



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

Held as an online virtual meeting on Monday 15 June 2020 at 4.00 pm

PRESENT: (In remote attendance) Councillor M Butt (Chair), Councillor McLennan (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Agha, Farah, Hirani, Miller, M Patel, Krupa Sheth, Southwood and Tatler

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Carolyn Downs (Chief Executive).

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 28 May be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising (if any)**

None.

5. **Petitions (if any)**

None.

6. **Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)**

None.

7. **Brent Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Management Policy**

Councillor Eleanor Southwood (Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform) introduced the report detailing the recent review of the Tenancy Strategy which set out expectations for all landlords in the borough, as well as the production of a Tenancy Management Policy which reaffirmed the Council's commitment to its own tenants. It was felt that the new provisions outlined in the documents provided tenants with a greater degree of certainty and security, which was welcomed by all members.

Cabinet noted that the documents had been subject to consultation, with the report highlighting the outcome and how the feedback gained from all stakeholders

throughout the development process had assisted to shape both the Strategy and Management Policy. In terms of key changes to the way in which the Council managed its own tenancies, members noted these included the ending of fixed-term tenancies and replacing them with life time tenancies, the introduction of demoted tenancies to tackle anti-social behaviour where necessary and the offering of joint tenancies to cohabiting couples. Assurance was also provided in relation to frequency of the tenancy audits being conducted to review and assess tenants' needs.

Having noted minor amendments to the wording of recommendations 2.1 and 2.3 in the report, it was **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

- (1) note the duty placed on the Council by the Localism Act 2011 to produce and publish a Tenancy Strategy.
- (2) note and approve the content of the draft Tenancy Strategy.
- (3) note and approve the content of the draft Tenancy Management Policy.

8. **Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund**

Councillor Shama Tatler (Lead Member for Regeneration, Property and Planning) introduced the report seeking approval to the arrangements and criteria for administering the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Scheme. Members were advised that the scheme had been established as part of the Government's response to Covid-19 in order to provide a mechanism for supporting small businesses outside the scope of the original Covid-19 business grant schemes, with the amount of funding provided for Brent totalling £3.3million.

Cabinet noted the mandatory criteria set by the Government along with the discretionary criteria, which the Council had the ability to consider and apply, as detailed in section 4 of the report with the proposal to offer a single tier grant of £5,000 per business. Whilst it was felt this would provide the best balance between breadth and impact members recognised that the overall level of funding available was likely to cover business seeking to apply and as a result it was noted that lobbying of Government on the support being made available matter would need to continue.

In commenting on the criteria, members were keen to ensure that the distribution of funding was undertaken as quickly as possible recognising the need, at the same time, for the necessary checks to be completed to ensure businesses met the relevant eligibility criteria. It was also confirmed that businesses who had received alternative business support grants (other than access to the furlough scheme) would not be eligible to apply.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- (1) approve the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Scheme for Brent as set out in this report, using the eligibility criteria specified in sections 4.2, 4.6, and 4.11 of the report and agreeing a single tier grant payment of £5,000.

(2) delegate to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment the administration and award of grants under the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Scheme.

9. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.

10. **Any other urgent business**

None.

The meeting ended at 4.20 pm

COUNCILLOR MUHAMMED BUTT
Chair