

Full Council – 14 September 2026

**Amendment submitted by the Liberal Democrats 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,~~ disproportionately affecting communities facing social, economic and health inequalities.
- ~~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 this summer due to inadequate heat mitigation measures.
- Brent published a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework (CARF) in December 2025 and is strengthening climate adaptation measures across the borough.
- Domestic gardens cover around 30% of Brent's land, whilst approx. 42% of UK garden space is paved, increasing heat absorption in neighbourhoods.

This Council Believes:

- Whilst Brent has taken important steps towards climate adaptation the increasing frequency and intensity of Increasingly frequent and extreme heat requires further action adaptation.
- Natural green spaces act as heat sinks and should be protected and developed expanded to reduce urban surface temperatures, including through resident partnerships 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. The Council should ensure public spaces remain safe during extreme heat and protect council tenants from overheating.
- Existing guidance on cumulative local heat impacts from clustered data centres is insufficient. 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.
- Private gardens collectively provide vital green infrastructure and should form part of Brent's response to heat, biodiversity loss and flooding.

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.~~ Expand Brent's Cool Spaces and water refill network and ensure all stations appear on the GLA map.
 - (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) Bring forward CARF's ~~conduct a review of heat risk in public buildings, mapping buildings at high-risk and developing an~~ prioritised action plan.
 - (e) ~~Commission a feasibility study into~~ Explore community-public partnerships to for the greening and maintain ~~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~~ reflects future climate risks and ~~that future developments assess urban heat and incorporate heat resilience measures.~~ bringing forward CARF climate-resilience standards in planning and building control.

- (g) Explore a borough-wide campaign, drawing on National Park City Front Gardens, to discourage unnecessary paving and artificial grass, promote living garden space and engage landlords against hard-surfacing gardens.
 - (h) Explore incentives for depaving and greener driveways, including reduced vehicle crossover charges for designs retaining more planting.
 - (i) Expand Trees for Brent, prioritising LSOAs with the lowest tree equity scores (0-79)
- (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 ~~identifying, preventing and managing overheating risks in council housing, including responsibilities~~ overheating in council housing under Awaab's Law; work with the GLA and Newham on its retrofit pilot; and use the evidence to bring forward Brent's climate-resilient retrofit programme for high-risk council homes and vulnerable assets.

Councillor Krishna Chauhan
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