

Full Council – 14 September 2026

Amendment submitted by the Conservative Group to the Green Group Motion

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

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~~ with existing or proposed data centres.
- 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~~ Following £1.14m investment, the newly refurbished Kilburn Library ~~had to closed~~ due to inadequate heat mitigation measure during June and July due to inadequate heat mitigation.
- 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 Clear guidance is needed on ~~does not provide sufficiently specific or consistent guidance for assessing the cumulative local heat impacts of~~ from 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's network of Cool Spaces, 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) Engage maintained schools, relevant trade unions and education partners on practical measures to mitigate ~~Begin a dialogue with the NEU about mitigation for overheating in local authority schools,~~ including consideration of likely costs and options for implementation, and review protections for council workers and contractors during periods of extreme heat.
 - (d) Conduct a proportionate review of heat risk in public buildings, ~~mapping identifying those at highest~~ identifying those at highest buildings ~~at high risk and developing an~~ a prioritised and costed action plan, with the scope and cost of the review itself kept proportionate and any subsequent measures assessed according to risk, value for money and deliverability.
 - (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, with any proposals demonstrating value for money, clear long-term maintenance responsibilities and measurable community benefit, including opportunities for community or business sponsorship where appropriate.
 - (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 and mitigate overheating risks and the cumulative environmental ~~cumulative~~ impacts arising from ~~clusters~~ concentrations of data centres, while recognising their economic importance and maximising opportunities to capture and reuse heat through local heat networks where technically and economically viable.

- (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 Sapna Chadha
Welsh Harp Ward