



## **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

**Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
held on Monday 21 November 2016 at 7.00 pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**The Worshipful the Mayor**  
Councillor Parvez Ahmed

**The Deputy Mayor**  
Councillor Bhagwanji Chohan

### **COUNCILLORS:**

Aden	Agha
Allie	Bradley
Butt	Carr
Chan	S Choudhary
Colacicco	Collier
Colwill	Conneely
Daly	Davidson
Denselow	Dixon
Duffy	Eniola
Ezeajughi	Farah
Harrison	Hector
Hirani	Hossain
Hylton	Jones
Kabir	Kansagra
Kelcher	Long
Mahmood	Marquis
Mashari	Maurice
McLeish	McLennan
Miller	Moher
J Mitchell Murray	Naheerathan
Nerva	M Patel
Pavey	Perrin
Pitruzzella	Shahzad
Ms Shaw	Ketan Sheth
Krupa Sheth	Southwood
Stopp	Tatler
Thomas	Van Kalwala
Warren	

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Councillors Crane, Hoda-Benn, Khan, W Mitchell Murray and RS Patel

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday 19 September 2016, be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Councillor Nerva asked for an update on the motion put at the previous meeting with regard to Air Quality in Brent. Councillor Southwood said that the Council was to launch an anti-idling campaign within the next couple of months and that, at the moment, Brent's schools were being invited to design a cleaner air logo, which would be used for all of the Borough's air quality work moving forward, designed by the Borough's children on the basis that it was for the benefit of them that the Council improved the quality of the Borough's air for future generations. She added that an air equality action plan would also go out for public consultation, subject to Cabinet approval in December 2016, so Councillor Nerva could be assured that the practical steps the Council was able to take as a Borough would be fully consulted on with the residents so that the Council could begin to make a real difference here.

### **2. Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

### **3. Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

#### **(i) Passing of Former Members**

##### **(a) Former Mayor, Mrs Gwen Tookey MBE**

The Mayor was sad to report the passing, last month, of the former Mayor of Brent, Mrs Gwen Tookey MBE.

##### **(b) Mr Vishrup Pandya**

The Mayor was also sad to report the passing, last week, of former Brent Councillor, Mr Vishrup Pandya, whose funeral had been held this afternoon.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor thanked them both for the service they had provided to the Borough.

#### **(ii) Croydon Tram Tragedy**

The Mayor reflected on last week's Croydon Tram tragedy, where seven people had lost their lives and many more had been injured in this terrible accident.

The Mayor had conveyed the Council's condolences, in writing, to the Mayor and residents of Croydon on behalf of the Borough.

(iii) India Train Tragedy

The Mayor also reflected on the weekend's terrible train incident in India, which so far had claimed over 120 lives. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor offered its thoughts and prayers to all those affected by these tragic events.

(iv) Remembrance Sunday

The Mayor announced that, on Remembrance Sunday, the Council had honoured the fallen men, women, children and animals who lost their lives in conflicts throughout the world. He said that the borough service at Barham Park had been extremely well attended and that it had been humbling to see so many turn out to pay tribute.

The Mayor extended his thanks to all those who had organised the event.

(v) Deputy Lieutenant's Essay Competition

The Mayor announced that, as part of the Remembrance Sunday service, the Council was honoured to have the winner of the Deputy Lieutenant's Essay Competition, Paulina Sowinska, from the Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College, read her winning entry.

The Mayor said that for those in attendance, this was found to be extremely moving and he had invited her to read the poem to all Members this evening.

Paulina Sowinska read aloud her winning entry poem, which was greeted by a round of applause from Members.

Council stood for a minute's silence to reflect on these and other events.

(vi) Former Mayor's Charity

The Mayor paid tribute to his predecessor, the former Mayor of Brent, Councillor Lesley Jones MBE who, this month, had presented her cheque (for the sum of £9,259.04) for the funds raised during her Mayoral year, to Brent Young Carers, being her chosen charity during her year in office.

(vii) Visitation by HRH Prince William

The Mayor said that he had been delighted to welcome HRH Prince William, to Brent where he attended the Living Memory Service at Willesden Cemetery and, despite the weather, the Leader, himself and the Mayoress were personally humbled to have had the opportunity to meet him.

He added that His Royal Highness had spoken positively of the work being carried out in the Borough and enjoyed meeting with students from local schools.

(viii) Pearson Award for Teacher of the Year in a Primary School

The Mayor recognised that Brent's teachers worked hard throughout the Borough's schools and that the Council was proud of each and every one of them for their hard work and dedication to the services they provided. He went on to say that one teacher, in particular, had been honoured in recognition of her outstanding achievements.

The Mayor said that when Mrs Jashu Vekaria arrived at Uxendon Manor Primary School, the combined percentage of children who had achieved Level 4+ in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 was 64%. After her first year, the percentage, he said, had risen to 76%, then further to 88% and that this success rate currently stood at 93%.

The Mayor went on to say that Mrs Vekaria's contribution to the school had extended beyond great results and that, on a recent school trip, she had gone out of her way to arrange for a child with Special Educational Needs to attend and, in doing so, had meant giving up her own accommodation space so that the young person and their parent could stay in comfort.

The Mayor invited Members to stand and show their appreciation for Jashu Vekaria of Uxendon Manor Primary School in Kenton who had won the Pearson Award for Teacher of the Year in a Primary School.

(ix) "#OurDay Annual Twitterthon"

The Mayor was pleased to announce the #OurDay annual twitterthon, took place on 15 November 2016, at which, Councils across the UK gave an insight into what they did on a typical day.

This had been, he said, a fantastic reminder of the amazing work that the staff of Brent Council did on a daily basis from collecting the bins, repairing pot holes, fixing street lights to safeguarding our most vulnerable residents. He said that the Council should be extremely proud of its staff and Members and the work they carry out for the residents of Brent.

(x) Brent's Annual "White Ribbon Day"

Brent's Annual "White Ribbon Day" event will be held on Friday 25 November 2016 at the Brent Civic Centre and I would encourage you all to promote and support this campaign which is aimed at preventing violence against women and encourages men to take the lead in their immediate communities and networks.

(xi) Mayor's Charity Christmas Party

Finally, the Mayor thanked those who had already purchased tickets for his Charity Christmas party, which was to take place in aid of his chosen charities, on Thursday 15 December in the Grand Hall. There were, he said, still some tickets remaining and he hoped that as many Members as possible would attend what would be an enjoyable and fun evening whilst supporting three

fantastic Brent charities. He advised Members that further details and tickets could be purchased by contacting his office.

#### 4. **Urgent Item: Review of Political Groups on Committees**

In accordance with Standing Order 37(r), the Mayor agreed that the matter be considered as a matter of urgency for the following reason:

“On 21 November 2016, the Council was notified of a change in the membership of the Conservative and Brent Conservative Groups and a request for a review of the representation of political groups on committees. Full Council has a statutory duty to conduct such a review as soon as practicable.

However, the next scheduled meeting of Full Council is not until 23 January 2017.”

Councillor Butt, Leader of the Council, introduced the report from the Council’s Chief Legal Officer, which gave details of the outcome of a review of the representation of political groups on committees, which had been triggered following a change in the composition of the Conservative and Brent Conservative Groups earlier in the day of this meeting.

**RESOLVED**, that:

1. The size of each committee, be agreed;
2. The allocation of seats on committees to the opposition groups of the Council (where the rules of political balance applied), be agreed;
3. Council make the following appointments to those committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats:
  - General Purposes Committee (Councillor Colwill with Councillors Kansagra and Davidson as alternate or substitute Members)
  - Planning Committee (Councillor Maurice with Councillors Kansagra and Colwill as alternate or substitute Members)
  - Equalities Committee (Councillor Davidson with Councillors Kansagra and Maurice as alternate or substitute Members)
  - Community and Well-being Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Kansagra (Vice-Chair) with Councillors Colwill and Davidson as alternate or substitute Members)
  - Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Davidson (Vice-Chair) with Councillors Kansagra and Colwill as alternate or substitute Members)
  - Health and Well-being Board (Councillor Colwill with Councillors Davidson and Kansagra as alternate or substitute Members)

- Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Committee (Councillor Kansagra with Councillors Colwill and Maurice as alternate or substitute Members)
- Audit Committee (Councillor Davidson with Councillor Kansagra as alternate or substitute Member); and

If necessary, the political balance on sub-committees be reviewed at the first meeting of the General Purposes Committee

**5. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice-Chairs (if any)**

**RESOLVED**, that the following appointments to committees be ratified by the Council:

(i) Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

Resignation of Councillor Tom Miller from the Council's Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Sam Stopp to fill the vacancy.

(ii) General Purposes Committee

Resignation of Councillor Michael Pavey, as substitute Member, from the Council's General Purposes Committee – Councillor Tom Miller, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, to fill the vacancy, as substitute Member.

(iii) Senior Staff Appointments Committee

Resignation of Councillor Michael Pavey, as substitute Member, from the Council's Senior Staff Appointments Committee – Councillor Tom Miller, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, to fill the vacancy, as substitute Member.

(iv) Pensions Sub-Committee

Resignation of Councillor Tom Miller, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, from the Council's Pensions Sub-Committee – Councillor Abdi Aden to fill the vacancy.

(v) Pensions Sub-Committee

Resignation of Councillor Kana Naheerathan from the Council's Pensions Sub-Committee – Councillor M Aslam Choudry to fill the vacancy.

(vi) Standards Committee

Appointment of the following Independent Members on the Council's Standards Committee:

Karen McArthur  
Margaret Adenike Bruce.

(vii) Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

Resignation of Councillor Tom Miller from the Council's Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Sam Stopp to fill the vacancy.

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(xii) Standards Committee

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Karen McArthur  
Margaret Adenike Bruce.

## 6. **Debate on the Key Issues Affecting the Borough**

In accordance with Standing Order 43 (Debate on Key Issues Affecting the Borough), the Mayor welcomed to the meeting, Mr Dan Gascoyne, Director of the West London Alliance, who addressed Council on the work of the West London Alliance.

In his address, Mr Gascoyne covered a number of key issues, which included:

- The Building Blocks of Public Service Reform
- Priorities, Governance and Influence
- Regeneration and Growth
- Growth, Employment and Skills

- Housing Supply
- Net Additions to Housing Stock
- Numbers in Temporary Accommodation
- Housing – actions being considered
- Skills: Needs Analysis and Proposed Commissioning Model
- Employment Support
- Health and Well-being
- NWL Sustainability and Transformation Plan Delivery Areas
- New Ways of Working e.g. Children’s Services Programme

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Butt, in thanking Mr Gascoyne for his interesting and informative address, moved the following motion:

“The West London Alliance plays a central role in improving the collaborative approach of seven London Councils, facilitating a communal approach to the challenges facing the residents and businesses of West London.

In housing, children’s services, in health and wellbeing, in employment and skills – the WLA has been at the forefront of offering innovative, forward-thinking approaches to the issues that matter to us all.

With ongoing central government cuts to local council funding and further reductions expected in the coming years, it is more important than ever that we work in partnership with our neighbouring boroughs to share best practice and improve our ways of working, to find solutions to the challenges that face us all.

Brent Council pledges to continue to work closely with the WLA and our neighbouring boroughs to deliver the best outcomes for the residents and businesses of West London.”

By way of an amendment, Councillor Warren moved that, in the third paragraph, the following words be deleted:

“...With ongoing central government cuts to local council funding and further reductions expected in the coming years, it is more important than ever that we work in partnership with our neighbouring boroughs...”

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, the AMENDMENT was declared **LOST**.

Subsequently, on a vote being taken by a show of hands, Councillor Butt’s original MOTION was declared **CARRIED**.

*Councillor Allie entered the meeting at 7.24pm, during consideration of the above item of business.*

## 7. Reports from the Leader and Cabinet

In accordance with Standing Order 38, the Council received reports from the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members, as follows:

- (i) Councillor Butt (Leader of the Council)



- (a) Councillor Butt reiterated his thanks to Mrs Jashu Vekaria of Uxendon Manor Primary School for the hard work she was doing in improving the lives and outcomes of children at the school and that it was imperative that the Council continued to work closely with our schools and strive to improve outcomes there. Councillor Butt went on to say that this showed the commitment Brent had from all its teachers in relation to schools within the Borough. He added that recent Ofsted announcements had accredited Brent's Village School and Crest Academy as "outstanding", which had meant that almost 96% of Brent's schools were now rated as "good" or "outstanding" and that this was down to the Council's continued commitment to improving the outcomes of the Borough's children.
  - (b) Councillor Butt extended his congratulations to the current Mayor who had recently been officially recognised in the "Who's Who" of Bangladeshis in the UK for his work throughout the Bangladeshi community but also the wider community work and for his charitable work and political work carried out on behalf of the residents of Brent.
  - (c) Councillor Butt referred back to the success of Brent's schools and said that it was imperative that the Council continued to work with its schools and to improve the outcomes of the Borough's children as well. There had, he said, been some discussion around how the Council could help all of the Borough's children and that recently, the Council had welcomed a delegation from Barbados who wanted to work with some of Brent's black and afro-Caribbean children and to see how the Council could actually try and help and improve the outcomes of those children. Councillor Butt went on to say that the Council had also welcomed a delegation from the Czech Republic who were interested in seeing the work that the Council did with its Looked after Children and how they could learn lessons from what the Council did in Brent.
- (ii) Councillor McLennan (Deputy Leader)
- (a) Councillor McLennan extended her congratulations to all those associated and working with Crest Academy following its recent Ofsted inspection.
  - (b) Councillor McLennan spoke on the difficulties and challenges that the Council had faced over the last few years and the fact that the Council had to make cuts of £120m. She said that the current budget consultation was out at this present time and again the Council was looking at identifying yet more cuts and savings. Councillor McLennan did say that the task facing the Council was not as onerous as that faced in 2014-16 but she wanted to focus on the good things that, even in spite of all of the challenges, this Administration was still taking forward and in doing so, being positive and trying to do all that it could for the Borough's residents. In particular, Councillor McLennan said that those areas the Council was looking to address were:

- Brent Advice Matters
- How could the Council maximise income from the Civic Centre as a multi-functional facility
- Root and Branch Review of Customer Services
- Establishment of a social value advisory group.

(iii) Councillor Mashari (Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Growth, Employment and Skills)

- (a) Councillor Mashari was very pleased to announce that Brent had hosted its first Business Board Meeting on Thursday 17 November 2016. This newly-established board would discuss insights into strategies and direction Brent could take to help investment and facilitate business growth and look forward to further meetings.
- (b) Councillor Mashari announced that the Council had also secured agreement with Quintain and the construction firms in Wembley Park to deliver local apprenticeships, jobs and training. Brent Works would account manage opportunities in partnership with the College of North West London, the DWP and other partners to support a range of training opportunities in a centralised centre. The Council envisaged that this construction jobs and skills centre would be broadened out to include opportunities for development across the Borough.
- (c) Councillor Mashari advised Council that the Liberum Project in St Raphael's estate was delivering above financial target, was engaging 390 people and supporting 86 people into employment to date, with the project having being live for 18 months now. Additional funding had, she said, also been secured to provide support to residents with low level mental health needs. In conclusion, Councillor Mashari said that the project had gone live last week and she looked forward to the outcomes of that.

(iv) Councillor Miller (Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities)

- (a) Councillor Miller said that it was a real pleasure to be standing before Council in his new role as Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, although he wished to begin his report by offering to send on behalf of the Council, its condolences to the family of James Owusu, a Brent resident who had been cruelly murdered some two weeks earlier. Councillor Miller announced that the Council's thoughts and prayers were with his family and that he would assure his family that the Council would be working very closely with the Police to make sure that this matter was investigated and appropriately dealt with.
- (b) Councillor Miller advised Council that his first priority in his new role as Cabinet Member was to keep Brent safe by cracking down on violent crime and gangs with an intelligence-led approach to antisocial behaviour and to create an environment where victims of domestic abuse could come forward and look again at how victims could be supported and perpetrators reformed. Councillor Miller said that Brent's

approach to gangs, crime and disorder would be a tough one but it would be one which focussed on this intelligence-led prevention work and on rehabilitation. Councillor Miller went on to say that the Council would not shy away from tackling crime, which blighted working communities but the Council also knew that it needed to work hard on the social, as well as the individual sources of crime and that people were appropriately supported and that the Council intervened early.

Councillor Miller advised Cabinet that he had met with the Borough Commander to reiterate the Council's approach and to outline its commitment to partnership working with the Police and, on that note, he was also pleased to announce a decision taken by Cabinet the previous week concerning the Council's intention to commit to the Met Patrol Plus Scheme. He said that he had made proposals to commit £408,000 of matched-funding to this programme, which would receive support from the Metropolitan Police service for the Council to introduce 12 new Officers, including a Sergeant, to work on priorities set by the Council and Safer Brent Partnership who would be concentrating on gang crime antisocial behaviour, violence against family members and vulnerable people.

(v) Councillor Hirani (Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing)

- (a) Councillor Hirani announced that the Council's Public Health Team had been extremely busy as part of the Junior Citizenship Scheme reaching out to Year 6 children so that they were aware of the amounts of sugar in food and drink and could make better choices. We are reaching 3,000 pupils across 46 schools at events hosted at Bridge Park and the Kingsbury Temple. Councillor Hirani was shocked in relation to two particular cases, one of which whereby a child had advised that she had had a packet of Skittles for breakfast and another whereby a child had had coco-pops with chocolate milkshake inside them. The upside to this, he said, was that those children in particular would now be changing their diets now that they were aware of the sugar levels in such foods and the work that the Public Health Team was doing.
- (b) Last week had a very productive round table meeting with representatives from the England Cricket Board, the FA, the RFU looking at all the different pitches and open spaces that the Council had across the Borough to see how their use could be maximised and to see how best the Council could accommodate all the different sports within parks and school sites and our leisure centres.
- (c) And finally, it was tremendous last Monday where we had the Wembley Arch lit up blue for Third World Diabetes Day. This, he said, was a crucial issue that affected people across Brent. Councillor Hirani said that Brent had a high prevalence rate so it was great to diabetes champions here at the Civic Centre and at supermarkets actually raising awareness of what was in such foods.

(vi) Councillor Southwood (Cabinet Member for Environment)

- (a) Councillor Southwood announced that this week was Road Safety Week and every day, children and young people and everyone in our communities were put at risk from speeding on Brent's roads. I would encourage all Councillors, and residents, to get involved in Community Road Watch. She said that the local Police were working really hard on this initiative, which was educational. Councillor Southwood added that she had stood and had a chilly half an hour on Woodcock Hill some weeks ago with Councillors Kabir and Hossain. During that half an hour, 15 people were caught driving over the speed limit, which was, she said, really, really serious and again encouraged people to get involved in the initiative.
- (b) Councillor Southwood said that the Council would continue its fight against illegal dumping within the Borough and had introduced a fixed penalty of £400 for mid-level illegal dumping.
- (c) Councillor Southwood said that, with regard to controlled parking zones, she was delighted that the Administration was committed to resourcing a programme of reviews. She urged Councillors and residents to get involved and asked anyone who wished their controlled parking zone to be reviewed, to contact the Council.

(vii) Councillor Farah (Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform)

- (a) Councillor Farah announced that Brent was doing well compared to other London Boroughs when it came to delivering housing. He said that Brent had been affected by significant population growth, coupled with an increase in the average family size, which was the second highest in London. In addition, he said that the impact of welfare reform had been severe, especially for large household families and the revised overall benefit cap, which had started in Brent on 7 November, was affecting 1,800 households and high rents and the welfare cap was driving overcrowding in Brent.

Councillor Farah advised Council that, alongside this trend, there had been a major shift with the private rent sector accounting for more than 10 units of Brent House while owner-occupation had declined and provision of social housing had remained largely the same. These factors, he said, were worsened by the problem of affordability and, therefore the Council wanted to build on positive relationships with as many landlords in Brent to secure improved access for vulnerable people to move into supported and private rented accommodation. Councillor Farah said that consultation was underway on a Borough-wide extension of a selective licensing scheme and that the Government was introducing more extensive licensing for 2017.

- (b) Councillor Farah stated that the Council's Housing Strategy was currently being reviewed in response to the Government's Housing Planning Appeal and further welfare reform in the emerging approach of the new London Mayor and this would take account of progress over the

last two years in meeting the same aims of the Strategy. He added that the core objective of the Strategy remained valid but the change in landscape arising from Government reform may mean that more and different means were required to achieve the Council's objectives. Councillor Farah advised Members that the Cabinet had agreed an option for Brent re its future housing management stock and consultation was now underway. There would, he said, be talks with residents and leaseholders in coming weeks and the Council's intention was to improve its customer experience and satisfaction of the Council in future housing stock.

8. **Deputations (if any)**

In accordance with Standing Order 39, there were no deputations.

9. **Questions from Members of the Public**

In accordance with Standing Order 39A, there were no questions received from Members of the Public.

10. **Changes to the Constitution**

Councillor Butt (Leader of the Council) introduced the report by the Council's Chief Legal Officer, which proposed a number of changes to the Council's Constitution, including:

- Full Council Meetings;
- More flexible arrangements for substitutes of the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committees;
- Clarifying the rules on petitions;
- Recorded votes procedure;
- Updating the officer Scheme of Delegation in relation to grants; and
- Technical changes to Contract Standing Orders.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Warren moved that Recommendation 2.1 be amended to the effect that after "this report" the words "except for the proposed change to S.O 68 (e) (iii) – Petitions" be added.

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, the AMENDMENT was declared **LOST**.

Subsequently, on a vote being taken by a show of hands, the original recommendations were moved and **RESOLVED** that the changes to the Constitution, as detailed in the report, be approved and that the Chief Legal Officer be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly

11. **2016-17 Mid-Year Treasury Report**

Councillor McLennan (Deputy Leader of the Council) introduced the report by the Council's Chief Finance Officer, which updated Members on recent treasury activity.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Warren moved that two new recommendations be added, as follows:

“2.2 To note that "the management of the local authority's investments" is both put at risk, and is compromised by the setting up of a new wholly-owned investment company (Cabinet 15 November 2016) with an investment from Brent Council of up to £300m; and

2.3. To note that confidence in the investment strategy is put at risk by the significant number of objections (including my own) to Brent's 2015/2016 accounts having been accepted by the Council's auditors.”

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, the AMENDMENT was declared **LOST**.

Subsequently, on a vote being taken by a show of hands, the original recommendation was moved and **RESOLVED** that the 2016/17 mid-year treasury report, which had already been reviewed by the Audit Committee and Cabinet, be noted.

## 12. **Brent Development Management Policies - Local Plan Adoption**

Councillor Mashari (Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Growth, Employment and Skills) introduced the report by the Council's Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, which explained that the Council had received an Inspector's report into the examination of the Development Management Policies Local Plan.

It was reported that the Inspector had found the document “sound”, subject to recommended “main” modifications being made and Council was recommended that the Development Management Policies Local Plan, incorporating modifications, be adopted.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Warren moved that one new recommendation be added, as follows:

“2.4. To note that the Planning Inspector's report recorded that the Brent DMP plan was not "sound and legally compliant" as presented to Full Council on 18/01/16.”

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, the AMENDMENT was declared **LOST**.

Subsequently, on a vote being taken by a show of hands, the original recommendations were moved and **RESOLVED** that:

1. The main modifications and minor modifications to the Development Management Policies Local Plan, that the Council submitted for examination, as set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, be accepted;
2. The modified Development Management Policies Local Plan, be adopted; and

The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment be authorised to make further editorial changes to the document

13. **Petitions**

In accordance with Standing Order 68, there were no petitions received

14. **Non Cabinet Members' Debate**

Given the debate on the key issues affecting the Borough (Minute No.6 refers), there was no non-Cabinet Members' Debate.

15. **Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members**

The Mayor advised Members that this item gave them the opportunity to ask questions of Members of the Cabinet on any matter, which was the responsibility of Cabinet. He confirmed that Members had received written tabled responses to these questions.

The Mayor stated that non-Cabinet Members each had one minute to ask a supplementary question if they so wished.

(i) Supplementary Question from Councillor Shaw to Councillor Miller (Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities)

Councillor Shaw asked Councillor Miller that, with regard to keeping lights on in the evenings at Willesden Sports Centre, could he make that a reality this evening as opposed to proposing this as something which could be done.

Secondly, Councillor Shaw asked Councillor Miller that, with regard to better CCTV cameras, could the Council improve upon the current CCTV cameras.

Thirdly, Councillor Shaw asked Councillor Miller that, with regard to access and given that the Police had had a lot of problems with drugs, could the Council consider imposing an access restriction at night, including perhaps a barrier there?

In response, Councillor Miller said that he was aware that this was a real issue and that there were certainly some residents in Willesden Green who had previously raised this and he was quite keen to deal with it as he was also a Ward Member there. In terms of the actions suggested, Councillor Miller stressed that these were all possibilities and mentioned that, at the end of his written response to the initial question put, was an invitation to meet with Councillor Shaw, and residents, to sit down and discuss the best combination in terms of answers to that particular problem. Councillor Miller went on to say that he was, of course, happy to write back to Councillor Shaw and to put on record what was actually decided but he would like to discuss it with Councillor Shaw and the residents also, if at all possible.

With regard to CCTV cameras, Councillor Miller said that a proposal to improve the Council's CCTV would be brought forward later that week to the Council's Capital Investment Panel and, depending on the outcome of the

Panel's deliberations, he may be able to announce further progress on CCTV at that time.

(ii) Supplementary Question from Councillor Nerva to Councillor Hirani (Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing)

Councillor Nerva asked Councillor Hirani what further information he had with regard to the specific impact these community pharmacy changes would have on Brent residents and Brent pharmacists.

In response, Councillor Hirani said that he had come across some information, which outlined the impact on Brent's pharmacies of the potential changes that had been compiled by Pharmacy Voice, and that contact would be made with them to ascertain how they have got hold of this information. Councillor Hirani said that Pharmacy Voice's analysis suggested that 22 of Brent's 74 pharmacies were now at risk of closure because of the Government's cuts, which equated to 30% of all pharmacists in Brent, and because of the magnitude of the information that the Council had been only today, Councillor Hirani felt it was imperative that the Council followed it up across the list of pharmacies within Brent. Councillor Hirani said that, once again, this showed that the Government was disproportionately affecting Brent. The cuts to pharmacists across the nation was 12% and 30% of Brent's was at risk as a result of these cuts. So, he said, whether or not people agreed or whether they blamed the previous Labour Government for the mess that had been created and the cuts that were happening, surely Councillors and all Brent parties could unite on the fact that why was Brent being disproportionately cut when compared to other areas.

(iii) Supplementary Question from Councillor Ezeajughi to Councillor Miller (Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities)

Councillor Ezeajughi asked Councillor Miller what the Council was doing to work with the Police and the local community to ensure that Brent continued to be a place where residents felt safe.

In response, Councillor Miller said it was very important that the Council was seen to condemn as strongly as possible this form of violence and to put on record the Council's intention to use whatever means at its disposal to tackle it. Councillor Miller said that the Council would, of course, be working very closely with the Police to ensure that this happened and referring to the earlier announcement that he gave, Councillor Miller said that the Council buying into the Met Patrol Plus Scheme would certainly mean an increase in Police presence and a visible Police presence in some of these areas that could be used to deter people. Councillor Miller went on to say that the Council was also doing a lot of intelligence-led work with gangs where data was being collated about them and people's pathways into them so the Council had a softer approach that would think about how the Council's social services and its education system could intervene with gang members. Further to this, Councillor Miller said that the Council had, thanks to its close work with the Mayor of London, been awarded some extra money on what the Council would normally have received, of £155,000 over the first year from the MOPAC Crime Prevention Fund. Councillor Miller guaranteed Members that



some of this money would go towards increasing the Council's level of intervention with gangs – whether that was the prevention and deterrents or whether that was to do with mentoring, for example. In conclusion, Councillor Miller said that the Council was currently working with officers to work-up some proposals using those funds and would welcome a further meeting with Councillor Ezeajughi as to how this could be taken forward.

(iv) Supplementary Question from Councillor Collier to Councillor McLennan (Deputy Leader)

Councillor Collier asked Councillor McLennan, with regard to her response, whether or not, the right person had answered the question because it had not been so much an issue about treasury management that he was bringing up but more about working and engaging with businesses. On the specific issue of the recent re-evaluation of business rates, this, he said had been around the lobbying that had taken place on behalf of businesses by both businesses and local government. Secondly, Councillor Collier wanted to ask a bit more about whether the Council had any information on the differential impacts of the business rates rise on different sectors in Brent. Lastly, Councillor Collier wished to find out what preparation Brent had made to undertake and manage the changed relationship with business following the localisation of business-let rates, which would come into force in 2020.

In response, Councillor McLennan apologised to Councillor Collier if the initial response had not been clear. She went on to say that the Council had started to look at the potential issue of business rates and the increases and the impact this would have on Brent's businesses. She said that, in terms of Brent, the average increase was 12% against a national average of 9% and the London average of 23% so, Brent was a little more than the national average but below the London average. Councillor McLennan said that, in terms of working with Brent's businesses and in terms of working with Councillor Mashari, the Council had been working very closely to see how it could actually look and see how with the increase in business rates, what the Council could actually disseminate because, at the present time, it was still very, very much up in the air and the Council could not actually define until it knew exactly what was going to be happening to the Council so at the present time it was just a watching brief. Councillor McLennan stressed that the Council knew what the issues were. She said that she had been in contact with local businesses in Willesdon concerning the impact there and even accepting it or agreeing their potential increases, but at the present time, this was something that the Council was looking towards and working with its businesses and something that would be evolving as the Council knew more information as it came through. In conclusion, Councillor McLennan reiterated that, at the present time, it was still very much a watching brief because the situation was fluid but was happy to bring back to Council as it affected everyone.

Councillor Davidson, who had submitted a similar original question to those that had been accepted and responded to, requested that Councillor Southwood respond to that question regarding the wider issue of outsourcing contracts, which she agreed to do outside of the meeting.

## 16. Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees

Council received the following reports from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees, as detailed in the Supplementary Agenda to this meeting:

### (i) Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Kelcher, Chair of the Council's Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee updated Council on some changes to the Committee, notably, Councillor Miller moving to the Cabinet, and welcomed Councillor Stopp who had replaced Councillor Miller on the Committee. Councillor Kelcher went on to say that, given the changes in political groups announced earlier that evening, he was pleased that the Vice-Chairman was to remain in that position on the Committee, which was positive news.

Councillor Kelcher spoke on events that had been undertaken to raise the profile of the scrutiny function and to take its business outside of the Civic Centre. First of all, he said, last Friday, the Committee had had a fantastic Young People Takeover Day where young people from various local schools had come along to learn about the workings of the Council and worked through some of their policies. Councillor Kelcher wished to thank Councillor Conneely, who had insisted at the start of this process that scrutiny should be one of the things the young people learned about and that it had been great to sit in their workshops and learn about some of the policies they had devised for the day. He said that he had also spoken at a local School Council about the role of scrutiny recently and hosted a scrutiny café in Harlesden where local people had come along and told Members what they thought the Council should be looking at. Councillor Kelcher said that it had been reassuring to discover that most matters raised were on the agenda for consideration, which was a positive sign.

Councillor Kelcher also said that one of the biggest issues his Committee had considered was the reporting back by the first task group of this municipal year, which had been chaired by Councillor Davidson and had looked into the wider issue of business rate devolution. He said that this was a really important issue since it was the biggest change in local government finance in some of our lifetimes and certainly over the last two decades and it was great to hear that this had been seen as a trailblazing report by some other Councils who had not yet done work in this area. Councillor Kelcher confirmed that Councillor Davidson and the Council's Scrutiny Officers would be attending the London Scrutiny Network and would tell people about the work of Brent's scrutiny committees. Councillor Kelcher said it had been a true cross-party report with all four groups on the Council represented in some capacity on it and that the meeting had been warmly welcomed by the Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor Kelcher stated that some of the other issues his Committee had considered had been related, namely, income generation, which was a particularly interesting discussion about how the Council could get more out of its assets. This, he said, was a matter that had come out of last year's Budget Scrutiny Panel as something the Committee really wanted to look at so he was pleased that this was now being fed through and being looked at as part

of the Civic Enterprise Stream and also one of the specific recommendations which came through scrutiny last year about monetising some of the Council's CCTV infrastructure and using the bandwidth, as reported.

Councillor Kelcher went on to say that his Committee had also looked at the Council's Customer Access Strategy and following a conversation he had had with a Salvation Army activist, about how ghosting could often be seen as a better way of testing a service than mystery shopping that the Committee made a recommendation on that basis, which he believed was being adopted.

In terms of the main issues to be scrutinised, Councillor Kelcher said that scrutinising of the Budget was an important legal duty, which his committee had every year though it was working very closely in conjunction with Councillor Sheth's committee and had set up a Budget Scrutiny Panel, which would be investigating the Budget and whose first meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 24 November 2016. He said that the Panel's report was due to be published in the New Year and in good time to be analysed at the first scrutiny committee on 10 January 2017. The Committee, he said, would also be looking at the Council's Investment Strategy, its Capital Budget and general issues around the high streets.

In conclusion, Councillor Kelcher said that enough signatures had been gathered by Members to call-in the Cabinet decision relating to the South Kilburn Regeneration and that officers were now working to find a date to hold the call-in meeting.

(ii) Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Ketan Sheth, Chair of the Council's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee said he was sure that the Mayor and the Leader would agree with him that the Council had enjoyed a hugely inspirational and challenging event with Brent's young people last Friday for Takeover Challenge. Talking about the young people, Councillor Ketan Sheth said that one of the most important responsibilities the Council had was to promote the effective safeguarding of the Borough's children and young people. He added that this was not something that one organisation could achieve on its own and that safeguarding was everyone's business and it was important that all agencies and organisations played their part and worked together effectively to make Brent a safe place for its children and young people who were at risk of harm.

Councillor Ketan Sheth said that, this week, his Committee would be scrutinising the Annual Report of the Brent Local Safeguarding Children's Board, which would be presented by its independent Chair. The Board, he said, had a strategic role in coordinating safeguarding of the Borough's children, bringing together the Council, schools, Police and the voluntary sector as well as lay members from the community. Councillor Ketan Sheth said that his Committee would be scrutinising different aspects of the Board's work and would want to ensure that safeguarding policies and procedures were not just written down on paper by organisations but actually translated into effective safeguarding at the frontline. The Committee, he said, would also want to discuss whether the Board had the requisite resources to carry

out its duties effectively and met its statutory objectives. He said he looked forward to reporting back to the Council in the near future about the conclusions reached.

Councillor Ketan Sheth stated that Children Social Care was also something the Council must never overlook. Brent's social workers, he said, played a vital role in improving life's chances of many children and young people in the Borough as well as supporting their families. He reminded Members that he had set up a scrutiny task group called Signs of Safety to focus on how the Council had implemented the new way of working with children and families.

Councillor Ketan Sheth said that, over the past few weeks, his colleague, Councillor Hoda-Benn, had led this task group and it had met with senior officers and social workers to understand how Signs of Safety worked and what difference it had made to the Council's work with children, young people and their families. The Task Group, he said, would be reporting back with a number of recommendations in the New Year.

Councillor Ketan Sheth reiterated that the Cabinet had decided a few days earlier to agree that the management of the Council's housing stock be brought back in-house, subject to consultation. This, he said, was a big step and not the sort of decision which a local authority took every day. It was, he said, a decision which affected many thousands of Brent's residents and given this, his Committee had held a special meeting last month to discuss the options for managing the Council's housing stock in the future and he wanted to take this opportunity to thank once again all those residents who attended the meeting in such large numbers that evening and who made valuable contributions to the discussions. Councillor Ketan Sheth said that he had not seen such a large group of residents at scrutiny before and was very proud to have shared their company. In conclusion, Councillor Ketan Sheth said that he thought it was very important that residents were given a voice in important discussions and he was very pleased that scrutiny was able to do that and looked forward to his Committee facilitating more of that in the future.

Councillor Collier sought clarification on a point of information in relation to a statement made by Councillor Ketan Sheth in his report to which Minute No.16 (ii) above referred. Councillor Collier asked that where Councillor Ketan Sheth had stated that a decision had been taken to take the Council's housing back in-house, subject to consultation, was this indeed the case or was it the case that a decision had been taken to consult on whether or not to take the Council's housing back in-house.

In response, the Chief Executive confirmed the latter.

## 17. **Motions**

### (i) Small Business Saturday

Councillor Shafique Choudhary moved the motion circulated in his name by urging the Council to acknowledge, in the lead-up to Small Business Saturday on 3 December 2016, the important role that small businesses played here in Brent.

The motion was put to the vote and unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

(ii) Model of Decision-Making in Brent

Councillor Warren moved the motion circulated in his name requesting that the Chief Executive be instructed to formulate a “committee model” of government, whereby all main committees made their own decisions, which would then be put to Full Council for approval.

In accordance with Standing Order 47(d) the motion was put to a recorded vote and a list of the votes cast produced as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Carr	Aden	Ahmed
Shaw	Agha	Chohan
Warren	Allie	Colwill
	Bradley	Davidson
	Butt	Kansagra
	Chan	Maurice
	S Choudhary	
	Colacicco	
	Collier	
	Conneely	
	Daly	
	Denselow	
	Dixon	
	Duffy	
	Eniola	
	Ezeajughi	
	Farah	
	Harrison	
	Hector	
	Hirani	
	Hossain	
	Hylton	
	Jones	
	Kabir	
	Kelcher	
<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
	Long	
	Mahmood	
	Marquis	
	Mashari	
	McLeish	
	McLennan	
	Miller	
	Moher	
	J Mitchell Murray	
	Naheerathan	
	Nerva	
	M Patel	

Pavey  
Perrin  
Pitruzzella  
Shahzad  
Ketan Sheth  
Krupa Sheth  
Southwood  
Stopp  
Tatler  
Thomas  
Van Kalwala

The MOTION was declared **LOST**.

18. **Urgent Business**

There was no further urgent business transacted.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.20pm.

COUNCILLOR PARVEZ AHMED  
Mayor