



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE Wednesday 6 December 2017 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Butt (Chair), Farah, Hirani, M Patel and Miller

1. **Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors McLennan (Vice-Chair), Southwood, Tatler and Warren.

2. **Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations received from Members.

3. **Deputations (if any)**

There were no deputations received at the meeting.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED that subject to the following amendment the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 November 2017 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting:

- The closing time for the meeting being amended from 6:45pm to 5:45pm

5. **Matters arising (if any)**

None.

6. **Calculation of Council Tax Base 2017-18**

Ravinder Jassar (Head of Finance) introduced a report setting out the Council Tax base for 2018/19 in order to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory role under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).

Members noted that calculation of the Tax Base was based on a fixed formula involving two elements:

- (a) the number of taxable properties shown as "Band D equivalents" which for 2018/19 had been calculated at 98,000 net properties; and
- (b) the expected collection rate for the year, which was 97.63% and remained unchanged from 2017/18;

In response to a query from members, Ravinder Jassar advised that the collection rate was based on an historical analysis of rates, recognising that the collection of Council Tax would continue for a number of years after the first payment was due. He also pointed out it was important to distinguish between the “budgeted” and “in year” collection rates. The budgeted rate was a lifetime collection rate whereas the “in year” rate reflected payments received within the financial year to which the Council Tax related. Based on the assumptions made, as detailed in section 4 of the report, it was felt realistic to assume an overall collection rate of 97.63%, with members supportive of the efforts being made in relation to ongoing collection activity.

In relation to the setting of the Council Tax base, members were advised that the assumptions on which this had been based had taken account of the number of sizeable new housing developments taking place across the borough. The proposed Tax Base for 2018/19 represented an increase of 2,358 over the figure for 2017/18 which whilst similar to the assumption made in the budget report to Cabinet in February 2017 had been adjusted to reflect a slight slowdown in housing growth.

Having noted the basis of the calculation and assumptions on which it had been based the Committee **RESOLVED:**

- (1) To agree that the Band D equivalent number of properties was calculated, as detailed in Section 3 of the report, in accordance with Government regulations;
- (2) To agree that the collection rate for Council Tax for 2018/19 be set at 97.63%;
- (3) To approve a Council Tax Base for 2018/19 of 95,677 Band D equivalent properties (being 98,000 x 97.63%).

7. **Stopping Up Order - The Un-Named Road which links Kilburn Lane and Salusbury Road. (also known as Premier Corner)**

Tony Kennedy (Head of Highways & Infrastructure) introduced a report seeking authorisation to make a Stopping Up Order for an area of public highway located to the east of No.313 Kilburn Lane on The Un-Named Road which linked Kilburn Lane and Salusbury Road (also known as Premier Corner) under Section 247 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

Members noted that the Stopping Up Order was required to complete a development within Phases 3a/3b of the South Kilburn Regeneration Programme. The proposal had also been advertised in accordance with the requirements of Section 247 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and that in response to the consultation eight consultees had informed the Council that they either had no objections or no record of apparatus in the immediate vicinity of the enquiry. Thames Water had sought assurances that their apparatus would not be affected by the proposed works, that their rights of access would not be impeded and that there were no proposals to build over or close to their apparatus. Westminster City Council had not objected to the Order being made but had commented on the potential impact on traffic congestion and road safety. Following assurances

provided, it was confirmed that the initial comments raised by Westminster City Council and Thames Water had now been withdrawn with details of all responses received set out in Section 3 of the report. Correspondence confirming the formal withdrawal of comments from Westminster City Council and Thames Water had been included in Appendix A & B of the report.

RESOLVED

- (1) To note that all responses received during the statutory consultation had been considered and resolved.
- (2) To approve the making of the Stopping Up Order for the area of public highway located to the east of No.313 Kilburn Lane on The Un-Named Road which linked Kilburn Lane and Salusbury Road (also known as Premier Corner) under Section 247 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and that a notice of making be advertised.

8. Appointments to Sub-Committees and Outside Bodies (if any)

There were no appointments to be considered.

9. Any other urgent business

None.

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm

M BUTT
Chair