scheme that is legally compliant, environmentally effective and practical. ~~well below the Mayor of London's ambition of 50% municipal recycling by 2030 and behind several Liberal Democrat-run councils, including Kingston, Sutton and Richmond, which consistently exceed 45%. Their performance shows that better collection systems, clearer communication and stronger resident engagement can deliver higher recycling rates.~~
- Brent's blue recycling sacks have not on their own solved this problem. Residents continue to raise concerns about split or disintegrating sacks, litter, storage difficulties and confusion over what can be recycled. Three years after the Brent Liberal Democrats first called for the sacks to be scrapped, they the scheme has improved paper and card quality, but not yet delivered the step-change needed to meet Brent's climate ambitions. ~~failed to deliver the improvement promised.~~
- As Brent seeks to cut carbon emissions, reduce waste disposal costs and create cleaner neighbourhoods, improving recycling ~~must~~ continues to be a key environmental priority.

This Council therefore believes that:

- Brent's recycling performance is not good enough and must improve.
- Blue recycling sacks should not longer be treated as Brent's default recycling model in every circumstance. Any Continued use should be justified by clear evidence that sacks are wanted by residents in the relevant area, are practical for those households, and perform better than alternatives in increasing recycling, reducing contamination and keeping streets clean.
- Residents deserve a recycling service that is simple, convenient and encourages maximum participation.
- Targeted education and engagement are essential to improve recycling rates and reduce contamination.
- Brent should will learn from the best-performing London boroughs and adopt approaches that work locally.

This Council therefore requests that Cabinet:

- (1) ~~End~~ Review the blanket current reliance use on of blue recycling sacks as Brent's default collection model and carry out an urgent, evidence-led review of alternative Brent's recycling arrangements, with a presumption in favour of replacing sacks with considering the case for wheelie bins where sacks are causing problems for residents, contributing to litter, reducing participation or failing to improve recycling.
- (2) Ensure any proposal to retain sacks in a particular area, housing type or circumstance is backed by published evidence, including resident feedback, recycling performance, contamination, street cleanliness, accessibility, storage and value for money.
- (3) Undertake a timely ~~n-urgent~~ options appraisal of the most effective recycling collection models for Brent, including additional wheelie bins, segregated containers, improved communal recycling and other best-practice systems.
- (4) Offer households who want one the option of an additional wheelie bin for segregated paper and card recycling, ~~as first proposed by the Brent Liberal Democrat Group in 2023.~~ where practical, subject to cost.
- (5) ~~Develop~~ Continue strengthening targeted education and public awareness work with schools, community organisations, housing providers and residents' associations.
- (6) Improve recycling in flats and estates, where participation remains lower than elsewhere.
- (7) Present the review ~~and new recycling strategy~~ to the a next future Full Council Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, ~~including a timetable for a~~

more effective, detailing Brent's commitment to a resident-friendly collection model.

Councillor Promise Knight
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