

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

At an **ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** of the **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT** held at Brent Town Hall Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex on **Monday, 28th June 2004 at 7.00 pm.**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor A Shahzad

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor C Moloney

COUNCILLORS:

Arnold	Kansagra
Bellia	Lemmon
Beswick	D Long
Mrs N Blackman	J Long
R Blackman	Lorber
V Brown	Lyon
N Colwill	McGovern
R Colwill	Moher
Coughlin	Nerva
Crane	O'Sullivan
Cribbin	B M Patel
Davies	C J Patel
Dromey	H B Patel
Duffin	H M Patel
Farrell	R S Patel
Mrs Fernandes	Sattar-Butt
Fox	Sayers
Gillani	Sengupta
Gladbaum	Shah
Halder	Singh
Harrod	Steel
Jones	Taylor
Joseph	Thomas
Kabir	Van Colle
Kagan	Wharton

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Freeson, Fiegel, John, Rands, Thompson and Zakriya.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meetings of full Council held on 12th May (Annual Meeting), 17th May (Special Meeting) and 17th May (Extraordinary Meeting) 2004 be confirmed as true and correct records.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none at this meeting.

4. **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor congratulated Councillor R Blackman on his election as Greater London Authority Member for Brent and Harrow, local resident Ken Livingstone on his re-election as Mayor of London, Dr Anba Farhan-Ali, Director of Refugees Into Jobs, on being awarded the MBE, Lola Oni, Director of Brent Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre on being awarded an OBE, and Susan Palmer of Kilburn who was awarded the OBE for services to National Heritage.

The Mayor placed on record his appreciation of the services rendered by Toby Harris at the London Assembly over the last four years.

The Mayor reported with regret the recent deaths of Mr Alan Blatt, former tenant leader of Chalkhill, and former Councillor Norman Mikardo who was Councillor for Tokyngton Ward from 1978 to 1982.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that the Cardinal Hinsley Roman Catholic School had been taken out of 'special measures' and congratulated the head teacher, Geraldine Freear.

The Mayor reminded the Council of his Civic Service to be held on 4th July at 11.00 am at Jamia Masjid and Islamic Centre, to which all members were invited.

Councillor R Blackman returned thanks for the congratulations he had received on being elected London Assembly member for the Brent/Harrow constituency and undertook to serve for the benefit of the Council as well as London.

5. **Procedural Motion**

The Council considered a procedural motion that was circulated and moved by Councillor Coughlin.

RESOLVED:-

that for the debate on Summons item 6, *Ward Working in Brent Pilot Scheme*, a time of 45 minutes be allowed for the debate at the end of which the Deputy Leader will be invited to conclude the debate and the matter, taking account of the motions submitted, will be put to the vote. Each Member shall be entitled to speak for up to 3 minutes. Any speaker wishing to move a motion or amendment to a motion may only do so during their time limited contribution.

6. **Improving Brent Action Plan 2004/06**

The report presented to the Council introduced the Improving Brent Action Plan 2004/06 which had been separately circulated to all Members in the form of a booklet. The plan set out the key targets and actions that Brent Council would undertake over the next two years in order to deliver the second phase of the Corporate Strategy 2002/06 and achieve an excellent Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) rating during 2006.

In accordance with Standing Order 46(a), Councillor Coughlin moved that one speaker from each party be permitted to speak on this item.

Councillor D Long introduced the action plan and stated that the Improving Brent programme had come a long way since its launch in September 2000. He pointed out that the programme was not only aimed at staff but also included the Member Development programme and he urged Members to take advantage of the opportunities this provided. Councillor Long acknowledged the work put in by officers to produce the action plan and commended it to the Council.

In response it was put to the meeting by Councillor Lorber that the crucial part of the action plan was the reference to Council performance and he questioned the Council's ability to deliver high performing services by making reference to areas of performance where improvements still needed to be made.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that one speaker from each party be permitted to speak on the item before moving to the vote on the recommendation;
- (ii) that the Improving Brent Action Plan 2004-06 be endorsed.

7. **Ward Working in Brent – Pilot Scheme**

Councillor Kagan introduced the item and explained that the proposals aimed to complete the reinvigoration of local democracy in Brent and addressed the need to engage with local community interests to a larger extent.

She submitted that the balance between achieving the Council's strategic aims and improving the quality of life for local residents could best be struck by strengthening the role of ward councillors. The proposals aimed to do this. The production of ward plans would ensure that Executive decisions were informed by local reality and in time would influence the Council's budgetary programme. Councillor Kagan moved the recommendations contained in the report from the Leader.

Some Members claimed that the proposals amounted to a form of 'gerrymandering' because they supported Members' activities within certain wards that might be viewed as marginal for the next municipal election. It was stated that it was not appropriate for officers to support Members in this way without further discussion by all parties to ensure any such proposals had general support.

Councillor Lorber stated that the proposals had been the subject of discussion within the Labour Group for over one year and were a result of the Labour Party identifying the need for their Councillors to be more visible at a ward level. He felt the proposals were an abuse of power and should be investigated by the District Auditor and Standards Board. Councillor Lorber moved a motion to instruct officers to investigate how the proposals were developed and in the meantime to adopt a '10-point plan' as a way of improving ward working and the participation of the public in Brent's democratic process.

Councillor R Blackman made reference to the report being in the name of the Leader and that the proposals demanded fuller consultation. In the absence of this he was left with the impression that the proposals were designed to direct additional resources into key marginal wards. Councillor Blackman moved that the item be referred to an all-party group with the remit to report back to Council in October 2004 before any resources were provided for the scheme.

Councillor Van Colle moved that the matter be referred to an Overview Task Group. He felt that the Council's constitution was working better now and the lesson learnt from this was that policy agreed by all parties was better than policy put through by one party.

Some Members questioned the role the area consultative forums would perform under the proposals and how the resources to support ward working could be found.

An alternative view expressed by members was that the proposals were to be welcomed as a way to better support backbench members in their wards. The fact that it was intended eventually to roll out the proposals to all wards counted against the suggestion it favoured certain wards. It was pointed out that similar proposals already existed in some authorities. It had the prospect of enhancing the opportunity for residents to feed their views into the Council and provide a link between residents and decision-making via ward councillors. This provided an opportunity to create leadership in the community and move away from party political arguments. It provided a real role for backbench councillors and the proposal was to run a trial to see if the mechanics proposed would work.

Councillor Coughlin ended the debate by saying that the proposal was to provide a crucial link between backbench councillors and the operation of the Council with the intention to provide this in all wards for all councillors. In turn this would offer possibilities to improve the quality of life for local residents and to hear the views of local people who knew their local area. All the views expressed would be considered as part of evaluating the pilots.

The motion put by Councillor Lorber was put to the vote and declared LOST.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 48(c), the voting on this motion was recorded as follows:-

FOR:	Cllr Lorber	(1)
AGAINST:	Cllrs Arnold, Bellia, Beswick, Mrs N Blackman, R Blackman, N Colwill, R Colwill, Coughlin, Crane, Cribbin, Davies, Dromey, Duffin, Farrell, Mrs Fernandes, Fox, Gillani, Gladbaum, Halder, Harrod, Jones, Kabir, Kagan, Kansagra, Lemmon, D Long, J Long, Lyon, Moher, Moloney, Nerva, B M Patel, H B Patel, H M Patel, R S Patel, Sattar-Butt, Sayers, Sengupta, Singh, Steel, Taylor, Thomas and Van Colle	(43)
ABSTENTIONS:	None	(0)

The amendment moved by Councillor R Blackman was put to the vote and declared LOST.

In accordance with Standing Order 48(c), the voting on this motion was recorded as follows:-

FOR:	Cllrs Mrs N Blackman, R Blackman, N Colwill, R Colwill, Duffin, Mrs Fernandes, Gillani,	(16)
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Kansagra, Lorber, B M Patel, H B Patel,
H M Patel, Sayers, Steel, Taylor and Van Colle

AGAINST: Arnold, Bellia, Beswick, Coughlin, Crane, (28)
Cribbin, Davies, Dromey, Farrell, Fox,
Gladbaum, Halder, Harrod, Jones, Kabir,
Kagan, Lemmon, D Long, J Long, Lyon,
Moher, Moloney, Nerva, R S Patel, Sattar-Butt,
Sengupta, Singh and Thomas

ABSTENTIONS: None (0)

The amendment submitted by Councillor Van Colle was put to the vote and declared LOST.

In accordance with Standing Order 48(c), the voting on this motion was recorded as follows:-

FOR: Cllrs Mrs N Blackman, R Blackman, N Colwill, (15)
R Colwill, Duffin, Mrs Fernandes, Gillani,
Kansagra, B M Patel, H B Patel, H M Patel,
Sayers, Steel, Taylor and Van Colle

AGAINST: Cllrs Arnold, Bellia, Beswick, Coughlin, Crane, (28)
Cribbin, Davies, Dromey, Farrell, Fox,
Gladbaum, Halder, Harrod, Jones, Kabir,
Kagan, Lemmon, D Long, J Long, Lyon,
Moher, Moloney, Nerva, R S Patel, Sattar-Butt,
Sengupta, Singh and Thomas

ABSTENTION: Cllr Lorber (1)

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 48(c), the voting on this was recorded as follows:-

FOR: Cllrs Arnold, Bellia, Beswick, Coughlin, Crane, (28)
Cribbin, Davies, Dromey, Farrell, Fox,
Gladbaum, Halder, Harrod, Jones, Kabir,
Kagan, Lemmon, D Long, J Long, Lyon,
Moher, Moloney, Nerva, R S Patel, Sattar-Butt,
Sengupta, Singh and Thomas

AGAINST Cllrs Mrs N Blackman, R Blackman, N Colwill, (16)
R Colwill, Duffin, Mrs Fernandes, Gillani,
Kansagra, Lorber, B M Patel, H B Patel,
H M Patel, Sayers, Steel, Taylor and Van Colle

ABSTENTIONS: None (0)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the pilot arrangements for Ward Working in Brent, as set out in Section 2 of the report of the Leader be agreed;
- (ii) that the decision of the Executive to agree virements amounting to £230,000 in order to fund the pilot arrangements be concurred with.

8. **Question Time**

Questions submitted under the provisions of Standing Order 39 had been circulated together with written responses from respective Lead Members. Members were invited to ask supplementary questions.

The following two questions had been selected by the Leader of the Conservative Group.

Refuse Collection Service

The question from Councillor R Blackman asked whether Onyx were using old vehicles that frequently broke down and what action was being taken to resolve the unacceptable poor service. Councillor Blackman pointed out that refuse collection was a basic service all residents expected to receive and that his office had been inundated with complaints about the standard of service. In a supplementary question, he asked what the problem was concerning the Onyx Contracts Manager?

Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Environment and Planning) replied that there had been frequent changes of staff and a lack of action by the contractor. A meeting had recently been held at the Alperton Depot to address the problems with the contract. She was well aware that parts of the borough had received a less than satisfactory service and it had been made known to the contractor that the Council expected an action plan for improvement to be put in place. Regular monitoring meetings would be held.

Wembley Parking Scheme

The second question selected by the Leader of the Conservative Group was from Councillor Van Colle asking if the Wembley parking scheme would be imposed even if the residents rejected it. Councillor Van Colle stated that it appeared the Council had managed to upset all interested parties with its consultation and that the consultation was confusing and failed to put forward options. In his supplementary question, Councillor Van Colle asked if there was a plan B?

Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Environment and Planning) responded by saying that plan B was to wait to see what the outcomes of the consultation brought. The Council would analyse all the responses to see what it was that people wanted. She pointed out that there was room on the consultation form to add personal comments.

The next question had been selected by the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Applications for Blue Badges

The question from Councillor Lorber himself, regarded the outcomes of dealing with applications for Blue Badges over the last 12 months. As a supplementary question, Councillor Lorber asked why the Council could not accept the word of a qualified GP rather than put people through an assessment and asked the Lead Member to urgently review the Council's policy.

Councillor Fox (Lead Member for Social Services) took the opportunity of paying tribute to the Blue Badge Team. He replied by reminding Members that up until a few years ago 89% of badges were issued under discretionary powers which led to many being wrongly issued. The Council now used Government criteria and a large number were issued automatically. Nevertheless the problem of issuing badges to people that did not qualify for them had to be addressed and the Blue Badge Team operated an assessment as fairly as possible. Councillor Fox assured Members that this would be kept under review.

There then followed three questions selected from Labour backbench members.

MMR Vaccine

Councillor Nerva had asked how the take up of the MMR vaccine in the Kilburn and Kensal area was being promoted and how the local schools were being involved. In his supplementary question Councillor Nerva expressed concern at the falling take up rate of the vaccine and asked how the Council could work more closely with the PCT in organising public meetings in the south of the borough, mount publicity campaigns and set targets in schools to increase take up.

Councillor Lyon admitted that the figures on take up were shocking and he had discussed the problem with Dr Paul Preston of the Primary Care Trust (PCT). Councillor Lyon pointed out that Dr Newsome, also from Brent PCT, would be addressing the Health Overview Panel on 5th July about the issue. Councillor Lyon admitted that a change of approach was needed and he was aware that the PCT wanted to approach the Education service on addressing this problem and the Council would be looking to support any initiative that came out of this.

Housing Purchased under CPO Powers

Councillor J Long had asked how many empty properties had been made available for housing under the Council's compulsory purchase order policy. In her supplementary question she commented that she had not been made aware of any notices issued to landlords and would appreciate further information on this. She noted that there had been no CPOs since the current policy was agreed with the excuse being lack of resources despite other Councils using the power. Empty properties were a blight and she asked what would be done to implement the Council's CPO policy?

Councillor Thomas replied that Brent was not the only Council to have encountered difficulties in using CPO powers as a mechanism to bring empty houses back into use. Such a course was time consuming and costly. Impending legislation would amend the Council's powers and introduce a power of compulsory leasing of empty property. In the meantime the Council used its powers under the grants system to restore empty properties as homes.

Implementation of the Children Bill

Councillor Gladbaum had asked what progress had been made on implementing the provisions of the Children Bill. In her supplementary question she referred to the joint presentation by the Directors of Education and Social Services of a few months ago and asked was the time now not right to take the next step and organise a conference or seminar to publicise more generally the developments towards implementation of the Bill. She asked what plans the Executive had on this matter.

Councillor Fox replied that the paramount need was to focus on the needs of children and not get sidetracked into looking at structural change. He stated that after the summer holidays there would be wider consultation undertaken.

There then followed four questions drawn from the general ballot.

Brent Fairtrade Network

Councillor Lemmon had asked how the successful launch of the Brent Fairtrade Network would be sustained. He acknowledged the positive reply he had received and in his supplementary question asked if urgent action would now be taken towards working out the detail of formally supporting the aims of the Fairtrade Foundation in partnership with all organisations involved.

Councillor Coughlin replied that consideration needed to be given to the practicalities of the Council taking a lead role and to this end he

and Councillor D Long would be meeting with Councillor Lemmon to discuss the issue further.

Resurfacing of Rydal Gardens

Councillor Taylor had asked when Rydal Gardens would be resurfaced in the light of complaints from residents over the years. He expressed his shock to see in the reply he had received that Rydal Gardens was 100th on the list of roads prioritised for resurfacing. In his supplementary question he asked for an increase in the level of spend in Preston Ward and reconsideration of the priority for Rydal Gardens to be resurfaced.

Councillor Jones replied by drawing attention to her initial answer which explained how for the second year running a substantial increase in capital and revenue funding had been provided to enhance the street scene and improve pedestrian and vehicle safety. She was sorry that Rydal Gardens was not higher on the list but pointed out that it was not a road that she had received complaints about. She stated that if it was drawn to her attention she would ask officers to investigate again.

Council Policy on Road Re-Surfacing

Councillor B M Patel had asked about the Council's policy on laying bituminous macadam overlay which appeared to have worn away on some roads and whether frost and rain would erode untreated roads. In his supplementary question he stated that it was vital that the Council's programme included more reconstruction work on roads to make them safer and asked if serious consideration would be given to resurfacing Ennerdale Gardens.

Councillor Jones replied that if she was passed Councillor Patel's written supplementary question she would ensure a response was provided.

Transport Funding for Voluntary Groups

Councillor Mrs Fernandes had asked what positive steps had been taken to assist those groups that had their transport funding taken away. In her supplementary question she asked which of the suggestions covered in the Executive's reply would help the Wembley Glad Club. Councillor Mrs Fernandes added that the club had existed for 37 years for the benefit of disabled people in the 60-90 years age range and without this assistance the club would fold.

Councillor Fox explained that it had been necessary to review the transport grants to ensure those organisations meeting critical or substantial needs of local people were supported. It was for the clubs to demonstrate that they met such needs.

9. **Report from the Executive**

Councillor Coughlin reported on the following two matters that had been before the Executive at the meetings on 24th May and 14th June 2004 and moved the recommendations contained in the reports.

(i) ***Treasury Management: Annual Investment Strategy 2004/05***

This report detailed the proposed Annual Investment Strategy for 2004/05.

(ii) ***The Best Value Performance Plan***

This report put forward the final draft of the Best Value Performance Plan. Councillor D Long pointed out the changes in the requirements to produce the plan. He accepted that not all targets were being met but that the Council was determined to improve. However, he felt there needed to be an appreciation of how far the Council had come and that this had been acknowledged by various inspections.

(iii) ***Wembley Stadium***

Councillor R S Patel reported that construction was still ahead of schedule with a completion date of late 2005. All the corporate hospitality boxes had been sold and the premium seating was now being marketed. The arch had been hoisted into place and stood 133 metres tall making it visible across London. The arch was made of British steel and its primary function was to support the 5,000 ton roof structure. Work on the transport infrastructure was proceeding with work at Wembley Park Station underway and plans drawn up for Wembley Stadium Station and Wembley Central Station. Planning permission had been granted for the 42 acre Quintain site.

(iv) ***Stonebridge Schools***

Councillor Lyon drew attention to the work undertaken with the Stonebridge Housing Action Trust to replace the two schools with new high quality modern schools, improve the surrounding open space and provide additional housing. Although final agreement had not yet been reached there was every indication that it would soon be.

(v) ***Launch of Enviro Crime Initiative in Stonebridge on 15th June***

Councillor Jones reported on the successful launch of the initiative at St Raphael's where lots of activities had taken place.

The event marked the big increase in resources the Council had put into front line services to deal with this problem.

10. **Report from Vice-Chair of Overview Committee**

In the absence of Councillor Thompson, Councillor Nerva introduced the report. He pointed out the new task groups that were being established covering access to childcare places, access to financial services for excluded groups and household recycling. He referred to the TB report that had now been referred to the PCT and the Executive for their consideration and response and urged Members to read it and recognise it as a model piece of work.

11. **Report from Chair of Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Taylor submitted his report and drew attention to the activity of members involved in meetings of the select committees and panels. He also outlined the items to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 1st July.

12. **General Debate**

Members debated the items included under reports from the Executive and Chair of Scrutiny Committee.

Reference was made to the future of the adventure playground on Stonebridge Estate and it was suggested that resources could be directed to preserving this and all other playgrounds in the Borough. Mention was also made of the reports that the two schools on the estate were being considered for amalgamation. Councillor Lyon stated that consultation had shown there to be no support for amalgamating the schools and therefore this was not an option. The future of the playground had been taken up with the Housing Action Trust and it was understood that there were now no plans to remove it.

Some Members criticised the content of the Best Value performance plan for not showing how the Council intended to achieve the targets it currently was not meeting. It was pointed out that the Performance and Finance Select Committee monitored quarterly performance indicators and that some of the information still needed to be gathered or refined in order to be able to be sure the Council was delivering Best Value services. It was suggested that consequently the Best Value performance plan included information that did not measure real performance. The Chair of the Performance and Finance Select Committee stated that the opportunity to discuss performance indicators in detail was at the Select Committee. The Select Committee would make efforts to ensure that performance was being measured effectively and where it was not it would seek explanations.

Some Members expressed concern over aspects of the new Wembley Stadium. It was put that parking would be the biggest problem caused by the Stadium. There was also concern that the redevelopment of the stations would not be completed until well after the Stadium opened and even then this would only be achieved through weekend closure of the stations thereby disadvantaging the local residents. The other developments within the Wembley area would see a huge increase in the number of people living in the area, requiring new schools and health facilities to be built. Although the Council had money to build a new school no site had been identified. It was suggested that local residents were beginning to wonder if the Stadium would bring any advantages to them. In response it was pointed out that significant resources were being pumped into redeveloping the stations and that there would be enhanced tube and bus facilities by the time the Stadium opened.

On the issue of Post Office closures, it was pointed out that the Council did not succeed in saving four Post Offices from closing and only two had been prevented from closing.

The attention of the Council was drawn to the significant steps taken to increase the effectiveness of the Scrutiny role within the Council. It was said that it needed all Members to play a role in making Scrutiny work along with effective support from officers. Attention was drawn to the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2003/4 and all Members were urged to read it.

Councillor Coughlin responded to the general debate. He stated that the performance indicators showed that the Council had improved in the delivery of services. The issues around Stonebridge Park showed that press reports were sometimes misleading. There were sufficient Section 106 monies to provide for an additional primary and secondary school in the Wembley area and work was underway in identifying suitable sites. The provision of primary health care was the responsibility of the Health Authorities.

RESOLVED:-

(i) *Treasury Management – Annual Investment Strategy 2004/05*

that the Annual Investment Strategy for 2004/05 be approved.

(ii) *The Best Value Performance Plan*

that the Best Value Performance Plan for 2004/05 be agreed.

13. **Motions Selected by Leaders of the Opposition Groups**

(i) *Special Education Needs in Brent*

Councillor R Blackman introduced his motion by saying that the Council had a proud record of looking after children with special educational needs but the problem was that parents chose to send their children to out of borough specialist schools. The special schools within the Borough had done an excellent job but the review had undermined their confidence. He stated that a clear message needed to go out that the Council would not be considering the closure of any of the special schools in the Borough.

The Council debated the motion. It was submitted that it was wrong to assume that the needs of children with special educational needs could always be met within mainstream schools. It was pointed out that if Grove Park School was to close the only alternative for parents would be a residential placement thereby driving up costs. A request was made for full consultation to take place with a published timetable of meetings.

In response support was given to the review in that the provision by Brent's special schools had not been reviewed for many years. Many children faced long journeys to out of borough schools. The Council was determined to address all the issues but would not ignore the needs of such children. The Council was consulting widely and it was not the intention to compromise the provision for children with special educational needs.

Whilst a review was accepted as necessary, some Members supported Councillor Blackman's request that an assurance be given that no school would face closure.

Councillor Lorber sought assurances that the review was not a cost saving exercise and that the necessary resources would be made available. He moved an amendment to the motion calling on the Executive to take account of alternative provision in North London and the very limited provision for children with severe physical disabilities. It sought the Council's support that any integration of facilities within mainstream schools should be fully resourced and that the range of choice should not be diminished. This was accepted by Councillor Blackman.

Councillor Taylor urged the Executive to listen to the views being expressed regarding the excellent work of the Borough's special schools and moved a further amendment to the motion that the subject be referred to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel with the request that it establishes a task group to look into the issues and report back in six months time. This was also accepted by Councillor Blackman. The Council agreed to vote on the motion as amended.

Councillor Lyon responded that there were gaps in the services available for children with special educational needs and a large percentage of children were sent to out of borough schools. It was not acceptable not to confront these problems. There needed to be consideration of how needs could be met within Brent. The matter was open to full consultation and no final decisions would be taken before all the evidence had been gathered and satisfactory alternatives existed. Councillor Lyon moved a motion that had been circulated in his name at the meeting.

The motion submitted by Councillor Blackman as amended was put to the vote and declared LOST.

Councillor Blackman sought advice on Standing Orders that allowed an alternative motion to be submitted. The Borough Solicitor advised the Council that Standing Order 47(a) permitted this.

The alternative motion submitted by Councillor Lyon was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the Council notes:
 - (a) that the Labour Administration has fully funded SEN provision in Brent during its tenure. This is in stark contrast to the Conservative Party who failed to provide approximately £1m of statutory funding in its budget of 1996/97, which put at risk all SEN pupils and schools within Brent;
 - (b) that the proposals contained within the consultation document have arisen from OFSTED recommendations, the Best Value Review of SEN and are consistent with Government guidance in relation to SEN provision.
- ii) that the consultation as proposed be pursued and comments received before proposing a more detailed and formal consultation with parents in the autumn;
- iii) that the shape of future SEN provision within mainstream or specialist schools should be better suited and centred on the needs of pupils and that any final proposals will reflect that.

(Councillor Blackman wished it recorded that his Group had not voted on the alternative motion submitted by Councillor Lyon on the grounds they did not agree with the advice on Standing Orders given at the meeting).

(ii) *Rebuilding our Towns, Cities and Communities*

Councillor Lorber withdrew his motion on the basis that the ruling under Standing Orders given regarding the alternative motion submitted to Councillor Blackman's motion referred to above undermined the right of opposition Leaders to have a motion selected by them properly debated (as provided for in Standing Order 46).

The meeting ended at 10.00 pm

A SHAHZAD
Mayor

Mins0405/Council/full/28jnj