

Full Council – 14 September 2026

Conservative Group Motion

Temporary Accommodation: Better Value and Greater Accountability

This Council notes:

- Brent faces severe pressure from rising homelessness, constrained housing supply and the increasing cost of temporary accommodation. In April 2026, the Council reported approximately 2,450 households in temporary accommodation, with around 60% in nightly paid arrangements.
- Brent's Housing Needs service was forecast to overspend by £4.5 million in 2025/26, while expenditure on nightly paid temporary accommodation was expected to reach approximately £38 million. The Council has allocated a further £8 million of budget growth to Housing Needs to address existing and anticipated demand pressures.
- The Council has acknowledged that reliance on nightly paid accommodation creates financial volatility, increasing caseloads, limited affordable options and variable accommodation quality. It has also identified longer-term leasing to provide greater stability and better value, with around 367 units anticipated to deliver approximately £4.8 million a year in savings or cost avoidance compared with equivalent nightly paid accommodation.

This Council believes:

- Families who become homeless deserve safe, suitable and stable accommodation, while Brent taxpayers are entitled to expect that scarce resources are managed effectively.
- Nightly paid accommodation will sometimes be unavoidable, but it should not become a long-term substitute for developing more stable and better value housing supply.
- The success of Brent's temporary accommodation strategy should therefore be judged by whether reliance on costly nightly accommodation is falling, properties are being brought into use quickly, families move into more stable homes and forecast savings are achieved.

This Council therefore calls on Cabinet to:

- (1) Set and publish measurable targets for reducing Brent's reliance on nightly paid and other high-cost temporary accommodation, together with a clear trajectory for achieving those reductions.
- (2) Review the process for bringing newly acquired and leased properties into occupation, identifying avoidable delays and establishing clear performance targets for the time between a property becoming available to the Council and a household moving in.
- (3) Continue to pursue longer-term leasing, acquisition and other supply options where these provide demonstrably better value and greater stability, while regularly assessing whether the savings and cost avoidance anticipated in business cases are being achieved.
- (4) Introduce and publish a monthly Temporary Accommodation Performance Dashboard, reporting where possible:
 - The total number of households in temporary accommodation;
 - The number in nightly paid accommodation and B&Bs;
 - Expenditure on temporary accommodation and the cost of nightly paid provision;
 - The number of households moved into more stable accommodation;
 - The number of acquired or leased properties awaiting occupation and the average time taken to bring them into use;
 - The number of households placed outside Brent;
 - Progress against the Council's published reduction and savings targets.
- (5) Use the Council's new Temporary Accommodation and Private Sector Leasing Digital Management Platform to improve management information, performance monitoring and scrutiny.
- (6) Report progress to the relevant scrutiny committee, including actual savings achieved, progress in reducing nightly paid accommodation and any barriers preventing the Council from moving families into more stable housing more quickly.

Councillor Anup Patel
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