

Full Council – 14 September 2026

Green Group Motion

Addressing Urban Heat and Climate Inequality in Brent

This Council Notes:

- Extreme heat is an increasing public health risk, with an estimated 2,877 heat-associated deaths in England during the May and June 2026 heatwaves.
- The risk of extreme heat in Brent is acute. Brent and London Risk Registers identify heatwaves as a major risk requiring local adaptation.
- That social and environmental justice go hand in hand. Extreme heat disproportionately affects communities already experiencing social, economic and health inequalities.
- Brent's Heat Vulnerability Index identifies Park Royal as a hotspot alongside other areas where existing and pipeline data centres are located.
- Tree equity mapping demonstrates a need for increased tree canopy and urban greening across central and southern Brent.
- In June and July following investment of £1.14m the newly refurbished Kilburn Library had to close due to inadequate heat mitigation measures.
- Brent published a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework in December 2025 and is strengthening climate adaptation measures across the borough.

This Council Believes:

- Whilst Brent has taken important steps towards climate adaptation the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme heat requires further action.
- Natural green spaces act as heat sinks and should be protected and developed to reduce urban surface temperatures, including partnership with residents.
- The Council has a responsibility to ensure that public spaces are accessible and safe during periods of extreme heat and council housing tenants are protected from heat impacts.

- Existing guidance does not provide sufficiently specific or consistent guidance for assessing the cumulative local heat impacts of data centres, particularly where multiple facilities are concentrated within a small area.

This Council therefore:

- (1) Requests the necessary action be taken to:
 - (a) Expand the network of Cool Spaces across Brent, update the GLA water refill map to reflect all the stations in Brent and explore all options for increasing the number of refill stations across the borough.
 - (b) Integrate natural materials, shading and strategic planting in new playground designs to reduce heat exposure.
 - (c) Begin a dialogue with the NEU about mitigation for over-heating in local authority schools, and review protections for council workers and contractors during periods of extreme heat.
 - (d) Conduct a review of heat risk in public buildings, mapping buildings at high-risk and developing an action plan.
 - (e) Commission a feasibility study into community-public partnerships for the greening and maintenance of spaces such as pocket parks, derelict land and larger areas of hard surfacing to reduce heat and increase access to shade.
 - (f) Ensure that the Local Plan is informed by future climate risks and that future developments assess urban heat and incorporate heat resilience measures.
- (2) Request the Leader of the Council write to the Mayor of London seeking clearer guidance on how local authorities should assess overheating risks and cumulative impacts arising from clusters of data centres.
- (3) Invites the relevant Cabinet Member to set out the Council's approach to managing overheating risks in council housing including responsibilities under Awaab's Law.

Councillor Mary Mitchell
Willesden Green Ward