



Full Council – 12 October 2009

**Motion selected for debate by Councillor Paul Lorber,
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group**

Local Housing Allowance

This Council notes that at present 300,000 people in the UK on low incomes are allowed to keep up to £780 a year of their housing allowance if they find accommodation that costs less than the maximum benefit. This Council also notes that this reform was introduced to give tenants greater control over their housing arrangements by paying the rent themselves and the option to trade quality for extra money.

This Council notes however that under proposals which will be implemented next April by the Labour Government, this system will be scrapped, a decision which could cost many of Brent's poorest residents up to 20% of their income or up to £15 per week. This Council notes with concern that the removal of competition means that landlords will raise rents to the allowance maximum making it yet more difficult for our poorest residents.

This Council condemns the Labour Government for once again abandoning the people who need help the most and resolves to write to Brent's MPs encouraging them to oppose these proposals.