

# Brent Conservatives

## A record of action A promise of more


The Conservative Manifesto for  
the London Borough of Brent  
Council Election on 3rd May  
2018.



### The Environment


We will use part of the community infrastructure levy to install electric car charging points, to make Brent Greener.

 Conservatives



### Affordable Housing

We will review the broken planning system, to streamline to process and get more local residents on the housing ladder.

 Conservatives



### Local Infrastructure


We pledge an extra £1 million, to fix our roads and pavements.

 Conservatives

### Council Tax

A Conservative Council would freeze Council Tax for the next four years (2018-2022), helping hard-working families in the borough to make ends meet.

	Labour record		
	2014/15	2018/19	INCREASE
BAND E	£1,294.26	£1,469.49	£175.23
BAND F	£1,529.58	£1,736.77	£207.19
BAND G	£1,764.90	£2,003.85	£238.95
BAND H	£2,117.88	£2,404.62	£286.74

 Conservatives



### Waste Collections

We will scrap fees for heavy item collection, and bring back weekly collections.

 Conservatives

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**For more information about the policies contained in this manifesto, please contact us:**

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# A personal message from the Conservative Group Leader in Brent

Dear Resident,

Brent deserves better than the Labour administration that has overseen the area over the course of the last four years. Its record is clear:

- Labour has raised Council Tax in the borough by 13% since 2014, despite the Council's record income over the same period;
- Labour has sold the iconic Bridge Park to mysterious off-shore companies;
- Labour has created a planning system that most residents believe is broken;
- Labour has overseen the asbestos scandal at Paddington Cemetery and failed to hold a full independent inquiry; and
- Labour has been found guilty of race discrimination by an Employment Tribunal.



Cllr. John Warren - Conservative Group Leader

Brent has one of the most diverse populations of any area in modern Britain. People from a wide variety of backgrounds, religions, races and countries live and work side by side. It's this diversity that is at the root of Brent's untapped potential. Our area could be one of the most innovative and prosperous London boroughs if it had a Council that supported residents to achieve their aspirations. Instead, it holds them back by increasing Council Tax and other charges. A Conservative Council would support residents in Brent by freezing Council Tax for four years (2018-2022).

Brent has one of the world's great sporting arenas. But, whilst every match that is played at Wembley Stadium shines a light on our borough's ingenuity, it also exposes the degree to which the Labour Council has allowed our infrastructure to decline. Roads and pavements in Brent are amongst the most poorly maintained in London, and this harms our potential by hurting our local economy. A Conservative Council would invest in Brent's infrastructure. Brent has a high demand for affordable housing. The Conservative Government has committed to investing billions of pounds in housing. But, the national government needs local councils to help, by streamlining the planning process and making it easier to build houses for first-time buyers. A Conservative Council would fix Brent's broken planning system and help people to get onto the housing ladder.

Brent has a lot beautiful natural scenery. Our parks and reservoirs are home to an array of plants and animals that enrich the local environment. The current Council, though, has shown little appetite to invest in preserving precious habitats in the borough. A Conservative Council would protect Brent's natural environment. Brent has some of the most public-spirited residents in the capital. Our community groups and voluntary organisations do great work in supporting hard working residents and championing worthy causes. A Conservative Council would work with community groups and voluntary organisations across the borough and ensure that communities get speedier access to the monies collected through the Community Infrastructure Levy. Your Conservative Party has a vision for a better Brent.

I want everyone in the borough to help us achieve this vision. Please give us your support on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May by voting for your local Conservative candidate.

# Our key pledges to you



## YOUR MONEY

**Council Tax** – A Conservative Council would freeze Council Tax for the next four years (2018-2022), helping hard-working families in the borough to make ends meet.

**Garden Waste Charges** – A Conservative Council would reverse charges for disposing of garden waste (the ‘green bin tax’), which have spiralled in recent years.

**Parking Charges** – A Conservative Council would remove parking charges for all electric and low emission hybrid vehicles, rewarding people for helping our local environment.

## YOUR SERVICES

**Local facilities** – A Conservative Council would protect schools, libraries, youth facilities and other services in Brent.

**Local Police** – A Conservative Council would always back the local police force to crack down on crime by maintaining officer numbers and encouraging community policing.

**Local Care** – A Conservative Council would work with community organisations in Brent to help the most vulnerable people to access the services they need to succeed.

## YOUR ENVIRONMENT

**Infrastructure** – A Conservative Council would invest an extra £1 million in roads and pavements across the borough to ensure that they meet the highest safety standards.

**Housing** – A Conservative Council would fix Brent’s broken planning system and help people to get onto the housing ladder.

**Green Spaces** – A Conservative Council would raise money for green spaces in Brent by investigating and securing sponsorship from local businesses.

**Streets** – A Conservative Council would tackle the fly-tipping epidemic throughout the borough by scrapping the bulk waste charge, making it more affordable for residents to dispose of waste responsibly.

## YOUR COUNCIL

**Visibility** – A Conservative Council would require its Councillors to show that they are active in their ward and supporting residents. Voters should not pay for workshy politicians.

**Affordability** – A Conservative Council would make local politics more affordable by freezing councillor allowances for four years and removing all expenses.

# Caring for your money

**Strong financial management is in our DNA. In good times and bad, the hard-earned money of tax payers must be spent with extreme care.**

## Council Tax

A Conservative Council would freeze Council Tax for the next four years (2018-2022), helping hard-working families in the borough to make ends meet.

### Labour record

	2014/15	2018/19	INCREASE
<b>BAND E</b>	£1,294.26	£1,469.49	£175.23
<b>BAND F</b>	£1,529.58	£1,736.77	£207.19
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 Conservatives

Conservatives in the national government have improved the lives of millions of families by cutting taxes and making the state fit for the future. Conservatives in Brent want to extend this to the local level by:

- Freezing Council Tax for the next four years (2018-2022) and reversing other stealth taxes, like garden waste disposal and parking charges.
- Introducing a Council Tax discount for residents in receipt of Universal Credit payments.
- Disposing of or redeveloping surplus or costly office buildings so that resources can be focused exclusively on delivering front-line services to local residents.
- Putting the Council's finances on a firmer footing by reducing the cost of local politics and reducing wasteful spending.
- Working with local community groups and businesses to explore how innovative partnerships can deliver services more efficiently.
- Consulting on the replacement of the cabinet-style model in Brent (8 members) with a committee model, enabling more Councillors to be involved in decision-making.
- Making councillors more visible in local communities, so that they are truly accountable to local residents for the decisions that councillors take about residents' money.

# Caring for your family

The Council plays an important role in enabling local residents to thrive. By supporting families and hard-pressed or vulnerable people across the borough to live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives, an effective Council can unleash their potential.

## A conservative-run council will:

Conservatives in the national government have helped people across the UK by creating three million new jobs and helping people to get on the housing ladder. Brent Conservatives want to support hard-pressed families – young and old – as well as vulnerable citizens by:

- Protecting local services, such as schools, libraries, youth facilities and other services across the borough.
- Ensuring that people feel safe inside and outside of their homes by backing the local police force to crack down on crime, maintaining officer numbers and encouraging community policing.
- Maximising the impact of the significant monies received from central government for adult social care.
- Working with local community organisations in Brent to help the most vulnerable people to access the services they need to succeed.
- Reviewing Brent's broken planning system thoroughly and streamlining the process to ensure that as many local residents as possible can get on the housing ladder.

## Affordable Housing

We will review the broken planning system, to streamline to process and get more local residents on the housing ladder.



# Caring for your community and Economy

**If we are to have enough money to support local services, we need to deliver the revenues that support them and these come from jobs and growth. The Council plays a fundamental role in attracting businesses to the area and should be fully-**

## A conservative-run council will:

Conservatives in the national government have made the UK a more attractive place to do business by reducing taxes on local and national businesses, and supporting the development of innovative industries. Your local Conservatives want to make Brent the most attractive place to do business in London by:

- Investing an extra £1 million in roads and pavements across the borough to ensure that they meet the highest safety standards and improve access for businesses.
- Investing in digital infrastructure, such as super-fast broadband services, to ensure that Brent's businesses have the tools they need to compete in the modern business environment.
- Partnering with local businesses to deliver more jobs for young and old, whether that be the first step in a long and brilliant career or a flexible part-time position to help support income in retirement.



# Caring for your environment

**Brent is a great place to live, work and visit, but there is always more that the Council and local residents can do to maintain and enhance the local environment.**

## **A conservative-run council will:**

Conservatives in the national government have done a lot to improve the environment, by, for example, helping to clean up our oceans by banning plastic beads in cosmetics and developing a twenty five year environment plan that sets out what we will do to improve the environment within a generation. In Brent, Conservatives want to play a part in supporting this agenda by:

- Removing parking charges for all electric and low emission hybrid vehicles, rewarding people for helping our local environment.
- Divesting the Brent Pension Fund of its fossil fuel investments and ensuring that Brent makes no further investments in fossil fuels.
- Using the proceeds of the Community Infrastructure Levy to support investment in projects that will deliver benefits for the environment, such as developing a leading network of electric vehicle charging points.
- Tackling the fly-tipping epidemic by scrapping the bulk waste charge, making it more affordable for residents to dispose of waste responsibly.
- Keeping waste and recycling centres open and work with neighbouring councils to reduce waste by encouraging re-use and recycling.
- Raising more money to support local green spaces by investigating and securing sponsorship from local businesses.
- Encourage cycling in Brent by consulting with residents on ways to promote cycling and keep cyclists safe.
- Working with local community groups to monitor and improve air quality throughout the borough.