



Brent

Item 17.3

Full Council – 26 November 2018

Motion selected by the Labour Group

Breaking Point

This Council notes that many council budgets are now at Breaking Point. Austerity has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries, and the teachers in our schools.

- Government cuts mean that Brent has £177m less to invest in essential and much loved public services than under the last Labour government in 2010;
- With an aging population and growing demand adult social care faces a gap of £3.5 billion – with only 14% of council staff now confident that vulnerable local residents are safe and cared for;
- Government cuts have seen local authorities left with impossible choices, and 80% of council staff now say they have no confidence in the future of local services;
- Brent schools will have lost out on more than £6k per pupil over the last decade, equating to a loss of an entire academic year's funding;
- Northamptonshire has already gone bust due to Tory incompetence at both national and local level, and more councils are predicted to collapse without immediate emergency funding;
- Councils now face a further funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 just to keep services 'standing still' and meeting additional demand. Even [Lord Gary Porter](#), the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association, has said 'Councils can no longer be expected to run our vital local services on a shoestring'.

This Council condemns Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss MP for stating on BBC Newsnight on 1st October 2018 that the government is "not making cuts to local authorities", when all independent assessments of government spending show that this is entirely false; and that this Council further notes that Prime Minister Theresa May has also claimed that "austerity is over" despite planning a further £1.3bn of cuts to council budgets over the next year.

This Council agrees with the aims of the 'Breaking Point' petition signed by Brent Labour councillors, in calling for the Prime Minister and Chancellor to truly end austerity in Local Government by:

- Using the Budget to reverse next years planned £1.3bn cut to council budgets; and
- Pledging to use the Spending Review to restore council funding to 2010 levels over the next four years.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the 'Breaking Point' campaign, recognising the devastating impact that austerity has had on our local community.

- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by Brent Council, and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in Local Government.

Councillor Luke Patterson
Wembley Central Ward