

Labour council spends £500k planning LTN while seven libraries go bust

Enfield faces criticism for using funds for projects related to Edmonton Green low traffic neighbourhood

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A Labour council has “wasted a staggering” £575,000 planning a low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) with money that could have saved seven libraries.

A freedom of information request has revealed that Enfield council has ploughed the funds into consultation and design work and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras for the Edmonton Green LTN.

However, critics claim there is widespread opposition to the proposed scheme, which is feared could increase traffic and pollution.

Councillor Maria Alexandrou, Enfield’s shadow cabinet member for the environment, has insisted the money would have been better spent saving libraries the council has recently closed.

The data reveal the amount of taxpayer money ploughed into the design stages of such schemes.

It shows that since 2023, when the LTN was first proposed, £153,700 was spent on project management, £109,450 was used to pay for the design of the concept, and a further £107,850 spent on the detailed development.

Meanwhile, £40,310 was spent on communications and engagement, which included hiring a private company to hold drop-in events about the LTN for residents and businesses, as well as traffic analysis by an “independent survey company”.

A further £51,270 was spent on ANPR assets, which refers to cameras being set up to fine motorists from outside the area who stray into the LTN.

The total cost of the design now stands at £576,229. That includes £417,751 funding from Transport for London (TfL) local implementation plans and £158,478 from the Community Infrastructure Lobby.