



Brent

SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 23 January 2017 at 7.00 pm

Conference Hall - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

To the Mayor and Councillors of the London Borough of Brent and to each and every one of them.

I hereby summon you to attend the MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of this Borough.

CAROLYN DOWNS
Chief Executive

Dated: Friday 13 January 2017

For further information contact: Thomas Cattermole, Head of Executive and Member Services on 020 8937 5446 or via thomas.cattermole@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit: democracy.brent.gov.uk

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Please note this meeting will be filmed for live broadcast on the Council's website. By entering the meeting room you will be deemed to have consented to the possibility of being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting.

Agenda

Apologies for absence.

1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 22

To confirm, as a correct record, the attached minutes of the meeting of the Full Council, held on 21 November 2016.

2 Declarations of Interests

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests, and the nature of these, in any matter to be considered at the meeting.

3 Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)

To receive announcements from the Mayor.

4 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs (if any)

To agree appointments to Committees (tabled), in accordance with Standing Order 37(g).

5 Reports from the Leader and Cabinet

To receive reports from the Leader and Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 38.

6 Deputations (if any)

To hear any deputations received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 39.

7 Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions from members of the public to be put to members of the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 39A.

8 Petitions

To receive any petitions for debate in accordance with the Council's petition rules and Standing Order 68.

9 Urgent Items Taken Under Standing Order 16 23 - 24

In accordance with Standing Order (16b), the Leader shall report the key decisions taken under this Standing Order, as detailed on Page No. XXX to this agenda.

10 Invitation to become an Opted-In Authority: The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015 (the Regulations) 25 - 26

The Council is asked to consider an invitation by the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA), being an appointing person for the purposes of the Regulations, to become an opted-in authority in accordance with the Regulations.

11 Non Cabinet Members' Debate

To debate an issue raised in accordance with standing order 39B and to receive reports from Cabinet members in issues previously raised.

12 Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members 27 - 40

Questions to be put to members of the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 40.

13 Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees 41 - 56

To receive reports in accordance with Standing Order 41.

14 Report from Vice-Chair of Audit Committee To Follow

To receive any report in accordance with Standing Order 41A.

15 Motions 57 - 62

To debate the motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 45.

16 Urgent Business

At the discretion of the Mayor to consider any urgent business.



Please remember to switch your mobile phone to silent during the meeting.

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.



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.

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)
 - Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee (Councillor Colwill)
 - 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.

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 Christ 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 Sheth in his report to which Minute No.16 (ii) above referred. Councillor Collier asked that where Councillor 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	
	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

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Agenda Item No.9

URGENT ITEMS TAKEN UNDER STANDING ORDER 16

In accordance with Standing Order 16(b), the Leader shall report the following key decisions taken under this standing order.

- (a) Award of a contract for Microsoft Licences
- (b) Phase 3 Primary School Expansion Programme – Update on Design and Build Contracts

This matter was considered by Cabinet in private session.

NOTES:

- 1. The matters before Council are merely for reporting on by the Leader of the Council.**
 - 2. If Council wishes to discuss the specifics of the Phase 3 Primary School Expansion Programme, then the Mayor may deem it necessary for Council to resolve to exclude members of the press and public in accordance with Schedule 12A, as amended, to the Local Government Act 1972.**
- (c) The Chief Executive exercised her extreme urgency powers and approved the novation of the contract between Lewisham Council and Xerox UK Ltd to Brent Council, the extension of the said novated contract for a period of 2 years from 1 August 2017 and its variation to include the provision of Managed Print Services to Brent Council for the duration of the extended contract term.
 - (d) Bridge Park – Approval to Enter into the Conditional Land Sale Agreement (to be discussed at Cabinet on 16 January 2017)

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Agenda Item No.10

INVITATION TO BECOME AN OPTED-IN AUTHORITY: THE LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014 AND THE LOCAL AUDIT (APPOINTING PERSON) REGULATIONS 2015 (THE REGULATIONS)

Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA), being an appointing person for the purposes of the Regulations, invites Brent London Borough Council (the authority) to become an opted-in authority in accordance with the Regulations.

The length of the compulsory appointing period is the five consecutive financial years commencing 1 April 2018.

A decision to become an opted-in authority must be taken in accordance with the Regulations and by the Members of an authority meeting as a whole.

The closing date to give notice to PSAA of the Council's acceptance of its invitation is **9 March 2017**.

The notice of acceptance must be sent by email to: appointingperson@psaa.co.uk and must be received **before 5pm on Thursday 9 March 2017**.

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Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members

Full Council – 23 January 2017

1. Question from Cllr Ms Shaw to Cllr Southwood, Lead Member for Environment:

Could the lead member clarify how ignoring the overwhelming results of a public consultation against hiking the costs of visitor parking by 200 per cent can benefit Brent residents particularly the elderly and infirm who are likely as a result to become isolated and could the lead member at least give concessions to this vulnerable group?

Response:

Almost 3,300 consultation responses were received during the public consultation, which covered not only visitor permit pricing but a range of issues related to how we manage the limited spaces we have. After considering the views expressed, Cabinet agreed to freeze the price of visitor permits for visits of less than 2 hours at the existing price of £1.50. The cost of visitor permits has increased only for visitors who wish to stay for longer than 2 hours.

Consultation respondents did express a majority view against increasing the price of visitor permits, although over a quarter supported the proposals (67% opposed; 26% in favour). The qualitative feedback we received through discussion with residents at workshops and community meetings also pointed to increasing concerns about poor air quality, frustration at not being able to find a parking space easily and concerns about commuters using visitor permits and making it even harder for local residents to park.

On balance, Cabinet felt that bringing the cost of parking for a whole day in Brent in line with that of neighbouring boroughs (i.e. Ealing) would make a positive contribution to these issues whilst still keeping the cost of parking lower than our inner London neighbours (i.e. It costs £6.49 to park for the day in Camden).

When reaching a decision on the correct level of pricing for visitor permits, Cabinet was anxious that elderly and disabled people should not be disproportionately affected. For that reason we decided that the Visitor Household Permit should continue to be offered, providing an easy and affordable way for residents who need care and support to ensure that their visitors can park nearby. We also ensured that the price increase applied to the Visitor Household Permit was lower than that applied to visitor vouchers for visits of more than 2 hours. Blue Badge holders are exempt from visitor parking charges and, in addition, health and social care staff visiting clients in their homes are issued with Essential User parking permits guaranteeing them access to resident bays within all of Brent's CPZs.

2. Question from Cllr Crane to Cllr Southwood, Lead Member for Environment:

At its meeting on 13th January 2014 the Executive endorsed a number of recommendations of the Planning committee on a Placemaking Plan for Colindale and The Hyde in Fryent and Queensbury ward. Can the relevant Lead member advise the Council on the progress of 3 specific items that were specifically highlighted by residents at the consultation stage as high priority since the Executive meeting:

1. The junction improvements of the A5 Edgware Road and Wakemans Hill Ave and difficulty crossing the A5 arising from the death of an elderly resident trying to cross at this busy junction.
2. Uncontrolled parking along the length of shops in the Hyde from Wakemans Hill to Hay lane.
3. The alleyway upgrade behind the A5 at Springfield Mount junction and the progress on the Council attempting to adopt the alley so that it can be maintained in future at Council expense.

Response:

1. Officers in Regeneration and Environment are liaising with Barnet on improvement plans for the A5 corridor taking into consideration major regeneration in the area.

The A5 is an important strategic route and officers have also been in discussions with TfL's growth team on scoping and commissioning a study to improve public transport accessibility and provision for pedestrians and cyclists along this corridor to ensure it meets future needs. Councillors will be engaged in determining the scope of the study. The Highways and infrastructure service have commissioned S106 funding to progress with improvements identified in the Burnt Oak Colindale Place Making guide, this includes improving pedestrian safety at the Wakemans Hill Avenue junction. Improvements will be developed in consideration of longer term plans along the corridor. We anticipate that preliminary design will commence in the spring with consultation and implementation in 2017/18.

2. Joint working between Regenerations Transportation and High Streets Teams and Highways and Infrastructure has commenced to ensure benefits from investment into the area are maximised to revitalise and improve the commercial area of the Hyde from Wakeman's Hill to Hay Lane. Engagement with the local businesses was completed along with a parking beat survey to assist in forming options to be considered. Three options were presented to the business community who failed to endorse or support any of them at meetings that were arranged last year. S106 funding

has been commissioned for the area and further design work is currently being completed in line with our parking strategy to design a scheme for public consultation and, if supported, implementation in 2017/18.

3. No work has been undertaken to upgrade the alleyway behind the A5 at Springfield Mount as it is not adopted and is not therefore the responsibility of the Council to maintain. The Council cleared the alleyway as a 'one-off' in the autumn of 2016 on the condition that the resident's/businesses continued to maintain it to manage the pest problem as a result of the fly-tipping. The dumping of rubbish has been reported as coming from the shops themselves but this has not been proven. For the Council to adopt the alleyway as public highway it will involve a legal process and it would need to be brought up to an adoptable standard by the landowners, which includes not only the surface but also drainage and lighting and demonstrate that the proposed route will offer benefits to the greater public in being maintainable at public expense. This requires all the landowners to agree to fund the necessary works which to date has not happened and is likely to be a considerable cost considering its existing condition.

I am working with cabinet colleagues for regeneration and stronger Communities to identify more effective ways for the council to work with residents and traders to clean up alleyways and service roads. They blight the borough in being unsightly, attracting anti-social behaviour and often creating a genuine public health concern. Officers are exploring options but in the meantime I can commit to targeted education visits from officers to residential and commercial properties to ensure the correct disposal arrangements are in place, with follow up visits to check compliance. The outcome of these visits will be shared with local Councillors.

3. Question from Cllr Colwill to Cllr Butt, Leader of the Council:

Will the Labour Group join the Conservative Group in condemning the action taken by the rail unions to strike during the Christmas period, causing inconvenience to our residents and passengers across the country?

Response:

Industrial action is a deeply regrettable consequence of all concerned parties' failure to find amicable, sustainable resolution. London is utterly dependent upon its transport infrastructure and needs all aspects functioning effectively in order to thrive. I urge all sides in such workplace disputes to give their fullest consideration to the hugely detrimental impact that service disruptions have on the capital's commuters, its economy, and its reputation as a world class global city.

4. Question from Cllr Long to Cllr W Mitchell Murray, Lead Member for Children and Young People:

Many people go into debt because of Funeral poverty, i.e. having to deal with an often unexpected death with no plans for the funeral. What help and advice does Brent currently provide and plan to provide for dealing with funeral costs, particularly for the deaths of young children?

Response:

Children and Young People's Services do not provide financial support to families to pay for children's funeral costs. Exceptions would relate to children who are in the care of the Local Authority and, as the Corporate Parent, responsibility is retained in order to ensure funeral arrangements are progressed.

Families in need of financial support in circumstances such as these may apply to the Council's Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) scheme. This is a discretionary support scheme with the primary objectives to:

- Support people in short-term need because of a crisis or emergency;
- Support vulnerable people in the community;
- Ease exceptional pressure on families.

5. Question from Cllr Chan to Cllr W Mitchell Murray, Lead Member for Children and Young People:

Education is key to ensuring that the children and young people of this borough have the opportunity to build successful and stable lives. Can the Cabinet Member set out how a Labour-led Brent has worked toward this essential priority?

Response:

The local authority continues to have statutory duties to ensure sufficient numbers of school places and “to promote high standards and fulfilment of potential in schools so that all children and young people benefit from at least a good education” (The Education Act 2011).

We continue to provide sufficient school places, working in partnership with the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Education Funding Agency to secure sufficient school places through school expansions and the opening of new academies.

The Strategic Framework for School Effectiveness in Brent 2014-2017 sets out Brent Council’s role, working in partnership with local schools and other maintained settings, to ensure that all schools in the borough are judged as good or better within three years. With 96% of Brent schools now good or better, we are well on the way to achieving our goal. Over 96% of pupils now attend good or understanding schools.

Schools must develop their own capacity for improvement. The Strategic Framework for School Effectiveness in Brent 2014-17 embraces this principle. The aim is for all schools in Brent to be part of a school to school partnership securing ongoing improvement with limited support and intervention from the local authority. The framework stresses the importance of school-led and collaborative solutions alongside the statutory role of the local authority in relation to monitoring, challenge, support and intervention.

6. Question from Cllr M Patel to Cllr McLennan, Deputy Leader of the Council:

The future of local government finance may very well involve the complete devolution of responsibility for and retention of respective boroughs' business rates. Can the Cabinet Member comment on the various risks and opportunities that such financial independence might present?

Response:

Local government as a sector has consistently argued for the return of control of business rates. The proposed devolution is therefore welcome although it doesn't go so far as giving us the local power to set the actual tax rate.

You rightly identify that this brings with it risks and opportunities, and the work of the Scrutiny task force on this was most helpful. Post 2020 we will bear the risk of reductions to the total business rate base in the borough, but conversely if we can help to grow the number and value of businesses in the borough then our revenues will grow. Aside from the simple financial consequences I think this also gives us the opportunity to work more closely with colleagues in the business sector, and the Council has established a Business Board precisely to strengthen such links.

The other principal opportunity is that with the devolution of business rates we will also acquire responsibility to finance services currently run within central government. In theory this should be fiscally neutral – more money but more responsibilities – but of course we await the detail on this. Provided that it is fiscally neutral then there is the opportunity to integrate those services much better with other services that we currently run, provided of course that government devolves services that can sensibly be integrated with our existing offer. We are working through London Councils and the LGA to put our case on this.

7. Question from Cllr Nerva to Cllr Hirani, Lead Member for Community Wellbeing:

With Theresa May's government apparently indifferent to the perilous condition of health and social care services across the country, can the Cabinet Member explain what efforts Labour-led Brent are making to protect and sustain services in this Borough?

Response:

The Tory governments of May and Cameron, and their Lib Dem-backed coalition before them, are all responsible for exacerbating and compounding the Health and Social Care crisis unfolding across the country. They have devastated preventative services such as Public Health (Brent's Public Health grant has been cut by £2.4m from 15/16 to 17/18 – a 10% cut) and have slashed the funding with which councils can commission services, massively increasing pressure on far more expensive hospital care.

In Brent we are doing as much as we can to protect our residents and deliver a positive model of Adult Social Care by placing housing at the heart of our service. We have developed our Extra Care and Supported Living Housing offer meaning that people have a real alternative to expensive nursing and residential care while still having their needs met. We have implemented the Integrated Rehabilitation and Reablement Service to provide better short term care to help people live independently and we are also investing in home adaptations so people can, for example, have the support to shower independently rather than relying on us to arrange for someone to come around to help. We have taken the opportunity to use the Adult Social Care precept powers.

However, the way the Government has sold this to the public is completely misleading. Although the 2% precept raises roughly £2 million, there's no getting away from the fact that, since 2010, government cuts have taken hundreds of millions of pounds out of public services in Brent. Nevertheless, as a Labour-led council, we are determined to provide our residents with the levels of care and support they deserve.

8. Question from Cllr J Mitchell Murray to Cllr Miller, Lead Member for Stronger Communities:

Can the Cabinet Member explain: what is being done in Brent to protect children and young people from being drawn into or exploited by gangs; what we are doing to better understand what draws young people towards gangs; what can be done to help those who want to escape; and, what more we can do to pursue, catch and prosecute those who are wilfully engaged in gang-related crime?

Response:

Based on the Metropolitan Polices gangs matrix there are currently 21 gangs in Brent. Gangs and gang related offending continues to remain a concern and a priority for Brent, with links between Child Sexual Exploitation and County Lines emerging. There are estimated to be over 1,000 individuals involved with gang criminality in Brent, whilst the current Metropolitan Police Gangs matrix for Brent has 282 identified gang members. The Brent gangs' cohort is over 90% male, 80% black, and has an average age of 24 years old. The long standing gang issues in Brent have created a cohort which is older than most London boroughs. Currently only 6% of the cohort are 17 years old or under, compared to the London average of 20%.

The current rise in knife injury victims (under 25 year's old - non domestic abuse), with 16 year old victims and 23 year old victims overrepresented, suggests gangs are a continuing issue in Brent's youth population. The figures contradict the below average number of youths on the gangs matrix. Multi agency Work is currently being developed to better identify our youth gang associates, including our enhanced partnership intelligence meetings and focused deterrence forums. Police operations continue to enforce ongoing gang activity, with Dedicated Ward Officers still very much having focus on any gang hotspot areas and targeted intelligence gathering to aid enforcement. Other partners also feed into this intelligence gathering exercise.

Such partnership interventions are coordinated by the council Community Protection service, to focus on certain gang hotspot areas, as well as certain gang associates including Young People on the fringes of gang activity in terms of preventative and deterrent interventions; as well as any possible links to child exploitation. All partnership interventions link in with missing and child sexual exploitation panels to ensure all intelligence links to create a clear valid picture of the issues we face.

Unfortunately there has not been the same amount of resources made available across London to aid this prevention work as previous years have seen, therefore the partnership have been working with what resources they have to make the biggest difference possible. Our focused work is largely set by progressive analytical capabilities through detailed analytical work to ensure wider focused work, via our Focused Gang Deterrent Group meetings and the fortnightly partnership gang intelligence meetings. All partners feed into this analysis, including Police, children's services, Youth offending, family solutions, specialist CSE workers and voluntary sector organisations.

The community protection service commission external voluntary sector organisations to complete gang mentoring schemes, and many referrals for this mentoring come from Brent Social workers, Police Safer School Officers and other education placements. We advocate, through our partnership forums, that information sharing is key to help prevent gang recruitment, as well as ensuring we make an offer of support and exit options for anyone wishing to exit gang life. We have also utilised some MOPAC grant funding to fund a specialist gang mentor within the Youth Offending Service to offer more immediate focused support for those young people a little more entrenched in offending and gang life. In the first six months of 2015/16, 31 young people assessed as being significantly less gang affected after engaging with this specific intervention. Other interventions which we offer to young people identified as having possible gang affiliation include mentoring through sports interventions and music programmes, all of which are commissioned by the council with resources available. The Safer Neighbourhood Board have also commissioned some specific mentoring and education programmes to aid better awareness of gang issues in Brent for individuals in our PRUs. Police are key to these interventions and forums and information sharing between all statutory and non-statutory partners to ensure focused intervention takes place for any young person identified or referred.

Moving forward, we know that we need to continue our focused work, and especially more so on identifying young people associated with gang activity. Current partnership structures will aid this and although we don't currently have a deployable resource available for emergency cases or enough resource to tackle the current scale of the issue we face, thankfully the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund reallocated funds for Brent 2017-2019 projects, which resulted in a slight uplift of allocated funds. In December 2016 we put a proposal forward requesting to utilise some of these additional funds to help us better respond to our gang issue in Brent.

The proposal included two gang mentors, one mentor will be a specialist young person's mentor. Each mentor will support 20-30 gang affected people in Brent through targeted referral routes, as well as linking in with the wider partnership offender management programme proposed which will commission further sports mentoring and housing support. A third gang mentor will also be located within the Civic Centre with specialist onsite support for Youth Offending Service, Children's Social Care including Early Help. As part of this new approach, we hope these posts will better align itself with those teams supporting Brent's wider gang nominals, and work across all age groups in order to secure the best possible outcomes for young people. The programme will also provide a minimum of five education projects throughout the year in targeted schools, totalling to 10 as well as look to provide peer training for those who have engaged significantly.

Aims for the new proposed programmes include:


1. Target number of referrals per quarter (specific number set for each programme).
2. 70% of those referrals that engaged will take positive action to address primary pathway/need.
3. 15% reduction in re-offending committed by the cohort in 6 months following engagement with programme, in comparison to offending rate 6 months prior to the programme.
4. 70% of those referrals that engaged will significantly be less gang affected (Gang programmes)
5. 70% Improved understanding and awareness of the impact of gangs and gang offending (education sessions).

We also see the huge importance of involving our communities to help tackle these community based issues facing our young people of Brent. Last year we had a community led conference to ensure we involved as many partners from all sectors, as well as community members, as possible. We have seen however that community members including young people are sometimes reluctant to come forward and speak out against gangs. We have scheduled a further community event with our Partnership colleagues in January 2017 as a follow up platform, namely the 'It's Time to Talk about Gangs' event. The event will take the form of 'Question Time' where all members of Brent's community are invited to come along and take part in a panel discussion followed by workshops to develop real, community-led solutions to the issues raised.

Brent Youth Offending Service (YOS) also provides a range of specific support and interventions which I have provided some examples of below:

- The Youth Support Programme is a Brent Youth Offending Service intervention programme that works with gang affected young people. Since its establishment in 2013 the 1.0 FTE Youth Support Worker has supported young people to exit gangs, develop greater empathy, access mentoring provision and diversionary activities, and obtain formally accredited achievements. Twenty one gang affected young people were referred to the programme from the Youth Offending Service, and a further 15 accessed services from multi-agency panels and the community between July and September 2016. In the first six months of 2015/16, 31 young people were assessed as being significantly less gang affected.
- Young people subject to court orders supervised by the YOS, who have been assessed using the YOS statutory Asset Plus assessment as being at risk of gang affectedness, are offered support and advice during supervision sessions, and are where appropriate required to attend interventions that will help them to desist from gang related activities. This includes attending the YOS delivered Weapons Awareness group work programme.
- Young people are also referred to other statutory and community services including Family Solutions, Plias mentoring, business mentoring, Safer London Pan London Gangs Provision, and the St. Giles Trust.
- As a regular contributor, Brent YOS shares and acts upon information gathered at the Brent Gangs Intelligence Hub. This includes the provision of information such as Court Order details and conditions, compliance, and gang associations.

9. None

 Brent	Full Council 23 January 2017 Report from the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
For Action	Wards Affected: ALL
Report from the Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Matt Kelcher	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the work carried out by the Council's Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 14. The report covers the period from 21 November 2016 to present, detailing committee members, planned training, programme of work and items discussed during the committee meetings.

2.0 Detail

2.1 *Scrutiny Committee*

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

This committee covers corporate resources, (including Customer Services, Policy, Partnerships and Performance, Procurement and IT) as well as regeneration, regulatory services, environment, transport and community safety. The Committee is composed of eight elected members (seven from the Labour Group and one opposition group member, which is consistent with current political balance arrangements).

In December 2016, Councillor Tatler resigned from the Committee to take up a post with the Cabinet. On 23 January, a new Member will be appointed to the Committee following approval by Full Council.

2.2 *Committee Meetings*

Since the last Chair's report in November, the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee has met twice. These meetings were under the chairmanship of Councillor Matt Kelcher. A summary of the meetings is as follows:

Following a call-in by a number of backbench Councillors, the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee met in a special meeting held in December to consider plans for the Granville Centre as part of South Kilburn Development. The Committee decided not to refer the decision back to Cabinet but did make a series of key recommendations about how such projects could be better managed in future. These were:

- (i) That the committee supports the continued use/occupation of the Carlton and Granville Centres Site by the Granville Plus Nursery School;
- (ii) That the Cabinet agrees that the use of the Carlton and Granville Centres Site by the Granville Plus Nursery School should be paramount to any discussions regarding the future of the site;
- (iii) That the Cabinet agrees to ensure that the Granville Plus Nursery be fully involved regarding the design of the facility;
- (iv) That the Cabinet agrees that a twelve-month timetable detailing the collaborative process for determining the future development and use of the site, engaging all key stakeholders, be produced as soon as possible in association with the Council's partners in the project, the South Kilburn Trust and the Greater London Assembly;
- (v) That the twelve-month timetable be presented to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee in three months' time;
- (vi) That the Constitutional Working Group considers establishing a formal mechanism to capture Ward Member consultation in any significant decisions affecting their areas, ensuring that Ward Members have sufficient chance to review and comment on any proposals prior to Cabinet consideration;
- (vii) That the Constitutional Working Group considers a process to ensure that appropriate consultation has been conducted prior to significant decisions being undertaken and explore the possible inclusion of a 'stakeholder' section in Cabinet reports; and
- (viii) That a report detailing in full the extent and nature of the collaboration between the Council, the community and key stakeholders in the progression of the development of the Carlton and Granville Centres Site be provided to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny committee in six months' time.

On 10 January 2017, the Committee received the following reports:

Budget Scrutiny Panel Report

Councillor Kelcher and Councillor McLennan presented the report, which introduced the new budget scrutiny process. This included details on plans to increase the level of Council Tax in the area over the next few years and that

the Cabinet will be announcing a “demand-led” review of CPZs in Brent – should an issue be raised by local residents or the Ward Councillor – and with the aim of devising a new long-lasting parking policy. The Panel has identified areas of overspend in Adult Social Care and in Children and Young People’s Departments – owing to the increasing demand for Social Care being unpredictable and the challenges of a changing democracy. All the detailed cuts and savings brought forward by the Cabinet have been considered, and further information has been requested accordingly. All of the areas where savings might be made, which include in Adult Social Care, in Environmental Improvement, and in Regeneration. This was followed by the key recommendations.

Report for Scrutiny on Brent’s High Streets

Councillor Tatler and Councillor Southwood presented the report. All seventeen high streets in Brent are an important aspect of its character. The report presented the importance of the cleanliness of the high streets, and how it reflects both to residents and to visitors of the Borough. The Council is aiming to make Brent cleaner, to make feel better about their surroundings and improve their quality of life. Currently the cleaning service is provided by Veolia who aim to provide a Grade A standard of no litter or refuse being left behind and that this would be constantly monitored. Timed waste collections will take place, together with collections of commercial waste and Brent will be introducing a 12 month trial of local Litter Patrols. A focus is being made on Wembley High Road for regeneration to fund improvements including the delivery of a vision for the new Town Centre, and the Town Centre Management Plan. Other current projects include the development of properties in the area including the disposal of various buildings, improvement to the existing urban square, and landscaping and planting trees.

Capital Programme and Investment Strategy

Councillor McLennan presented the report, which gave an overview of whole Capital Programme in Brent, its current performance and an update on the Investment strategy. The Committee also noted the present and future Capital Programme’s budget, the reasons for the under spend in 2017 and the implementation of an action plan addressing the under-importance of the Capital Programme. The various portfolios (Schools’, Housing, Estate Regeneration – South Kilburn, Highways and Infrastructure, Estate Regeneration – non-housing, and Corporate Landlord), which made up the Capital Programme were discussed - together with the risks which might affect the Programme. An update was given of the Investment Strategy and also additions to the Programme, which had been approved by Cabinet after the budget-setting process had taken place. These included schemes approved in 2016, such as the Knowles House Scheme, London Road, Ujima House, and highway investment in the Borough.

2.6 *Upcoming Scrutiny Meetings and Activities*

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for 8 March 2017 and will consider:

- Unemployment and Work Programme Providers

- Is Brent a “green” Council? / Environmental Sustainability agenda
- Prevent


The Chair of the Committee can add an oral report on any issues arising.

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PETER GADSDON

Agenda Item No.13

 Brent	Full Council 23 January 2017 Report from the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
For Action	Wards Affected: ALL
Update report from the Chair of Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Ketan Sheth	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Council's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 14. The report covers the period from 21 November 2016 and details its work programme, visits and engagement, committee discussions and training.

2.0 Detail

2.1 Work Programme 2016/17

The development of the annual work programme has allowed the Committee to map out and plan its activities and work for the municipal year 2016/17. It has also built-in enough capacity to ensure there is the flexibility to respond to events as they arise and space for issues that Brent's residents may suggest.

On 28 June 2016, a member-led workshop developed a work programme for 2016/17 with input from officers from Brent Council and Brent Clinical Commissioning Group. This was done by filtering items according to the new criteria for scrutiny and deciding what subjects or ideas would be appropriate for a task group report and what would be appropriate for a committee report.

The revised 2016/17 Work Programme is attached at Appendix A and is currently up-to-date.

In addition to committee meetings, Members looked at the issue of air quality and the new Air Quality Action Plan at a specially convened workshop, which focused on the public health aspects of air quality and what the involvement of public health should be in development of priorities for the action plan. The Committee is also intending to set up a Members' workshop on the future of community pharmacies in the Borough following proposed changes to funding.

2.2 Task Groups

Task groups are an important part of the Committee's remit, allowing for a wide-ranging review and evidence gathering on important issues by Members. As noted in the 2016/17 Work Programme, there will be scrutiny task groups covering:

- Signs of Safety
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services

The scrutiny task group on Signs of Safety has now completed its report, which includes four recommendations. It held a number of meetings to help Members better understand the challenges and opportunities of implementing Signs of Safety in the Children and Young People's department, and gather evidence for the report. These meetings included discussions with front-line social workers and practitioners, senior officers and the Strategic Director as well as the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. Members of the Task Group were shown how the Signs of Safety approach works in practice. The full report will be discussed by the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 1 February. The recommendations will be presented to Cabinet.

The Members of the Task Group were:

- Councillor Aisha Hoda Benn, Task Group Chair
- Councillor Dr Amer Agha
- Councillor Bhagwanji Chohan
- Councillor Suresh Kansagra
- Councillor Shama Tatler.

The next task group set up by the Committee will be looking at Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. The Members' task group will be set up at the next Committee on 1 February and will report back to Committee in May.

2.3 Engagement and Visits

The Community and Wellbeing Committee is committed to improving scrutiny by carrying out visits outside of formal committee meetings. This allows Members to see at first-hand how services are delivered, speak to officers and most importantly speak with service users and residents about those services. Visits complement the discussion, which takes place at committee meetings, and accounts of the visits are also written-up in a standing report to the Committee so that there is publicly available information about what Members have done.

There has been more engagement with Healthwatch Brent who again attended the Committee on 23 November 2016 to contribute to the discussion on NHS estate in Brent. This follows its attendance on 20 September 2016. Committee is planning to do more visits to NHS services in the Borough and is planning a visit to the Accident and Emergency department at Northwick Park hospital early this year.

On 6 December 2016, the Committee's Scrutiny Officer attended an update about the Shaping a Healthier Future programme organised by the NHS. This is a rapidly evolving area, which the Committee is interested in and works on through the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC). A second update has been scheduled for 24 January 2017.

2.4 Development

Councillor Sheth attended the annual conference of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) on 1 December 2016, which was on the theme of democracy and governance and was attended by Members from local authorities nationally. Councillor Sheth presented at one of the workshops on the theme of scrutinising complex relationships, highlighting the best practice used in Brent.

On 8 December 2016, the (CfPS) organised a Health Accountability Forum, which was attended by scrutiny Members and organisations involved in health scrutiny, including a Member of Brent's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Officer. The Forum, which was, in part, an update about health policy, included presentations on the state of adult social care by a policy adviser from the Local Government Association. There was also a presentation about the Independent Reconfiguration Panel – the body which reviews proposals for changes to NHS services that are contested and advises the Secretary of State for Health. The NHS also gave a presentation about new models of care, including the 50 Vanguard Projects in place nationwide.

On 10 January 2017, Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, the Independent Chair of Brent's Safeguarding Adults' Board, led a seminar for Members of the Scrutiny Committee explaining the Board's legal duties, responsibilities and remit.

The Committee has also been involved with the Institute of Local Government at the University of Birmingham. In November last year, the Scrutiny Officer and Chair attended a seminar on the future of local government scrutiny. This event, which was led by academics and practitioners, was also attended by scrutiny officers and Members from Councils across the country, and discussed aspects affecting the development of scrutiny in local government.

2.5 Committee Meetings

The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has met once since the last report to Full Council. On 23 November 2016, the Committee discussed the NHS estate in Brent and received the annual report of Brent Local Safeguarding Children's Board. On 22 September 2016, the Audit Committee made a recommendation that following an Ombudsman's report into housing a vulnerable person, that scrutiny should review what improvements the Housing Needs Service has made in working with vulnerable people affected by domestic violence. A report about this issue was also heard at the November meeting.

The report about the NHS Estate was presented by the Head of Strategic Estate Development Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon and Ealing CCGs, Chief

Operating Officer of Brent CCG and two representatives from NHS Property Services. In the discussion, Members queried whether the reorganisation of the NHS had posed difficulties for developing the NHS estate in Brent, whether the facilities comprising the estate were in a good condition and how well situated they were to meet the needs of the Borough. A further query was raised regarding whether the CCG had any discretion regarding the national policy of charging market rents. NHS Property Services advised that the move to charge market rent for NHS buildings was determined by the Department for Health and NHS England policy. The Committee heard that out-of-hospital hubs were identified in 2014 and reflected a practical assessment of where there was scope for extension in the NHS estate. The locations and numbers of the hubs were currently being reviewed as part of the work between Brent CCG and the Council. A number of recommendations were made by the Committee.

On the LSCB report, which was presented by the Independent Chair, Members queried the effectiveness of the relationships between different agencies across Brent, how this compared with other London boroughs and the powers of the Board to challenge organisations. Questions were raised regarding the involvement of local communities and plans for wider engagement. The Committee sought the Independent Chair's view on the safety of children in Brent who were at risk from harm, the efficacy of Brent professionals at recognising children at risk and the safeguarding performance of Brent's schools. A number of recommendations were made.

The Head of Housing Needs and the Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing presented the report on Housing Needs. The Committee sought details of the training put in place to improve awareness within the Housing Needs Service of domestic violence policies and the feedback mechanisms employed to provide ongoing assurance that this training was sufficient. Clarification was sought on whether the options in the report were open to private tenants and homeowners as well as BHP tenants. Again, recommendations were made.

The next committee meeting in February will be focusing on safeguarding adults and receiving the annual report of the Safeguarding Adults' Board. In March, it is planned that there will be a focus on school achievement in Brent.

2.6 **Scrutiny and Cabinet**

The recommendations from the Committee meeting on 20 September about the Sustainability and Transformation Plan and the New Accommodation for Independent Living project have now been referred to the Cabinet Members.

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PETER GADSDON

Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016-17
20 July 2016

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	Impact of the selective and additional landlord licensing schemes	Post-decision scrutiny on implementation of the landlord licensing schemes and impact on improving standards in private rented sector.	Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing. Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture Spencer Randolph, Head of Private Housing Services.
2.	Task Group report on Brent's housing associations	To discuss and agree report from Councillor Tom Miller's task group about housing associations in Brent.	Councillor Tom Miller Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing. Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture
3.	Update report on the implementation of an Ethical Lettings Agency	Post-decision scrutiny on implementing Ethical Lettings Agency agreed by Cabinet in July 2015.	Councillor Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing. Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture
4.	Scrutiny 2015-16 Annual Report	To agree Scrutiny's annual report.	Councillor Matt Kelcher, Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	Peter Gadsdon, Director Performance Policy and Partnerships
5.	Scrutiny 2016-17 Work Programme	To agree the Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for 2016-17.	Councillor Ketan Sheth, Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Peter Gadsdon, Director Performance Policy and Partnerships

*Items involving school education. ** Items which may involve partnership work with schools.

20 September 2016

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	New Accommodation for Independent Living (NAIL) project	Scrutiny review of progress of NAIL scheme to date against its 2016/17 targets. *Members' visit to Victoria Court, Wembley on 12 September.	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing.
**2.	Task Group - Signs of Safety	Agree task group scoping paper and TOR.	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
3.	Sustainability and Transformation Plan	Scrutiny review of progress of STP.	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing Sarah Mansuralli, Chief Operating Officer, Brent CCG Rob Larkman, Chief Officer, BHH
4.	Co-opted members on Scrutiny Committee	To set out the role of co-opted Members on the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.	Councillor Ketan Sheth, Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Pascoe Sawyers, Head of Strategy and Partnerships.
5.	Scrutiny Work Programme - Update	Review the Work Programme for 2016/17 and note any changes.	Councillor Ketan Sheth, Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Pascoe Sawyers, Head of Strategy and Partnerships.

*Items involving school education. ** Items which may involve partnership work with schools.

Special Scrutiny Meeting

19 October 2016

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	Review of housing management options	Pre-Cabinet scrutiny of report on the future of management for Council housing stock.	Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing. Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture

*Items involving school education. ** Items which may involve partnership work with schools.

23 November 2016

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	NHS estate in Brent	Evaluate impact of changes to the NHS estate in Brent	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Jake Roe, NHS Property Services Sue Hardy, Head of Strategic Estate Development Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon and Ealing CCGs
*2.	Brent Local Safeguarding Children's Board	Receive 2015-16 Annual Report.	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Mike Howard, Independent Chair Brent LSCB
3.	Housing Needs Services and vulnerable clients	To review progress in implementing recommendations for improvements.	Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture Laurence Coaker, Head of Housing Needs

*Items involving school education. ** Items which may involve partnership work with schools.

1 February 2017

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	Brent Safeguarding Adults Board	Receive 2015-16 Annual Report	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Michael Preston-Shoot, Chair Brent ASB
**2.	Task Scoping CAMHS Group paper	Receive report from task group and discuss recommendations for Cabinet.	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray Task group chair	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
**3.	Task Group report - Signs of Safety	Receive task group report on Signs of Safety	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Councillor Aisha Hoda-Benn, Task Group Chair	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People

*Items involving school education. ** Items which may involve partnership work with schools.

*** Scrutiny evidence day planned for community pharmacies.

**** **Scrutiny workshop on air quality and public health to take place on 23 January 2017**

29 March 2017

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
*1.	School Annual Standards and Achievement report	Receive report. Examine reasons for underachievement in Brent's schools among particular groups.	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
*2.	Special Educational Needs (SEN)	Update and evaluation of SEN provision.	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People

*Items involving school education. ** Items which may involve partnership work with schools.

9 May 2017

Agenda Rank	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	Brent's community libraries	Community libraries and draft cultural strategy.	Councillor Tom Miller, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing. Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture
2.	Primary Care Transformation	Review implications of primary care transformation for Brent	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Brent CCG
**3.	Children's oral health	Review of work being done to improve children's oral health in Brent.	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing Dr Melanie Smith Director of Public Health

*Items involving school education. ** Items which may involve partnership work with schools.

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Full Council – 23 January 2017

Motion selected by the Labour Group

PROTECT BRENT'S SCHOOLS FROM GOVERNMENT CUTS

This Council condemns government proposals for a National Schools Funding Formula and rejects any effort to pay for the failure of an ideologically imposed programme of austerity by choking off essential and already insufficient funding for the education of children and young people in Brent.

Councillor Patricia Harrison
Preston Ward

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Full Council – 23 January 2017

Motion selected by the Conservative Group

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BUDGET

The Conservative Group calls on the Leader of the Council to ensure that enough money is placed in the health and social care budget locally to ensure that the services can adequately cope with residents who will have need to access the health services in the coming winter.

Councillor Reg Colwill
Leader of the Conservative Group
Kenton Ward

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Full Council – 23 January 2017

Motion selected by the Brent Conservative Group

PLANNING SHAMBLES

"This Council notes the damning report by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) into the workings of the Brent planning department.....the report highlighted:

1. "Significant weaknesses in the planning application review and assessment process."
2. "The Council may not be able to demonstrate that it has taken steps to prevent bribery resulting in non- compliance with the Bribery Act 2010."
3. "Anti - bribery awareness training has not been provided to planning staff."
4. "Audit trail is susceptible to manipulation .This could result in planning applications being approved inappropriately due to fraud or error."
5. "No code of conduct for officers. No requirement for officers to make formal declaration of interest."

PWC concluded that it could only give the Brent planning service "limited assurance."

This Council believes that only "limited assurance" is simply unacceptable, and believes that it is essential that all our residents have confidence in the integrity of the planning process.

In the light of the PWC report, this Council instructs the Chief Executive to initiate an independent review into planning applications submitted in the report period - 01/01/16 to 31/07/16 - and to report back to Full Council with the results of her findings."

Councillor John Warren
Leader of the Brent Conservative Group
Brondesbury Park Ward

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