



CALL-IN FORM

For the Attention of: Deputy Director Democratic & Corporate Governance

From: Councillor Paul Lorber

Date: 18 August 2026

Decision:

Authority to vary the contract for Integrated Street Cleaning, Waste Collection and Winter Maintenance Service with Veolia Environmental Services (UK) Limited

Date of decision: 6 August 2026 (published 12 August 2026)

Five non-cabinet members making request, which must include representatives from more than one political group (Note: all five members do not have to be listed on or sign the same form):

	Name of councillor	Signature <i>(only required if submitted in hard copy)</i>
1	Paul Lorber (Liberal Democrats)	
2	Daniel Brown ((Liberal Democrats)	
3	Anton Georgiou (Liberal Democrats)	
4	Fiona Mulaisho (Liberal Democrats)	
5	Krishna Chauhan (Liberal Democrats)	
6	Keith Perrin (Green)	

Please provide below an explanation as to why you are calling in the decision and if you are calling in all or part of the decision:

(Note: according to the Protocol On Call-in (Part 5 of the Constitution), call-in requests will not be considered valid if they:

- are used as a means of gaining information/understanding or discussing general concerns with Members and officers,*
- duplicate a call-in on the same issue within the previous six months,*
- are based on reasons already discussed by the relevant Scrutiny Committee prior to the decision being made,*
- concern a decision of the Cabinet referring a matter to Full Council for consideration.*
- concern operational management decisions, or*
- are otherwise considered by the Chief Executive to be frivolous, vexatious or clearly outside the call-in provisions.)*

The contract should not be varied at this stage, before Members of the Council and the Scrutiny Committee have had a full opportunity to review the operation and performance of the existing contract and to recommend improvements in response to concerns raised by local residents. This is particularly important given that the report states that no consultation has taken place with ward Councillors, other than the newly appointed Lead Member.

Comments from residents, together with Councillors' own observations, indicate that many streets across Brent remain dirty and that the current approach of "intelligence-led cleaning" is not delivering the standard of service that local people deserve.

There is also a significant concern that too much litter and waste is ending up in landfill, while too little is being recycled, with Brent lagging behind comparable authorities.

Additional funding should therefore not be added to the existing contract until its current performance has been properly reviewed, its failings and shortcomings identified, and potential improvements fully considered.

Please provide below an outline alternative course of action to the decision being called in:

That the decision be referred back to the Cabinet Member for reconsideration on the basis that prior to any additional funding or changes to the contract being agreed, Members should have a full opportunity to scrutinise the existing service, consider the concerns raised by residents and councillors, assess its current performance against the specific term of the contract and determine what improvements are required.

Areas that should be reviewed include:

1. Frequency of cleaning: Review the frequency of cleaning in shopping areas and on the side roads serving those areas.
2. Sweeping standards: Ensure that the service provides genuine mechanical or manual sweeping where required, rather than relying primarily on litter picking.
3. Waste collection and pick-up arrangements: Review how waste found on streets is dealt with. This should clarify whether contractors only collect waste that has been specifically ordered or reported, whether they are expected to collect waste they encounter during their rounds, and how both reported and unreported fly-tipping or dumped waste is addressed.
4. Unregistered land: Set out clearly the process for collecting waste from unregistered land. The Council should also explain how the register of unregistered land will be maintained, documented and made available for inspection.
5. Housing Revenue Account: Confirm that item (g) in the original decision will be charged to the Housing Revenue Account and not the General Fund.
6. Night-time cleaning: Fully review and, where appropriate, extend the areas receiving night-time cleaning.
7. Jet washing: Review the frequency of pavement jet washing in busy areas, with a view to carrying it out more regularly rather than concentrating activity immediately before local elections.
8. Financial implications: Fully review the financial implications for both the 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years, including the allocation of costs between the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

It is clear that the current service does not meet the clear specification in our contract including for example keeping street litter bins clean, for litter bins not to be over flowing and treating weeds on pavements as litter. The prime objective should therefore be to

ensure that any variation to the contract, and any additional expenditure associated with it, delivers real, measurable and visible improvements in the cleanliness of streets and public areas across Brent.

Please return this form to a representative of the Deputy Director Democratic & Corporate Governance, by email (from your individual email address) james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk or in hard copy (with signatures) to the Governance Team on the 4th floor, Brent Civic Centre.