



Brent

SUMMONS TO ATTEND ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 6.00 pm

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

Please note that this meeting will be held as a physical meeting with all members of the Council required to attend in person.

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 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of this Borough.

KIM WRIGHT
Chief Executive

Dated: 14 May 2024 (agenda republished on 21 May 2024)

For further information contact: James Kinsella, Governance Manager
Tel: 020 8937 2063; Email: james.kinsella@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

Please note it will also be possible to follow the meeting via the live webcast. The link to follow proceedings via the live webcast is available [here](#)

Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest** in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest (i.e. it affects a financial position or relates to determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission, or registration) then (unless an exception at 14(2) of the Members Code applies), after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

***Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

****Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:
 - To which you are appointed by the council;
 - which exercises functions of a public nature;
 - which is directed is to charitable purposes;
 - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party of trade union).
- (b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward affected by the decision, the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who employs or has appointed any of these or in whom they have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000, or any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are a director
- any body of a type described in (a) above

Agenda

1 Apologies for Absence

2 To elect the Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2024 - 2025

For the Council to elect a Mayor for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year, in accordance with Standing Order 27(a).

3 To appoint a Councillor of the Borough to be Deputy Mayor

To receive notice from the Mayor regarding the appointment of a Councillor of the Borough to be Deputy Mayor, in accordance with Standing Order 27(b).

4 Vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor

To invite a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor, in accordance with Standing Order 27(c).

5 Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary or personal interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.

6 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 1 - 34

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on Thursday 29 February 2024.

7 Annual Review of Constitution 35 - 54

To receive, in accordance with Standing Order 27(g), a report from the Corporate Director of Law & Governance outlining proposed changes to the Constitution following its annual review.

(Agenda republished on 21 May 24 to include details of further amendment(s) to the Constitution submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group)

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Debra Norman, Corporate
Director of Law & Governance
020 8937 1578
Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk

8 Representation of Political Groups on Committees

55 - 62

To receive a report from the Corporate Director of Law & Governance asking Members to review and determine, under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the allocation of seats on Council Committees and other relevant bodies, in accordance with Standing Order 27(h).

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Amira Nassr, Deputy Director
Democratic Services
020 8937 5436
amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk

9 Appointment to Committees and Outside Bodies including the appointment of Chairs & Vice-Chairs

63 - 84

To receive a report from the Corporate Director of Law & Governance seeking approval to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs along with the membership and substitute membership on Council Committees and other relevant bodies, in accordance with Standing Order 27(i).

Members are asked to note that the full list of appointments have been attached.

Appointments that are not constitutionally made by Full Council (including notification of appointment(s) of the Deputy Leader and to Cabinet and any Cabinet Committee) will also be circulated prior to the meeting, for Members to note.

(Agenda republished on 21 May 2024 to include appendices 1-4 of the main report detailing the full list of appointments)

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Amira Nassr, Deputy Director
Democratic Services
020 8937 5436
amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk

10 Calendar of Council Meetings for the 2024 -2025 Municipal Year

85 - 106

To receive a report from the Corporate Director of Law & Governance seeking approval to the final calendar of Council meetings to take place following the Annual Council meeting for the 2024 - 2025 Municipal Year, in accordance with Standing Order 27 (j) & (k).

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Amira Nassr, Deputy Director
Democratic Services
020 8937 5436
amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk

11 Review of Arrangements for "Call In" of Executive decisions to Scrutiny Committees 107 - 116

To receive a report from the Corporate Director Law & Governance presenting the outcome of a review of the current arrangements for "Call-In" of Executive decisions to Scrutiny Committees and seeking a decision on any changes required to the process as a result.

(Agenda republished on 21 May 24 to include details of an amendment to the proposals submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group)

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Debra Norman, Corporate
Director of Law & Governance
020 8937 1578
Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk

12 Urgent Business

At the discretion of the Mayor to consider any urgent business, in accordance with Standing Order 27(m).



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. Alternatively, it will be possible to follow proceedings via the live webcast [HERE](#)

This page is intentionally left blank



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

**Minutes of the ORDINARY (BUDGET SETTING) MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Thursday 29 February 2024
at 6.00 pm**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Orleen Hylton

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Tariq Dar MBE

COUNCILLORS:

Aden	Afzal
Agha	Ahmadi Moghaddam
Ahmed	Akram
Bajwa	Benea
M Butt	S Butt
Chan	Chappell
Chohan	Choudry
Collymore	Conneely
Crabb	Dixon
Donnelly-Jackson	Ethapemi
Farah	Fraser
Gbajumo	Georgiou
Grahl	Hack
Hirani	Johnson
Kabir	Kansagra
Kelcher	Kennelly
Knight	Long
Lorber	Mahmood
Matin	Maurice
Miller	Mistry
Mitchell	Moeen
Molloy	Nerva
Mili Patel	Rajan-Seelan
Rubin	Ketan Sheth
Krupa Sheth	Smith
Southwood	Tatler

1. **Mayors Introductory Statement**

The Mayor welcomed all those present to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2. **Mayors Statement - Order of Business**

Before consideration of the formal agenda, the Mayor informed members of a change to the order of business. Given the attendance of Sophia Brown (Grant Thornton) as the Council's External Audit Partner for the External Audit Annual Report, she advised of the intention to move that report (listed as Item 7 on the agenda) so it was considered in advance of the main Budget and Council Tax debate.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) The business to be considered at the meeting be re-arranged in the following order:
 - Agenda Item 6 – Auditors Annual Report on the London Borough of Brent
- (2) The remaining items of business to then follow in the same order as listed on the agenda.

(2) **Procedural Motion - Conduct of Business**

The Mayor advised that as this meeting had been designated as the Council's formal budget and Council Tax setting meeting, she would be inviting Councillor Crabb (as the Majority Group Chief Whip) to move a procedural motion, in accordance with Standing Orders, relating to the conduct of the debate on the budget report. Prior to the motion being moved Debra Norman (Corporate Director Governance) clarified the position regarding the vote on any alternative budget proposals moved during the debate, which the procedural motion was seeking to consider as an individual block rather than vote on as separate proposals. Should members require any individual proposals to be voted on separately at the end of the budget debate they were advised this would require them to vote against the procedural motion.

Having noted the advice provided, it was **RESOLVED** (on being put to the vote with all Liberal Democrats members voting against) that the following procedural motion be agreed:

- (1) That the Leader of the Council be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes in presenting the report to the meeting and setting out the Cabinet's proposals for the budget, after which, the following arrangements be agreed for the purpose of debating and voting upon the Budget and Council Tax:
 - (a) The Leader of the Conservative Group (or their nominated representative) be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes in response to the Leader and in order to move their alternative budget proposals;

- (b) The Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group (or their nominated representative) be permitted to speak in response to the Leader and in order to move their alternative budget proposals for up to 10 minutes;
 - (c) The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes;
 - (d) The Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes;
 - (e) A general debate follow during which the usual rules for debate will apply as set out in Standing Orders (save as set out in this procedural motion);
- (2) At the end of the general debate, the Leader of the Council be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes to submit his closing remarks.
- (3) Following the close of the debate, recorded votes on any amendments to the budget proposals and then the final substantive budget proposals be taken in turn with the recommendations taken on a block basis.

4. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Begum, Jayanti Patel and Shah.

5. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Monday 20 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

(3) **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

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

The Mayor made the following announcements:

(i) Kings New Years Honours List

The Mayor began her announcements by congratulating all those associated with Brent who had received an honour in the Kings New Year Honours list for 2024.

Members congratulated all those who had been honoured for their awards.

(ii) Holocaust & Genocide Memorial Day

The Mayor advised members that January had included the commemoration event for this year's Holocaust & Genocide Memorial Day with the theme focussed on the "Fragility of Freedom".

In reflecting on the nature of the human tragedy involved, the Mayor urged everyone to consider the lessons learnt in allowing hate and discrimination to be tolerated and how these could be used to stand against all forms of discrimination in order to prevent such atrocities from happening again in the future. Thanks were extended to all those involved in organising the event.

(iii) New Years Day Parade

Despite the cold weather, the Mayor advised that she has been pleased to attend the London New Years Day parade. Special praise was given to Mahogany in Harlesden who had represented Brent in the parade and, the Mayor was delighted to inform members, had achieved 2nd place in the parade event resulting in a £10,000 contribution being awarded to her charities.

(iv) 100th Birthday Celebration

The Mayor advised she had been pleased to join Mrs Mary “Mama” Thomas, a local Brent resident, in celebrating her 106th birthday. In celebrating this achievement all members joined the Mayor in wishing Mrs Thomas a happy 106th birthday.

(v) Death of Former Councillor Ramesh Patel

The Mayor informed members that it was with regret she had to end her announcements with sad news about the death of former Mayor and Councillor Ramesh Patel.

Recognising that many councillors would have known and worked with former Councillor Ramesh Patel during his time serving on the Council, the Mayor took the opportunity to pay tribute to his dedication and commitment as a representative of Brent and the communities he served for which, she felt, he would always be remembered. Speaking on behalf of the Council, the Mayor highlighted how much Ramesh would be missed by all those who knew him.

Given there were a number of members who had indicated they would also like the opportunity to pay personal tribute and commemorate him the Mayor advised she would be happy to provide an opportunity for other members to do so at this stage in proceedings with the following comments made:

In opening the tributes, Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) began by highlighting the role former Councillor Patel had played in supporting and mentoring him when he had first joined the Council and took the opportunity to praise his honesty and integrity, especially during his time serving on the Planning Committee. Whilst aware that both Ramesh and his wife had been challenged by deteriorating health over the last few years Councillor M.Butt felt this had not dampened his warmth, determination and spirit, which were traits that would always be remembered, and he ended by offering his personal condolences to Ramesh’s family, who were welcomed as guests to the meeting.

Following on, Councillor Kabir also took the opportunity to offer her personal condolences to Ramesh’s family, highlighting his dedication, passion and commitment to the social values he had demonstrated as a keen trade unionist and been so keen to share in supporting and mentoring other members and the

local community he represented. Referring to the personal support she had also received, Councillor Kabir highlighted how much he would be missed not only by his children and family but also herself and many other colleagues on the Council.

In echoing the tributes previously made, Councillor Mistry also took the opportunity to recognise the kind, warm and supportive nature displayed by Ramesh, particularly in his role as a community leader and local ward councillor in Queensbury. She also took the opportunity to offer her condolences to Ramesh's family on their loss which she pointed out would also be felt across the local community.

Councillor Afzal, again echoing the previous comments made, also paid tribute to former Councillor Patel noting how it had been Ramesh who had first encouraged him to stand as a councillor. In highlighting his passion and commitment for the values he represented Councillor Afzal ended by commemorating Ramesh's life and all he had done for the borough.

Councillor Gbajumo also spoke in tribute to former Councillor Patel, recognising his warm and kind nature and legacy created with the local community he served and also ended by expressing her deepest condolences to his family for their sad loss.

As a former Mayor, Councillor Mahmood, also paid tribute to former Councillor Patel remembering his bright, kind and helpful nature and recalling the support and guidance he had provided during his time as Mayor, for which he would always be grateful. Once again, the opportunity was taken to pass on deepest sympathy to Ramesh's family for their loss.

In concluding the tributes, Councillor Chohan reflected on the previous comments made and how much Ramesh would be missed as a colleague, friend and in terms of the passion he had shown for the work undertaken across the communities he had work with. In recognising his, fairness, honesty and commitment to the values he had represented, Councillor Chohan ended by also offering his deepest sympathy and condolences to Ramesh's family.

Having thanked all councillors who had contributed for their kind tributes the Mayor ended by expressing the Council's sincere condolences to Ramesh's family and inviting all members to join her in observing a period of silence in memory and honour of former Councillor Ramesh Patel.

All present at the meeting then stood to join the Mayor in observing a minutes silence.

(vi) Petitions

As a final announcement, the Mayor referred members to the list of current petitions tabled at the meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders which also detailed the action being taken to deal with them.

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

The Mayor referred members to the list of changes circulated in relation to appointments to Council Committees, Sub Committees and other bodies.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following changes in the membership of Committee and Outside Bodies:

Committee Membership

- (1) To note that following her return from maternity leave (with effect from Monday 11 March 2024) the Leader of the Council had reappointed Councillor Mili Patel to resume her role as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform.
- (2) To confirm the appointment of The Venerable Archdeacon Catherine Pickford to fill the vacancy as the Church of England Statutory co-opted member on the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for a period of 2 years (subject to confirmation of the ongoing appointment at the Annual Council meeting each year).
- (3) Following Councillor Mili Patel's return from maternity leave (with effect from Monday 11 March 2024):
 - (a) To confirm the appointment of Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Farah as a full member on the General Purposes Committee with Councillor Farah to replace the existing vacancy as a substitute member & Councillor Mili Patel to be reappointed as Vice-Chair on the Committee.
 - (b) To confirm the appointment of Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Tatler as a full member on the Health & Wellbeing Board.
 - (c) To note that the Leader of the Council had reappointed Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Tatler as full member and Brent's Chair of the Joint Borough IT Committee Brent, Lewisham & Southwark.
 - (d) To note that the Leader of the Council had appointed Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Knight as a full member on the Barham Park Trust Committee with Councillor Knight to replace the existing vacancy as substitute member.

Outside Bodies:

- (e) To confirm the appointment of Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Tatler as deputy on the London Council's Leaders Committee.
- (f) To note that the Leader of the Council had appointed Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Tatler as deputy on the London Council's Greater London Employment Forum.
- (g) To note that the Leader of the Council had appointed Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Donnelly-Jackson as Brent's full representative on the London Council's Grants Committee with Councillor Donnelly-Jackson appointed as deputy.

9. Auditor's Annual Report on the London Borough of Brent

In accordance with the change in the order of business agreed at the start of the meeting, the Mayor then invited Sophia Brown (Grant Thornton) as the Council's External Auditor Partner to introduce the External Audit 2022-23 Annual Report on Value for Money (VFM).

In introducing the report, Sophia Brown summarised the approach towards the VFM audit and drew Members attention to the positive nature of the process and key findings detailed within the Annual Report. As part of the auditor's work, members were advised that no significant weaknesses had been identified in terms of the Council's VFM arrangements. Whilst a small number of improvement recommendations had been identified, it was pointed out these had been designed to enhance existing processes rather than in response to any weaknesses identified. In commending the report to Council, she once again highlighted the positive outcome of the audit, Council's overall financial sustainability and achievement in being able to complete closure of the 2022-23 Statement of Accounts, with thanks expressed to all those involved in supporting the process.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Tatler, as Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform, to respond to the Annual report on behalf of the Council. In welcoming the report, she felt it important to recognise the positive nature of the independent audit opinion and findings identified in relation to the Council's VFM arrangements, particularly given the Council's challenging budgetary position and significant issues faced in this respect by other local authorities.

Whilst recognising the difficult nature of decisions which had needed to be taken in order to deliver a balanced budget and maintain the Council's financial sustainability, all those involved were thanked for their efforts to ensure the Council was able to continue operating on the basis of a prudent, financially sustainable and resilient approach towards management of its finances. In highlighting the fact that no areas of significant weakness had been identified within the audit findings Councillor Tatler advised she was also pleased to note that the audit had found the Council's approach towards financial planning both over the short and longer term to be based on sound judgement with a good track record in setting and achieving balanced budgets and identifying and responding to financial risks. Confirmation was also provided that the improvement recommendations identified had all been accepted with management responses provided, as detailed within the report.

Highlighting the value of continued collaboration given the ongoing financial and economic uncertainty, Councillor Tatler ended by thanking Sophia Brown and her team along with the Council's finance officers, Councillor Chan and the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee for the diligent work undertaken on the audit.

The Mayor then invited contributions from other members, with the following comments received.

In response to the outline of the audit process provided, Councillor Lorber sought further detail as to whether this had included any review of arrangements for the management and recovery of debt owed to the Council, management of the Council's commercial property portfolio (given specific concerns highlighted relating

to rental yield and collection) and progress on delivery of the Altamira Morland Gardens housing scheme. In responding on the issues raised Sophia Brown advised that the scope of the audit had been focussed on the Council's overall arrangements for delivering Value for Money as prescribed within the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice rather than on the delivery of specific schemes or projects. Whilst again not focussed on specific schemes, an assurance was provided that arrangements for the management of debt and borrowing had been reviewed as part of the audit of the Council's Financial Statements with management of the Council's Property Portfolio and capital projects due to be considered as part of the audit arrangements for 2023-24.

As no other members indicated they wished to speak the Mayor once again thanked Sophia Brown for her attendance and then put the recommendations in the report to the vote which were declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to note the External Auditor's Annual Report on Value for Money as part of the 2022-23 audit of the year end accounts.

10. **Budget and Council Tax 2024 - 2025**

The Mayor then moved on to receive the report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources setting out the Council's budget proposals for 2024-25. Included within the report were the results of the budget consultation, scrutiny and equalities processes along with a summary of the overall financial position, risks, issues and uncertainties facing the Council over the medium term.

In accordance with the procedural motion agreed at the start of the meeting, the Mayor invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, to introduce the report.

Councillor Muhammed Butt began by thanking members, officers, the public and other stakeholders for their contribution in preparation of the budget. Highlighting that the proposals presented another balanced budget he felt they not only set out a fair and responsible approach but also one that would continue to make a difference for residents across Brent in terms of ensuring no one was left behind.

Recognising the difficult nature of decisions needing to be made in developing the budget proposals and efforts being made to deliver more with less, he felt it important to highlight the ongoing impact of the Government's programme of austerity and funding restrictions imposed on public services, which had resulted in a cumulative impact for Brent totalling approx. £210m worth of cuts over 14 years since 2010. Despite this context, he felt it important to outline the Administration's commitment to continue protecting those services relied on by the most vulnerable in society, recognising the importance of the council's role as a 'forth emergency service' for those most in need.

Reflecting on what might have been possible with sufficient funding, Councillor Muhammed Butt outlined the extent of work undertaken to ensure that the proposals presented for consideration had been subject to detailed consideration and represented a reasoned and rational financial judgement reflecting the careful stewardship of the Council's resources and the difficult and often unpalatable nature of decisions which had needed to be made given increasing levels of

demand. He felt this was best demonstrated in relation to the current housing crisis, which had resulted in increasing levels of homelessness and a reduction in supply of temporary accommodation; the increased reliance on foodbanks and widening of health inequalities being experienced by those living in the most deprived areas under the current Conservative Government with public debt at its highest since they had come to power, increased NHS treatment times, real terms cuts to schools, record highs in child poverty, wage stagnation and poor economic growth coupled with a significant reduction in the welfare state.

Referring to the Chancellor's upcoming budget statement and nature of choices to be made, the Leader felt it important to once again highlight the case in support of retaining the Household Support Fund and in seeking to provide the necessary investment across public services in order to support the action required to tackle the current housing crisis, climate emergency, the disparity between income and wealth, delivering key infrastructure (including the West London Orbital) and resolving the ongoing impact of Brexit and need for reform of local government finance.

In thanking the Budget Scrutiny Task Group for their input into the process and recommendations made as a result, he compared that to the approach taken by both Opposition Groups in terms of the presentation of their alternative budget proposals and risks identified in terms of how they were seeking to fund them in order to avoid ending up in similar positions to other authorities who found themselves on the brink of insolvency and walking a financial tightrope.

Focussing on the alternative budget proposals, Councillor Muhammed Butt outlined his disappointment at what he felt to be the lack of responsible and reasonable alternative proposals submitted which he felt, especially in relation to the Conservative Group, represented the approach being led nationally to distract, divert and blame. Concern was also expressed at what he felt to be the lack of transparency from the Conservative Group in submitting their proposals a day prior to the meeting, limiting the opportunity for detailed scrutiny. In highlighting the work already being undertaken to address the collection of debt, develop the Council's Property Strategy (including management of the Council's commercial property portfolio) concerns were also expressed in relation to the proposed use of the New Homes Bonus and Future Funding Risks reserve as a means of funding a range of the alternative proposals which had been presented and which it was felt would place the future financial resilience of the Council at risk.

Moving on to focus in more detail on the budget proposals set out within the report, Councillor Muhammed Butt was keen to highlight the difference in approach between the Administration and both Opposition Groups in terms of the support provided for local residents in an effort to ensure no one was left behind. Whilst an unwelcome and difficult decision it had, he pointed out, been necessary to propose a 4.99% increase in Council Tax which was now an approach that the current government appeared to expect and he felt further supported the need for reform of local government finance and the way essential support for adult social care was also funded.

Although not seeking to undermine the challenges and difficulties identified and impact of the budget proposals, the Leader also felt it important to recognise the way in which the budget had been designed to improve prosperity and stability in

terms of future access to services. As a result, he was proud to highlight the additional support being provided through the Council Tax Support Scheme for those residents most in need alongside a range of measures within the budget, which had been designed to support and improve the lives of Brent residents. These included:

- Implementation of the landlord licensing scheme designed at tackling rogue landlords and driving up standards across the private rented housing sector;
- Continuing delivery of the programme to provide new safe, secure and affordable homes across the borough;
- Continuing funding support for Brent Start and Brent Works in order to harness the potential of local people and provide opportunities for Brent residents to access education, training, qualifications, skills and employment across the borough;
- Ongoing capital investment to support the extensive programme of regeneration being delivered within the borough alongside improvements to schools and colleges in an effort to drive their continuous improvement;
- The unlocking of £120m of support in relation to the provision of Adult Social Care for those most in need alongside continued investment in leisure services and in supporting residents to lead healthier lifestyles;
- Investment designed to support the Council in terms of delivering its corporate parenting responsibilities and to ensure that those requiring care can receive that within their own communities;
- The provision of £21.6m worth of investment as part of the work being undertaken to keep the boroughs streets clean and support creation of a cleaner and greener Brent whilst also maintaining and seeking to extend the enforcement activity required to tackle illegal fly-tipping.
- The £20m worth of investment provided to support the programme of investment and repairs on Brent's priority roads and pavements designed to keep the borough moving and also support more active forms of travel including walking and cycling.

In summing up, Councillor Muhammed Butt advised that the Administration, in presenting their budget proposals, had recognised and sought to match the realism of the financial challenges faced by the Council with a radical desire to do more in responding to the needs and aspirations of local residents across Brent which would not only protect crucial frontline services but also fuel ambition and deliver opportunities to ensure no one was left behind. On this basis he urged members to oppose the Opposition Groups alternative budget proposals and commended the budget, as set out in the report, to all members for approval.

The Mayor thanked the Leader for opening the debate and then invited Councillor Kansagra, as Leader of the Conservative Group, to respond to the budget proposals.

In presenting the alternative proposals, Councillor Kansagra began by challenging the Leaders comments in relation to the transparency of the Conservative Groups proposals, which he pointed out had been submitted within the required timescale and also reflected the more limited support available to them as an Opposition Group. Highlighting the limited reference made to cuts in key frontline services during the Leaders introductory comments, he also felt it important to not only recognise the financial challenges faced by many local authorities, including Brent,

but also the additional package of funding support provided by the Conservative Government as part of its Local Government funding settlement alongside the progress being made in tackling inflation and encouraging economic growth and employment opportunities as part of the process in seeking build a more dynamic and prosperous economy.

As a result, he pointed out that the alternative budget proposals submitted by the Conservative Group had been designed to invest to the borough's towns, protect its greenbelt and deliver on the priorities identified by residents, ending what he felt to be a culture of waste created by the current Administration with the following identified as key recommendations:

- Removal of the landlord incentive scheme. In commenting on this proposal, Councillor Kansagra highlighted the Conservative Groups concern at the impact of the scheme on the housing rental market and at incentivising landlords to provide accommodation for those who ordinarily would have been unable to afford to live in the borough. Given that many ordinary working households had needed to move out of the borough in order to find somewhere affordable to live, he queried the nature of the scheme in seeking to subsidise landlords in this way. Concern was also expressed at the impact of the Landlord Licensing scheme, which it was felt would lead landlords to pass on any increase in costs and further disincentivise them from renting their properties.
- Reversal of the blue sack recycling scheme, recognising the level of concern expressed and reintroduction of the blue recycling bins.
- Increasing the budget for Reactive Highway Maintenance repairs (including potholes and footways) recognising the priority placed on this by local residents with tougher penalties also to be imposed on utility companies for sub-standard road repairs designed to ensure their work met a more rigorous criteria.
- The deletion of two Cabinet Member posts and reversing the planned increase in Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairs of the Brent Connect Area Consultative Forums given the extent of their role. In presenting this proposal, Councillor Kansagra highlighted the reduction in number of members on the Council and cross over between certain Cabinet Member remits through which it was felt the savings could be achieved.
- The provision of additional investment in street lighting by reversing the current policy of dimming streetlights given the associated safety concerns expressed by local residents.
- The provision of up to 1-hour free parking (on and off street) within town centres across the borough designed to support revival of the high streets and support local businesses and employment opportunities.
- To oppose the increase proposed by the current Administration in General Fund reserves from £18m - £19m for 2024-25 recognising the funding pressures being experienced within many services and previously limited use of reserves, with the funding identified being used, as an alternative, to support the Council's overall revenue budget.
- Seeking to maximise use of available funding within the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) to support community safety initiatives such as CCTV, Enforcement officers, and youth-based activities to prevent knife crime, serious youth violence and school exclusions by engaging, educating, and empowering disadvantaged young people as well as providing

additional funding to support infrastructure improvements, including pavements and roads that would relieve pressure on the capital and revenue budget.

In formally moving the Conservative Groups alternative budget proposals, Councillor Kansagra ended by highlighting that the proposals had been assessed as producing a legally balanced budget which he felt would also provide a responsible, commonsense approach in helping to ease the financial burden currently being faced by the Council and experienced by many residents across the borough. In thanking the Corporate Director and Deputy Director of Finance for their assistance, he ended by commending the Conservative Groups alternative budget proposals to Council.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Kansagra for his comments and for moving the alternative budget proposals on behalf of the Conservative Group. She then invited Councillor Georgiou, as Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group, to move the alternative budget proposals submitted on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group.

In presenting the Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals, Councillor Georgiou began by thanking the Corporate Director and Deputy Director of Finance for their assistance in developing a set of proposals designed to provide a balanced and realistic budget which it was felt would enhance the offer from the Council to local residents without the need to remove much needed support for the most vulnerable in society. The concerns previously expressed at the challenging nature of the financial pressures faced by the Council were also supported by Councillor Georgiou, which he felt involved a combination of factors such as the significant underfunding of local authorities, Brexit, and the economic mismanagement of the current Conservative Government but had been further compounded by spending decision taken by the current Council Administration, such as those related to Civic Centre improvements and the pursuit of what he regarded as unviable development schemes including the Altamira Project in Stonebridge.

Whilst recognising the need for difficult decisions in order to provide a balanced and sustainable budget, Councillor Georgiou advised he was keen to ensure that residents priorities were at the forefront of the budget proposals being considered, with the Liberal Democrats Group having therefore proposed ten amendments seeking to address areas of ongoing concern including street cleanliness, youth provision and the climate emergency which he was keen to ensure members had the opportunity to consider and vote upon individually as part of a balanced and fully costed package of measures. He then moved on to outline the key budget proposals recommended by Liberal Democrats Group as follows:

- Reflecting on concerns relating to street cleanliness and changes in the street cleaning and refuse collection service an increase of £500k was proposed in the street cleansing budget in order to reinstate weekly visits and daily street cleaning that were within 50 metres of a junction with busy shopping areas/ high streets; the provision of wheelie bins for segregated recycling where requested by residents and conversion of blue topped bins for cardboard and paper recycling and the smaller wheelie bin for use for other recyclable materials; an increase in enforcement activity by establishing an invest to save pilot with teams targeting dumping, drinking and paan spitting hotspots and issuing on the spot Fixed Penalty Notices along with provision of more dual

- litter/ recycling bins and the establishment of a monthly cleaning service for all street bins.
- An increase in the capital budget provision for highways and footways upgrades and repairs with £2m of this to be allocated to regular preventative maintenance works to extend the life of existing road surfaces and to provide additional flexibility to target pavements and roads surfaces not properly reinstated following works by utility companies based on the negotiation of financial contributions towards the upgrade works.
 - Recognising the impact of the current overspend on the Council's finances in relation to the supply and cost pressures relating to temporary accommodation, to increase the provision of more genuinely affordable housing involving the introduction of more stringent planning strategies and a 50% target in relation to the provision of affordable housing within all new developments (once the current economic climate and associated impact on viability had improved) and through the targeting of underoccupied properties by providing suitable replacements in the right location to meet specific needs.
 - Whilst recognising that Brent had been one of the first local authorities to declare a climate emergency, disappointment was expressed at the progress in meeting the commitments made and in seeking to achieve Carbon Neutrality which was now unlikely to be met by the initial target date of 2030. In order to maintain progress, the Liberal Democrats were proposing, as part of an approach towards encouraging more active forms of travel, to work with Brent Cyclists and other local groups in seeking to allocate investment to develop safe cycle routes within and between growth areas across Brent over a 2-year period. In addition, it was proposed that the Council should immediately divest its Pension Fund from fossil fuel investments whilst also undertaking an assessment of its property portfolio in order to ensure that all public and community buildings were energy efficient, with funding to be allocated for this purpose over a 2-year period.
 - The allocation of £500k to support the protection, maintenance and cleaning of parks and open spaces across the borough, supported by the introduction of segregated cycle lanes in parks and linking routes to parks to ensure the safety of dog walkers and pedestrians. In addition, it was proposed to allocate £1m to support the installation of CCTV in parks and open spaces, particularly in anti-social behaviour hotspot areas with the package of measure designed to ensure parks and open spaces continued to be well utilised by local people in a safe and comfortable environment given the priority placed by residents on access to green spaces and wider environmental and health impacts.
 - The allocation and transfer of £1m from reserves for investment in a new "Youth Offer" provision recognising the negative impact arising from the reduction in funding for youth services and limited youth offer currently available, especially in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour with this focussed in supporting early intervention and work with community groups to bid for funding in order to enhance young people's positive development.
 - Given the increasing demands on Children and Young People and Adult Social Care the Liberal Democrats were also proposing a more co-ordinated approach between Housing, Adult Social Care and Children and Young people services in terms of the provision of housing development schemes designed to support people being able to remain in their own homes and reduce social care spend on high cost residential or supported accommodation placements. The piloting of an invest to save programme

- costing £1 million from the Public Health Reserve was also proposed in order to continue the support of unpaid Carers which would include access to community equipment and home adaptations.
- Supporting the creation of a flexible, freelancer-based service designed to address digital exclusion and assist local people with hands on digital inclusion training through the voluntary sector, paid for by specific grants, with NCIL acting as the prime match-finding source.

Given the proposed increase in Council Tax, Councillor Georgiou felt there was a need for the Council to ensure that as residents were being asked to pay more for services funding was refocussed and prioritised on local areas of concern. In highlighting the additional detail provided within the proposals included as part of the agenda papers, Councillor Georgiou ended by outlining the important role members had in representing residents and local communities, which he felt the budget amendments presented by the Liberal Democrats had been designed to reflect in a balanced and pragmatic way that would enhance the offer from the Council recognising priorities being identified locally. As such he hoped all members would be able to support the amendments outlined and commended the Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals to Council.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Georgiou for his comments and moving the alternative budget proposals on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group and then moved on to invite Councillor Tatler, as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform to speak as the next stage in the budget debate.

Councillor Tatler began by highlighting the bleak nature of the economic context within which the Council's budget had needed to be set involving not only the impact arising from the 78% decrease in core government funding for the Council but of the resulting £210m worth of cuts made since the start of austerity and the additional £8m savings which the Council had been required to identify for the coming year and beyond, meaning the funding burden for Council services had remained focussed primarily on Council Tax, Business Rates and Fees and Charges impacting directly on local residents already suffering as a result of the cost of living crisis.

In outlining the seriousness of the Council's current financial position, with specific reference to the increased level of demand and costs related to adult social care and homelessness leading to a current pressure totalling £13m, the Deputy Leader felt it important to highlight that the challenges faced in achieving a balanced budget whilst seeking to preserve essential services reflecting the reality that many other local authorities also faced in being pushed to their financial limits.

In highlighting what she felt had been the Conservative Governments record of economic mismanagement and fact that the Government's provisional financial settlement had failed to meet the severe cost and demand pressures being faced by councils of all political persuasions, concern was also expressed at the Governments approach in seeking to force Council's to implement the maximum permitted increase in Council Tax in order for them to receive their full financial settlement. Moving on to reflect on the difficult nature of the decisions that had needed to be made in setting a balanced budget, Councillor Tatler felt it important to recognise the way the choices made had been designed to support a longer term strategic approach focussed on local growth and investment with the Council

therefore proud to have been able to continue investing in initiatives such as Brent Works and Brent Starts with the aim of enhancing local employment, training and skills opportunities.

In highlighting that the main limit on the Council's ambition remained funding, Councillor Tatler was also keen to assure members of the Administration's ongoing commitment to the building of more affordable homes, tackling the climate emergency and addressing the wider inequalities highlighted by the pandemic albeit operating under the reality of the constraints imposed following a decade of government austerity. As an example of the reality faced, reference was made to the current housing crisis and shortage in supply of affordable housing, which she felt required a more joined approach to address involving regeneration, building and community empowerment with Council's such as Brent seeking to deliver as much supply as possible whilst also having to address financial requirements in relation to the Housing Revenue Account and enhanced building and safety regulations given the reduction in number of new social rented homes delivered under the current Conservative Government. Focussing on Brent, pride was expressed at the Administrations housebuilding record which Councillor Tatler pointed out remained the second highest in London and with £31m allocated in the budget proposals presented for consideration to continue the progress being made in the delivery of new homes by 2028. Recognising the increasing levels of demand, members were also reminded of the further investment which had been committed to raising standards for private renters through the launch of the Council's Landlord Licensing Scheme in order to ensure everyone had the foundation of a safe and secure home.

In terms of social care and wellbeing, whilst recognising the challenges faced in terms of the government's approach towards the NHS and social care reform Councillor Tatler felt it important to highlight the proposals included within the budget providing investment in new school places for children with Special Educational Needs, funding to support Looked After Children during school holidays and for the 4,600 elderly and vulnerable residents in need of care across the borough as well as investment to support health and wellbeing services and leisure facilities across the borough.

In commenting on the Opposition Groups alternative budget proposals Councillor Tatler, echoed the concerns expressed by the Leader regarding submission of the Conservative Groups proposals the day prior to the meeting and at what she regarded to be the irresponsible nature of the financial risk arising from the proposed use of reserves to fund temporary projects and associated future revenue costs (without the ability to fund them on an ongoing basis) within both sets of alternative budget proposals presented by the Opposition Groups. Despite highlighting concerns regarding the impact of demand on children's services and relying on the New Homes Bonus to fund their proposals, Councillor Tatler also queried the recent stance taken by the Conservative Group in seeking to challenge the purchase of a new children's care home and of both Opposition Groups in seeking to oppose new developments across the borough which had generated the funds they were now seeking to utilise to deliver their proposals. As a result, in challenging the economic literacy of both sets of alternative budget proposals, the Deputy Leader felt there was a need to recognise the cumulative impact of the current recession and programme of austerity introduced by the Conservative and

Liberal Democrat coalition government, on the Council, wider public sector and local residents rather than seeking to place the blame elsewhere and avoid the difficult longer term decisions that had been required to continue meeting the need and aspirations for residents across the borough.

In criticising the Liberal Democrats Group for their lack of engagement in the scrutiny budget Task Group, Councillor Tatler also felt there was also a need to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Conservative Government's underfunding of local government and the public sector which had left many local authorities with the difficult choice in having to consider increasing Council Tax in order to avoid further financial instability. This approach towards public finances had also been compounded by the lack of longer-term local government financial reform and one-year financial settlements by the government which had severely hampered the Council's ability to plan over the longer-term using its innovative, trusted and productive approach towards delivering change for local communities.

In concluding, Councillor Tatler took the opportunity to thank all residents who had contributed towards the budget consultation process along with the Finance Team and all other officers involved for their efforts and support in preparing the budget proposals. In commending the budget to Council, members were reminded of the detailed consultation and scrutiny which the budget proposals had been subject to, along with the prudent approach adopted by the Administration in order to protect and renew the provision of essential services, growth and investment for residents across the borough on a sustainable and long-term basis designed to ensure no resident was left behind.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Tatler for her comments and as the final contribution prior to opening up the debate then invited Councillor Conneely, as Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group, to present the key themes within the Budget Scrutiny Task Group report, which had been included as an appendix to the Budget and Council Tax 2024-25 report.

Councillor Conneely in introducing the Budget Scrutiny Task Group report began by thanking all members of the Task Group and everyone else who had participated in the scrutiny process. In emphasising that the upcoming financial year would be one of the most challenging for local authorities across the country, Councillor Conneely highlighted what she felt to be the need for extensive reform of the current way in which local authorities were funded. Whilst trying to be as objective as possible in their review, it had not been possible for the Task Group to ignore the impact of the Government's programme of austerity over the last decade and piecemeal approach towards the funding of local government which had made it more difficult for local authorities to be able to plan financially. Highlighting concern at the damaging legacy created as a result, specific reference was also made to the impact of the current economic pressures and housing crisis which had exacerbated the financial challenges and uncertainty in which local authorities were having to operate.

In presenting the Task Group report, Councillor Conneely highlighted the extensive nature of the review and recommendations which had been identified in relation to the budget proposals, as detailed within section 2 of their report. In terms of the issues highlighted, particular reference was made to the importance placed on collaboration between neighbouring local authorities, partners and the voluntary

and community sector to not only deliver vital services for residents, but also to counter the competitive environment imposed by discretionary grant funding which positioned councils against each other. This emphasis on collaboration had been reflected in the Task Group recommendations, which included the establishment of a shared outcomes framework with the voluntary and community sector to co-design and co-deliver budget proposals. Furthermore, the Task Group had recommended implementing additional shared service agreements with other local authorities with Councillor Conneely also advising that they had welcomed the decision to retain use of the New Millenium Day Centre, operating under a new shared service arrangement.

Highlighting other key recommendations made as part of the review, Councillor Conneely also referred to the Task Groups support, as part of the wider approach towards addressing the budget challenges identified, for the development of a longer-term strategic and more holistic approach towards income generation including yearly action plans and a robust monitoring process with dedicated cross departmental resource to investigate and identify additional opportunities in areas such as compliance with mandatory Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing, collection of Council Tax on empty properties and Business Rates. Other recommendations highlighted include proposals designed to increase the available of meeting facilities within the Civic Centre for hire and a community impact levy for events taking place at Wembley Stadium.

Whilst recognising the nature of the financial pressures and challenges identified in relation to delivery of the Council's commitments within the climate emergency strategy Councillor Conneely advised that the Task Group had recognised the importance in progress being maintained with the introduction of a green budget also therefore supported in terms of securing the necessary funding.

In thanking all members, officers and other stakeholders who had supported the review and wide variety of engagement undertaken, Councillor Conneely ended by highlighting the need to recognise the cumulative impact of funding cuts across the public sector and local government given the significant and ongoing financial challenges and pressures identified and ability to be able to financially plan and deliver a balanced budget according to demand rather than being driven by the need to manage funding cuts as a result of austerity. On this basis the recommendations made by the Budget Scrutiny Task Group were commended for consideration as part of the budget setting process.

The Mayor advised that this now concluded the opening statements and thanked Councillor Conneely for her comments. She then moved on to open up the debate on the budget proposals for comment by other members.

In opening the debate, Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, began by outlining the importance of good quality housing and stability this provided to local communities with concern expressed regarding central government's approach to housing, given their inadequate level of funding provision, current Housing Benefit subsidy arrangements and failure to address supply issues. These various factors were all felt to have contributed to the current housing crisis and increase in homelessness, particularly across London, resulting in the significant additional financial pressures being placed on local authorities, including Brent. Focussing on Brent, members

were reminded that the Council had seen a significant and sustained increase in homelessness presentations, with Councillor Knight highlighting the ongoing work being undertaken to address these additional pressures through the continued provision of much needed affordable housing and efforts being made to secure and safeguard living conditions for existing tenants. Amongst the initiatives highlighted reference was made to implementation of the borough-wide landlord licensing scheme to protect private renters and tackle rogue landlords and ongoing delivery of the new Council homes programme. In concluding, Councillor Knight commended the budget to Council, on the basis the proposals would continue to protect housing services across the borough despite the significant challenges presented.

Other members who spoke on the budget proposals were as follows:

Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, was next to speak and also felt it important to recognise the detrimental impact of the substantial funding cuts imposed by central government alongside the current economic position and worsening climate challenges, with residents ultimately bearing most of the burden from these issues. Despite the financial pressures identified, the opportunity was taken to reflect on the programme of work and investment being provided in relation to the boroughs highway infrastructure and to make Brent cleaner and greener. In addition, reference was made to implementation of the new arrangements for household waste collection, recycling and street cleansing which it was felt had delivered positive improvements and were now attracting attention from other local authorities looking to introduce similar initiatives in their respective areas. The opportunity was also taken to highlight the work being undertaken to address fly-tipping and other environmental crime, including support for CCTV provision with funding also provided for continuation of the community skips initiative, as well as the installation of electric vehicle charging points alongside work to maintain and enhance parks and open spaces across the borough, including the planting of trees. Members were also reminded of the work being funded to support the Council's ongoing efforts in tackling the climate emergency, which included expansion of the Green Neighbourhood pilots and work being undertaken to empower residents in support of the Council being able to achieve its commitments towards net zero. In commending the budget proposals to Council, Councillor Krupa Sheth ended by thanking all members and officers involved for their support in delivering the commitments outlined which had been designed to protect residents and maintain vital service provision both now and over the longer term.

Speaking in support of the Conservative Group's alternative budget proposals, Councillor Maurice expressed concern at the ongoing impact of the proposed maximum increase in Council Tax in view of the additional financial burden placed on local residents. Whilst subject to year on year increase (including the precept set by the Mayor of London), Councillor Maurice also felt it important to challenge the use and impact of the funding given concerns identified in relation to the state of the boroughs road network, high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (which was not felt to have achieved its goal in seeking to improve air quality) and had resulted in residents feeling ignored and let down. Concern was also highlighted in relation to the impact arising from introduction of the Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme, efforts being made to bring empty or underutilised properties back into use and process undertaken when

seeking to place tenants in out of borough accommodation. As a result, he advised he would be voting against the budget proposals moved by the Leader and in support of the Conservative Groups alternative budget proposals which he commended on the basis of them seeking to reduce the financial burden on local residents.

Councillor Mistry then spoke, also in support of the Conservative Group amendments to the budget proposals, which she felt would result in local residents having to pay less for better value service provision. Rather than seeking to blame central government for the challenges faced, she felt the Administration needed to recognise the measures the Conservative government had introduced to increase financial support available for local residents which had included a percentage increase in the financial settlement for the Council, reduction in the overall tax burden, increase in the National Living Wage and introduced up to 30 hours of free child care. Opposition was also expressed to the proposed uplift in Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairs of the Brent Connect Area Consultative Forums with Councillor Mistry also keen to support (as a means of addressing the current pressures in demand on housing supply) the efforts being made to bring empty or underutilised properties back into use. As a final issue, she advised the Conservative Group had also identified a need to consider the way in which Housing Benefit, Single Person and Council Tax Discount claims were being managed alongside the process for collection of debts and overpayments and on the basis of the comments outlined also commended the Conservative Groups alternative budget proposals for approval.

Moving on, Councillor Mili Patel then spoke thanking members and officers for their work in formulating the budget and paying tribute to Councillor Tatler for the support in covering her portfolio as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform whilst she remained on maternity leave. Reminding members of the context in which the budget had needed to be set, Councillor Mili Patel felt it important to recognise the impact of austerity alongside the government's mismanagement of the economy and ongoing challenges created by Brexit. Highlighting a need for change she felt this was something the Labour Party would be able to deliver through its plans for improved economic stability, investment in green energy and the NHS. In expressing her support for the budget Councillor Mili Patel ended by thanking all officers and members for their continued work to support Brent residents despite the challenging financial climate, and in welcoming an opportunity for change nationally, advised she was also pleased to commend the budget proposals, as moved by the Leader, for approval.

Councillor Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, also speaking in support of the budget proposals, opened his comments by expressing concern at the way in which he felt the current Conservative Government had overseen a deterioration in adult social care and widening of health inequalities during their time in power, pointing out that the Council's budget having been prepared in the context of an 11.6% increase in adult social care demand over previous years. In commending the work being undertaken across Brent's Adult Social Care service to address these issues, he also highlighted the way in which views expressed during the budget consultation process had been used to help shape the final proposals including retention of the New Millennium Day Centre via a new multi-service model alongside the Community Wellbeing Project. Highlighting the work also being undertaken to enhance the recruitment and retention of social

workers, ensure all care providers commissioned by the Council offered the London Living Wage, deliver health prevention and awareness initiatives and to support hospital discharge and independent living with the aim of enabling more residents to be cared for at home, Councillor Nerva was keen to thank all health & care staff, including carers, for their excellent work in such challenging circumstances. In comparing the approach being taken by the Council with the lack of action by the Government in seeking to address the challenges identified in relation to the funding and provision Adult Social Care (including the difficulty in being able to plan and operate under one-year funding settlements) he also ended by urging members to support the budget proposals moved by the Leader.

Councillor Afzal, as initial context to his comments on the budget, began by highlighting his concern and frustration at the financial challenges faced by Brent as a result of what he felt had been central government's continued programme of austerity and underfunding of vital public services, poor handling of the economy and indifferent approach to the most vulnerable members of society. Despite the significant challenges faced and £210m worth of cumulative budget cuts already delivered, he felt it important to recognise how hard the Council had worked to fill the gaps created in order to safeguard and support residents expressing concern at the direction in which he felt the country as a whole was heading under the current government with reference to the increasing reliance of residents on foodbanks, decrease in job security, unsustainable level of rents fuelling the housing crisis, increasing levels of poverty, stagnation of wages, underfunding of schools, the NHS and care provision and divisions within society increasing with more incidents of islamophobia and antisemitism. In contrasting this with the Government's focus in reducing the tax burden for the wealthy, the impact of the UK's support and involvement in foreign conflicts and deregulation of the finance sector, Councillor Afzal felt it was time for a change with the prudent and compassionate approach adopted by the Labour Administration (despite the constraint in resources) in seeking to safeguard and support local residents and those more vulnerable members of society, highlighted as a basis for his support of the budget proposals moved by the Leader.

Following on from this contribution, Councillor Kansagra raised a point of order in relation to comments made during the previous speech on the impact of the UK Governments support and involvement in foreign conflicts, which he felt were not in keeping with the standard of conduct required during the debate and should therefore be withdrawn. In response, Councillor Afzal advised that as he supported the views expressed he did not feel he could withdraw the comment made with Councillor Kansagra therefore advising he would seek to pursue the matter outside of the meeting.

The Mayor then moved on, with Councillor Ahmed speaking in support of the budget proposals particularly in view of the challenges created as a result of the financial pressures faced across local government. Having expressed his appreciation for the work being undertaken across the Council to safeguard and protect residents, Councillor Ahmed advised he was proud to be able to support a budget focussed on ensuring no one was left behind and also took the opportunity to highlight and commend the work on development of the Staples Corner Masterplan which he felt would bring much needed regeneration and benefits within his ward and across that part of the borough as a whole.

Councillor Ethapemi then spoke and once again highlighted what he felt to be the damage being caused by central government's programme of austerity and underfunding of local government and other public services with a record number of food bank users and the acute housing shortage, which councils across the country were working hard to rectify and address. In outlining the difficulties in seeking to produce a balanced budget in such circumstances, Councillor Ethapemi felt that the Administration should be commended for delivering what he felt to be a financially responsible, prudent and workable budget and in closing commended the budget proposals moved by the Leader for their effective management of the limited resources available, which he felt was in contrast to the alternative proposals moved by both Opposition Groups.

Councillor S. Butt, in supporting the budget proposals, also began by thanking all those involved for their work in being able to produce a balanced budget in such challenging circumstances which also sought to protect the most vulnerable and ensure no one was left behind. Highlighting the Council's achievements and ongoing efforts in seeking to continue the delivery of affordable housing across the borough he felt it important to contrast the approach taken by previous Labour Government's in seeking to introduce the minimum and London Living Wage, reduce NHS waiting times and introduce Working Tax Credits with that of the current Conservative Government and their programme of austerity, supported by the Liberal Democrats when in coalition, given its significant impact on public services and funding for local authorities, including Brent. In ending, Councillor S. Butt also expressed concern at the proposed use of reserves and the New Home Bonus proposed by both Opposition Groups as a means of funding their alternative budget proposals, which he felt would be financially irresponsible in terms of the associated risks.

In contributing to the debate, Councillor Molloy also took the opportunity to express his support for the budget proposals moved by the Leader and to challenge members about what more they could do individually to address the financial pressures under which the Council was continuing to operate. This included the use of local knowledge to identify potential underutilised or empty properties and support the collection of Council Tax as supporting implementation of the Landlord Licensing Scheme and in enforcement activity related to illegal parking and fly-tipping. In concluding, he encouraged members to consider how best they could support the development of income generation and revenue sources designed to enhance the Council's overall financial position.

Councillor Choudry, in supporting the budget proposals, commended the balanced nature of the proposals and their approach in seeking to protect the most vulnerable, particularly given the significant reduction in the Council's core funding due to austerity and diminishing local government financial settlements. Concern was highlighted in relation to what he regarded as an overreliance within the Opposition Groups alternative budget proposals on the use of reserves given the unsustainable nature of this as an approach. In praising the Administrations continued commitment towards the Council Tax and Resident Support Funds he felt this demonstrated the type of empathy required in seeking to support those most in need through such challenging times. In recognising austerity as a political choice and the difficult nature of options needing to be considered, he confirmed he would also be supporting the budget as moved by the Leader, highlighting the protection

the proposals would continue to provide for the most vulnerable and their progressive, pragmatic and sustainable nature.

Councillor Johnson then spoke, referring to his role as Chair of the Brent Pension Fund Sub-Committee. As an example of the prudent approach adopted by the Administration to management of the Council's finances, he advised members of the outcome of the Fund's triennial valuation which had been completed during the year and had concluded that the health of the Fund had significantly improved. In comparing this with the approach adopted by the current Conservative government he urged both Opposition Groups to join the Council in lobbying for an end to austerity and for a sustainable and long-term increase in local government core funding to address the key priorities identified, including the backlog in highway maintenance and repairs. In commending the approach adopted within the budget in terms of its focus in putting residents first and continuing to support communities during the cost-of-living crisis and following the pandemic, he also expressed concern at the proposed use of reserves and the New Homes Bonus to fund the alternative budget proposals moved by both Opposition Groups and as a result advised he would be opposing these and supporting the budget proposals as originally moved.

Councillor Kabir, in supporting the budget proposals, began by thanking all those involved for their work in being able to produce a balanced budget in such challenging circumstances. Taking the opportunity to focus on proposals relating to children and young people she felt it important to recognise the support required and being provided to assist young people in seeking to improve their life chances and realise their aspirations. In referencing the Council's SEND priorities 2021-25, Councillor Kabir welcomed the additional SEN school places being delivered alongside the provision of Post 16 provision but, as chair of The Village School Governing Body, acknowledged the increased support needed by families in terms of both respite care and housing. Despite the significant financial challenges identified, Councillor Kabir was pleased to recognise the way in which the budget proposals had sought to protect services for the most vulnerable and on this basis advised she was proud to comment the budget proposals, as moved, to members for approval.

Councillor Hack, highlighting the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and austerity in forcing many more families into hardship and poverty also expressed concern at what he felt to be the failed approach of the current Conservative Government. In contrast, he was pleased to support the Labour Administrations approach in seeking to fight for the improvement of public services and to tackle poverty with the Council having adopted a more progressive approach towards tackling austerity, racism and in seeking to build a fairer society that ended injustice and neglect in addition to preserving and protecting the NHS. In recognising the way in which he felt the budget moved by the Leader sought to mitigate against the challenges created by the Conservative Government and support those most vulnerable, including families and young people in building for the future, Councillor Hack advised he would also be supporting the proposals as moved.

Councillor Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Culture, in echoing concerns previously highlighted in relation to the impact of austerity, cost-of-living crisis and Government's approach towards the funding of local government and public services, felt it important to reiterate the

core values on which development of the Councils budget proposals had been based in terms of fairness and supporting those most in need. Recognising the way in which support provided through the Brent Hubs and Customer Access Team offered a safety net and lifeline to those struggling as a result of current economic pressures, Councillor Donnelly-Jackson criticised central government for their management of the economy, welfare reforms and ongoing programme of austerity given the impact on public finances and the need to deliver such significant levels of cuts across local government whilst also having no option but to increase Council Tax. Concern was also expressed at the lack of clarity concerning future of the Household Support Fund, given the assistance this had provided to those most in need. Turning to the funding commitments within the Council's budget, Councillor Donnelly-Jackson felt it important to highlight the continued support being provided for the Resident Support Fund and Council Tax Support Scheme along with the ongoing programme of investment in the boroughs libraries and Brent Hubs as well as towards the ongoing provision for cultural activities and grant support for community projects designed to enhance partnership working and empower local communities to further improve their neighbourhoods. Reflecting on previous comments made, Councillor Donnelly-Jackson also highlighted the changes recently agreed to the way in which Council Tax premium would be levied on empty properties and whilst recognising the difficult nature of choices required, also commended the budget proposals to members given the ongoing commitment she felt they represented in terms of supporting and protecting residents and in ensuring no one was left behind.

Moving on, Councillor Lorber then spoke to highlight his support for the alternative budget proposals moved on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group, which he felt presented both a balanced and affordable series of amendments to the proposals moved by the Leader. In querying whether any change in government would lead to an immediate provision of additional funding to support local government given the nature of the national economic challenges faced, he outlined how the amendments proposed by the Liberal Democrats Group had been designed to address what he felt was the reality of the financial position focused on the priorities being identified by local residents rather than just seeking to blame austerity. In terms of specific priorities, reference was made to management of the Council's property portfolio including rent reviews and collection of rental income, the provision of additional investment to support highway and footway maintenance as well as to address concerns relating to the new arrangements for street cleansing, household waste collection and recycling (including the blue bag scheme) and in relation to progress in tackling environmental issues and promoting more active forms of travel such as segregated cycling lanes. In commending the alternative proposals moved by the Liberal Democrats Group Councillor Lorber ended by highlighting what he felt had been the reasonable approach adopted given concerns being expressed by residents relating to the level of services being provided locally, with the proposals assessed as affordable and providing a legally balanced budget.

As a further contribution to the debate, Councillor Collymore also spoke to highlight her concern at the extent and impact of financial hardship currently being faced by many residents across the borough which she had witnessed in her role as a community health educator. In welcoming the equity, diversity and inclusion considerations which had supported development of the budget proposals Councillor Collymore thanked all those involved for their efforts in seeking to ensure

the proposals avoided discriminating against individuals in order to support those in genuine need with fairness and equity remaining core principles and, on this basis, advised she would also be supporting the budget, as moved by the Leader.

Councillor Kennelly, also expressing his support for the budget proposals, felt it important to recognise the way in which they had been designed to stand up for local residents and maintain the provision of essential local services despite the ongoing funding restrictions imposed by central government and ongoing impact of austerity, and the cost-of-living crisis. Referring specifically to the need for reform of local government finance and the end of single year financial settlements, he commended what he felt to be the progressive and forward-thinking nature of the budget proposals moved by the Leader especially in terms of the investment being provided to tackle the climate emergency and improve air quality through a neighbourhood ward-based approach and through initiatives such as the School Streets programme. Support was also expressed for continuation of the Household Support Fund and free school meal programme in addition to the need identified for a borough wide review of rental and leasing arrangements across the private rented sector.

In thanking everyone who had contributed to development of the budget proposals, including Brent Renters Union, Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam echoed the concerns previously expressed by members regarding the impact of the current housing crisis recognising the specific financial hardship and issues for tenants in the private rented sector as one of the largest demographics in Brent. In welcoming introduction of the borough wide landlord Licensing Scheme, it was felt this would assist in terms of providing additional safeguards for tenants and improving living standards across the private rental sector, which was deemed crucial in terms of providing access to safe and secure homes. Looking forward, Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam also welcomed the upcoming Private Rented Sector Fair as a means of encouraging further engagement with the sector and in emphasising the need for change he called for an end to austerity and reform of the housing sector recognising the challenges created through the Right to Buy programme and cuts in funding and need for proper government investment in a social house building programme. Recognising the efforts and investment being provided by the Council in this respect he also commended the budget, as moved by the Leader to members for support.

As the next speaker, Councillor Moeen, also expressed her support for the budget and praised the aspirations of the Labour Administration in seeking to support growth, local residents and maintain local services despite the financial challenges created through the Conservative Government's approach towards austerity and in managing the cost-of-living crisis. Amongst the commitments highlighted the support provided in relation to the creation of employment opportunities, training, skills and economic regeneration (including support to small business and fair labour practices), youth and social and health care, provision of additional SEN school places, delivery of affordable housing along with the efforts being made to enhance community cohesion and tackle inequality were commended as a means of addressing the gaps identified in response to the budget cuts imposed by Central Government. In commending the proposals to members, she highlighted her pride at being part of an Administration seeking to protect and provide a more inclusive and prosperous future for all in Brent with concern also expressed at the way in

which governments proposals relating to free childcare were being funded and implemented, given their impact on providers across the sector.

In recognising and praising the values and work being undertaken by community groups across the borough, Councillor Dixon expressed support for the budget proposals moved by the Leader, which she felt best reflected the priorities being expressed by local residents. In looking back upon the pandemic, Councillor Dixon praised health care staff who had worked tirelessly to protect residents despite the approach taken by central government which had been highlighted during the covid inquiry. Praise was also extended for the support provided by the Council in tackling the pandemic, including the establishment of vaccination centres, provision of PPE and work with local community groups to support vulnerable residents, which again was felt to be in direct contrast to the approach adopted by the Conservative Government. Whilst forced to make a number of tough decisions in seeking to set a balanced budget and reiterating the challenges created in terms of financial planning around the provision of single year financial settlements, Councillor Dixon welcomed the efforts being made by the Council to manage the limited resources available as responsibly and diligently as possible, including the provision of a new residential children's care facility in the borough which she reminded members the Conservative Group had sought to challenge. In concluding, Councillor Dixon advised that she would also be voting in support of the budget proposals, emphasising the moral responsibility under which she felt the Council were acting in order to ensure no one was left behind.

Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, then spoke to highlight the extent of the financial pressures currently faced across the Children and Young People service, which she felt had been exacerbated as a result of the stance taken by the Conservative Government in relation to funding provision. Expressing particular concern at the increase in child poverty and health related issues being experienced by children and young people (including obesity and tooth decay) since the Conservative Government had been in power along with the inadequacy of school funding and current gap in funding for the provision for children's social care and Special Educational Needs assessments and provision reflecting the lack of government priority towards children and young people. In contrast to the Governments approach and in highlighting that children, young people and their families deserved better, Councillor Grahl outlined the importance of the Council's budget proposals in seeking to address these gaps. Despite the financial challenges and cuts in funding identified she pointed out how the budget proposals included continued investment in Family Wellbeing Centres, investment to provide additional SEN school places, the provision of a new residential children's care home facility, support & championing of local schools alongside improvements in the foster care offer and support of the Mayor of London's Free Schools Meals programme as a means of tackling food poverty and public transport subsidy for care leavers. As a result, she urged all members to support the budget as moved by the Leader given the way they had been designed to support children, young people and their families in seeking to secure a better future at each stage in their life that would empower them to feel valued and prioritised.

As a further contribution to the debate, Councillor Chohan also took the opportunity to express his support for the budget proposals moved by the Leader, highlighting the ongoing impact and difficulties being created for an increasing number of residents as a result of the Governments approach towards managing the

economy, supporting small businesses and funding public services including the closure of local police stations. Despite the significant challenges and pressures on public services created as result of the cuts imposed by the Government since 2010, Councillor Chohan highlighted his pride at the way in which the current Administration had sought to protect key services and support health partners, small businesses, young people and those more vulnerable residents. Whilst acknowledging that the budget proposals would require difficult decisions to be made, Councillor Chohan was keen to commend the compassionate approach adopted in seeking to protect the most vulnerable and bring people together as an alternative to the approach adopted by the Government.

Councillor Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection, then spoke also highlighting concerns at the impact of government austerity on the provision of public services, focussing specifically (in relation to his remit) on the reduction in funding for the police and community support officers and what he felt was the associated increase in crime (including serious knife related crime and violence against women and girls) with Councillor Farah calling for urgent action by the government to address these pressures. Reference was also made to the decline in government funding for youth provision and community facilities, with Councillor Farah keen to highlight the work being undertaken in response through the Safer Brent Partnership via their Community Safety Strategy in seeking to address the gaps identified based on a public health approach designed to support early intervention and protect the most vulnerable. In concluding, Councillor Farah stated that the Council was delivering projects that addressed priorities such as reducing violent crime and in commending the budget to Council, compared this approach with that of the Conservative Government, re-iterating that despite the government's ongoing restrictions in funding and difficult decisions which had needed to be taken the Council was continuing, through its effective approach towards financial management, to deliver long term positive outcomes for local residents.

As a final contribution to the debate, Councillor Fraser felt there was a need to recognise the financial context within which the budget proposals had been developed based around the impact of austerity and limited financial support being provided by the Government which had left not only the Council but many residents struggling financially. Expressing particular concern at the impact on carers, Councillor Fraser commended the budget proposals which she felt demonstrated the Councils commitment to continue prioritising the protection of frontline services and those most in need, including the ongoing provision of financial support through the Resident Support Fund and Council Tax Support Scheme, investment to provide additional SEN school places as well as to support and improve infrastructure across the borough including highway maintenance and reactive repairs. These were felt to be significant achievements given the impact arising from the reduction in government funding over the last decade. Whilst also recognising the difficult nature of choices faced given the challenging financial climate, Councillor Fraser ended by advising she was also proud to commend the secure and resident focused budget that the Administration had proposed in seeking to build a better future for all.

Having concluded the debate, the Mayor thanked all members for their contributions and then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt to summarise and respond to the points raised.

In response to the debate, Councillor Muhammed Butt began by thanking all members for their contributions at the meeting. In summing up, he felt that the debate had demonstrated the passion and commitment amongst councillors to deliver for their residents. In responding to the Conservative and Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals he expressed concern at the financial and budgetary literacy which he felt had been demonstrated in terms of their approach given the associated risks which had been identified in relation to both their impact and unviable way in which it had been proposed to fund them. He therefore urged all members to reject the alternative proposals recognising, in response, the measures taken by the Council (as an example) to introduce new levies in relation to the Council Tax charge on empty properties and the concerns increasingly being expressed by local businesses in relation to the benefits of free 1 hour parking.

In contrast, he felt the Administration's budget proposals not only demonstrated an understanding of the challenges faced but were also designed to protect and support residents in the borough, with reference made to delivery of:

- £31.4 million dedicated to constructing 1,700 new homes by 2028, providing secure and accessible housing options for residents.
- £3.4 million to drive initiatives connecting residents with job opportunities and skill development programs, fostering a thriving and empowered workforce.
- £1.5 million to directly support community projects, empowering local residents and groups to actively contribute to improving their neighbourhoods.
- £21.6 million allocated for efficient waste management and street cleaning services.
- The dedication of £397 million to fund schools (of which 97% were currently rated as good or outstanding) with an additional £44 million for the creation of new special needs places.
- £24.3 million allocated to enhance residents' health and tackle the root causes of illness, promoting long and healthy lives.
- £117.9 million to support over 4,600 elderly and vulnerable residents.
- The maintenance of one of London's most generous Council Tax Support schemes, offering a total of £34 million to over 26,000 households
- An additional investment totalling £1 million in the Resident Support Fund to assist residents facing financial difficulties with bills and essential needs.

In concluding, whilst recognising the difficult nature of decisions which had needed to be made, he outlined his pride that despite the challenges highlighted during the debate the Labour Administration had been able to present a balanced budget that reflected a more hopeful vision for Brent that would not only continue to prioritise essential services for the well-being of local residents but would also seek to foster a spirit of empowerment in order to meet the needs and aspirations of communities across the borough. On this basis he ended by once again commending the budget to Council.

Having thanked Councillor Muhammed Butt for his closing comments, the Mayor advised that this now concluded the debate on the budget and she would therefore be moving to the vote on the alternative budget proposals and then (subject to any amendments agreed) the recommended budget moved by the Leader of the Council. As the recommendations to be considered related to the budget setting

process he reminded Members that, in accordance with Standing Order 43, these would all need to be subject to a recorded vote.

Prior to the vote, Councillor Georgiou moved an amendment to the procedural motion agreed at the start of the meeting in relation to the conduct of the budget debate seeking to enable a separate vote to be undertaken on each of the alternative budget proposals moved by the Liberal Democrats Group rather than for them to be considered enbloc. In accordance with Standing Order 42 (d) the procedural motion was put to the vote without further discussion and declared **LOST**.

The Mayor then moved on to put the budget and alternative proposals to the vote.

On a recorded vote being taken the budget proposals, as moved by the Leader of the Council were declared **CARRIED**.

Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED** to:

- (1) Agree an overall 4.99% increase in the Council's element of Council Tax for 2024/25, with 2% as a precept for Adult Social Care and a 2.99% general increase.
- (2) Agree the General Fund revenue budget for 2024/25, as summarised in Appendices A and B of the report.
- (3) Agree the savings proposals for 2024/25 and 2025/26, as set out in Appendices C (i) and C (ii) of the report.
- (4) Note the Equalities Impact Assessments on the budget proposals, as set out in Appendices C (iii) and C (iv) of the report.
- (5) Note the report from the Budget Scrutiny Task Group in Appendix D of the report.
- (6) Note and agree inclusion of the HRA budget and business plan in the overall Council budget for 2024/25 as set out in section eight and appendix Q of the report.
- (7) Agree the Dedicated Schools Grant, as set out in section nine of the report.
- (8) Agree the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to additions of new schemes and reprofiling, as set out in section 11 and Appendix E of the report and note the Capital Pipeline Schemes in Appendix F of the report.
- (9) Agree the Capital Strategy, the Investment Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement as set out in Appendices G, H, I and J of the report.
- (10) Agree for a new loan and equity facility of up to £40m to be made available to i4B Holdings Ltd for the provision of PRS accommodation in line with the Temporary Reform Accommodation plan as set out in section 11.40 of the report.

- (11) Agree the Reserves Strategy and schedule of reserves, as set out in Appendices K (i) and K (ii) of the report.
- (12) Note the action plan to implement CIPFA's Financial Management Code and conduct a Financial Resilience Assessment, as set out in Appendix L of the report.
- (13) Agree the schedule of fees and charges, as set out in Appendix M of the report.
- (14) Note the results of the budget consultation, as set out in section seven and detailed in Appendices N (i) and N(ii) of the report.
- (15) Note the legal advice from the Corporate Director of Governance, as set out in Appendix O of the report.
- (16) Agree the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix P of the report.

Council Tax recommendations

- (17) In relation to the Council Tax for 2024/25:

It was agreed that the following amounts be now calculated as the Council's element by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:

- (a) £1,099,616,055 being the aggregate of the amount that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
- (b) £937,554,302 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £162,061,753 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- (d) £1,564.65 being the amount at (c) above, divided by the amount for the tax base of 103,577, agreed by the General Purposes Committee on the 11 December 2023, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

- (e) Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,043.10	1,216.95	1,390.80	1,564.65	1,912.35	2,260.05	2,607.75	3,129.30

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (18) That it be noted that for the year 2024/25 the proposed GLA precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, in respect of the GLA, for each of the categories of dwellings are as shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
314.27	366.64	419.02	471.40	576.16	680.91	785.67	942.80

- (19) That, having calculated the aggregate of the amounts at 17(e) and (18) above the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,357.37	1,583.59	1,809.82	2,036.05	2,488.51	2,940.96	3,393.42	4,072.10

- (20) That it be noted that the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources has determined that the Council element of the basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- (a) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be and is hereby authorised to give due notice of the said Council Tax in the manner provided by Section 38(2) of the 1992 Act.
- (b) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be and is hereby authorised when necessary to apply for a summons against

any Council Taxpayer or non-domestic ratepayer on whom an account for the said tax or rate and any arrears has been duly served and who has failed to pay the amounts due to take all subsequent necessary action to recover them promptly.

- (c) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be and is hereby authorised to collect revenues and distribute monies from the Collection Fund and is authorised to borrow or to lend money in accordance with the regulations to the maximum benefit of each fund.

Prior to the above recommendations being approved, the alternative budget proposals moved as amendments to the budget report by the Conservative & Liberal Democrats Groups were put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

The voting recorded on the amendment moved by the Conservative Group was as follows:

For the Amendment (4): Councillors Hirani, Kansagra, Maurice & Mistry.

Against the Amendment (47): Councillors Aden, Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Akram, Bajwa, Benea, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudry, Collymore, Conneely, Crabb, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Fraser, Gbajumo, Georgiou, Grahl, Hack, Johnson, Kabir, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Long, Lorber, Mahmood, Matin, Miller, Mitchell, Moeen, Molloy, Nerva, M.Patel, Rajan Seelan, Rubin, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Southwood and Tatler.

Abstentions to the Amendment (2): Councillors Hylton (Mayor) and Dar (Deputy Mayor).

The voting recorded on the amendment moved by the Liberal Democrats Group was as follows:

For the Amendment (3): Councillors Georgiou, Lorber and Matin

Against the Amendment (48): Councillors Aden, Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Akram, Bajwa, Benea, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudry, Collymore, Conneely, Crabb, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Fraser, Gbajumo, Grahl, Hack, Hirani, Johnson, Kabir, Kansagra, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Long, Mahmood, Maurice, Miller, Mistry, Mitchell, Moeen, Molloy, Nerva, M.Patel, Rajan Seelan, Rubin, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Southwood and Tatler.

Abstentions to the Amendment (2): Councillors Hylton (Mayor) and Dar (Deputy Mayor).

The voting recorded on the substantive recommendations, as detailed above, was as follows:

For (45): Councillors Aden, Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Akram, Bajwa, Benea, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudry, Collymore, Conneely, Crabb, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Fraser, Gbajumo, Grahl, Hack, Johnson, Kabir, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Long, Mahmood, Miller,

Mitchell, Moeen, Molloy, Nerva, M.Patel, Rajan Seelan, Rubin, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Smith, Southwood and Tatler

Against (7): Councillors Georgiou, Hirani, Kansagra, Lorber, Martin, Maurice, & Mistry.

Abstentions (2): Councillors Hylton (Mayor) and Dar (Deputy Mayor).

Prior to moving on to deal with the remaining items on the agenda, the Mayor advised that as the remaining time available for the meeting was shortly due to expire she intended to move the suspension of Standing Order 44 (Council Guillotine Procedure) in order to extend the time of the meeting initially by a period of 10 minutes to enable consideration of the remaining items to be dealt with. In accordance with Standing Order 42 (d) the procedural motion was put to the vote without further discussion and declared **CARRIED**.

11. **Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2023-2024**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Tatler, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform, to introduce the report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources updating members on Treasury Management activity for the first half of the 2023-24 financial year. Members noted that the report had also been considered and agreed by the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on 6 December 2023 and Cabinet on 15 January 2024 who had agreed to refer it on to Council for consideration in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

In introducing the report, Councillor Tatler outline the importance of the Council's Treasury Management function in underpinning all Borough Plan priorities and in ensuring the Council was able to continue meeting its financial obligations including those associated with the affordability and delivery of the Capital Programme. Whilst recognising the impact of the current economic challenges in terms of interest rates and inflation this had, she pointed out, also provided opportunities in terms of benefits arising from higher investment income and new longer term borrowing options with the strategy aimed at achieving an appropriately low risk balance between securing lower interest costs and achieving cost certainty without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Tatler for introducing the report and then invited contributions from other members.

In responding to the report, Councillor Lorber highlighted the complexities involved in terms of overall management of the strategy given the current economic challenges and trends identified, which he felt also required consideration moving forward in terms of the potential impact any change in Government nationally may have on tax and borrowing requirements.

As no other members indicated they wished to speak the Mayor invited Councillor Tatler to exercise her right of reply. In closing the debate, Councillor Tatler advised members of the opportunity already provided to seek further details on the longer-term focus of the strategy as part of its consideration by the Audit & Standards

Advisory Committee and on this basis, commended the report as submitted to the Council.

Having thanked Councillor Tatler for closing the debate, the Mayor then put the recommendations in the report to the vote and they were declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED** to note the 2023-24 Mid-Year Treasury report in compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Prudential Indicators and CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code).

12. **Members' Allowance Scheme Annual Review 2024 -25**

As the final item of business to be considered, the Mayor invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, to introduce the report from the Corporate Director of Governance which sought approval to the proposed Members Allowance Scheme for the 2024-25 financial year.

In introducing the report, the Leader outlined the background to the proposed uplift in the level of basic, special responsibility and civic allowances for 2024-25, which members were advised had been designed to take account of the latest review completed in 2023 by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on behalf of London Councils and their initial review in 2022. In recognising the importance of the representational role undertaken by members alongside the increasing challenge in terms of managing demand and supporting the delivery of local services, the proposals had also sought to ensure any uplift could be managed within the existing Members Allowance budget, given the current financial pressures faced by the Council, which he advised had resulted in a recommended uplift of 5% in basic allowance for 2024-25, comparable with the staff pay award.

As part of the annual review, members were advised that the current level of Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) had also been reviewed in line with the IRP recommendations, with a limited number of existing SRAs subsequently identified as falling outside of the recommended percentage bands for those allowances. As a result of this and the increased workload and scope of the respective roles affected, the Leader advised that the review was also proposing an uplift in SRAs for the Chairs of the Brent Connect Area Consultative Forums and also members of the Licensing Committee. As a final comment in presenting the proposals to members, the Leader advised that despite recognising the independence of the IRP review process he would be keen to support the establishment of a fully independent review and allowance setting mechanism for local authorities across England that would be responsible for final decisions on the setting of member allowances rather than these being matters for individual authorities to consider, having taken account of the relevant IRP review.

Prior to inviting contributions from other members on the report, the Mayor advised that as the remaining time available for the meeting was shortly due to expire she would be moving a further suspension of Standing Order 44 (Council Guillotine Procedure) in order to extend the time of the meeting by another 10 minutes in order to enable the conclusion of the debate on this item and closure of the meeting. In accordance with Standing Order 42 (d) the procedural motion was put to the vote without further discussion and declared **CARRIED**.

The Mayor then moved on to invite contributions from other members.

In response to the proposals outlined, both Councillor Kansagra (as Leader of the Conservative Group) and Councillor Georgiou (as Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group) highlighted concerns in relation to the justification provided and appropriateness of seeking an uplift in the specific SRAs outlined in the report based on the limited detail provided and also current arrangements for chairing the Brent Connect Area Consultative Forums, with further benchmarking against comparative rates also identified as required.

As no other members indicated they wished to speak the Mayor invited Councillor M.Butt to exercise his right of reply. In response to the concerns identified and in closing the debate, the Leader once again highlighted that the proposals in relation to SRAs had been designed to bring those specific allowances in line with the IRPs recommended percentage bands whilst also reflecting the increase in scope and workload for both roles with reference made to the increase in range and number of Licensing Sub Committees alongside the enhanced role of the Connect Area Consultative Forum Chairs in relation to neighbourhood level engagement and new approach towards community grants. On this basis, he ended by commending the report as submitted to Council.

Having thanked Councillor M.Butt for closing the debate, the Mayor then put the recommendations in the report to the vote and they were declared **CARRIED** (with all members of the Conservative Group and Liberal Democrats Group voting against).

Council therefore **RESOLVED**:


- (1) To approve the Members Allowance Scheme in the proposed terms set out within the report for the 2024-25 Financial Year.
- (2) To authorise the Corporate Director of Governance to comply with the statutory requirements to publicise the Council's Members' Allowance Scheme.

13. **Urgent Business**

There were no urgent items of business raised at the meeting so the Mayor, in closing the meeting, thanked all members for their co-operation and support and advised that she looked forward to seeing everyone again in person at the next Full Council which would be the Annual Council and Mayor Making meeting on Wednesday 22 May 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

COUNCILLOR ORLEEN HYLTON
Mayor

	Annual Council Meeting 22 May 2024
	Report from the Corporate Director of Law & Governance
Annual Review of the Constitution	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	One Appendix 1: Proposed amendments to the Constitution
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Debra Norman Corporate Director of Law & Governance Tel: 0208 937 1578 Debra.norman@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1. This report proposes changes to the Constitution arising out of the annual review of its provisions and operation. In addition to various updating and clarifying changes, the report proposes changes to reflect a recent re-alignment of directorate and changes to Cabinet portfolios.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 To agree the changes to the Constitution set out in Appendix 1

2.2 To note that the list of cabinet members and portfolio holders in Part 1 of the Constitution will be updated to reflect the appointments of, and allocation of functions to, Cabinet Members by the Leader.

2.3 To authorise the Corporate Director of Law & Governance to amend the Constitution, accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

2.4 To note that, to the extent that the changes relate to executive functions of the Council, they have been approved by the Leader.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to the Borough Plan and Strategic Priorities

3.1.1 Ensuring the Constitution is kept up to date and supportive of good governance contributes to the delivery of all of the strategic priorities within the Borough Plan by supporting and enhancing the Council's activity.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 A review of the provisions of the Constitution and its operation over the year is undertaken each year in the period leading up to the Annual Meeting to ensure the Constitution remains up to date and fit for purpose. The changes proposed this year are set out in Appendix 1 and described below.

3.2.2 Changes to reflect the realignment of directorates appear throughout the document and are not all included in the appendix as they are mostly job title and directorate/department names changes. Section 9.4 in Part 3 of the Constitution (Responsibility for functions) which contains the description of which functions sit with which Corporate Director and their directorate will be amended to read as follows:

The Chief Executive, and Corporate Directors listed below shall have responsibility for the following general and related areas:-

(a) **Chief Executive:**

Head of Paid Service. Managerial leadership of the Council including responsibility for overall corporate management and operational responsibility for all staff. Providing and securing of advice to the Council, and councillors, on strategy and policy. Acting in an executive capacity by making decisions or ensuring a system is in place for other officers to make decisions, as authorised by the Council. Delivering probity, value for money and continuous improvement. Acting as Returning Officer for General, Greater London Authority and Local elections.

(b) **Corporate Director, Community Health and Wellbeing:**

Adult Social Services, community services, direct services and client affairs, adult physical disability, learning disability, mental health services, services to older people, safeguarding adults, emergency duty team, asylum, reablement, adult social care complaints, commissioning and quality, support planning and review, any other function listed in Schedule 1 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 (not delegated to the Corporate Director, Children and Young People), strategic

commissioning and procurement, health partnerships, health inequalities and Public Health. Leisure centres, sport and physical activity.

(c) **Corporate, Director Children and Young People:**

Statutory Director of Children's Services, school effectiveness service, outdoor education, pupil referral units, education tuition service, parent partnership service, exclusion teams, education welfare service, behaviour support, SEN assessment service, SEN transport, education psychology, youth and 16-19 education, employment, family support, education, and schools organisation, child protection, safeguarding, children's social care, adoption, fostering, placements, children with disabilities and all functions of the Local Authority not reserved to members including but not limited to early years education and school places, education and training provision for young people. Commissioning of education related capital build projects.

(d) **Corporate Director, Finance and Resources:**

Statutory s151 officer, finance, capital programme management, direct delivery of capital build projects, payroll and pensions, property and facilities management, the energy team, health and safety, IT/digital shared services, audit, investigations, insurance and emergency planning.

(e) **Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration:**

Regulatory services, street naming and numbering, employment and skills (including adult and community education), environmental health, licensing, street trading, trading standards, contaminated land, pollution control, food safety and pest control. Caretaking services on housing estates. Licensing. Public realm, transportation, highways, parking, street lighting, waste management and recycling, refuse and street cleansing, environment, CCTV monitoring. Parks, open spaces. Regeneration, urban renewal, economic development, environmental infrastructure services, statutory land use, planning, development and building control and land charges. Strategic housing, housing partnerships, wholly owned housing companies, housing regeneration, affordable housing development.

(f) **Corporate Director, Law and Governance**

Statutory Monitoring Officer, SIRO, legal services, human resources, organisational development, governance, scrutiny, electoral services, Mayoral support, complaints, Executive Support to Corporate Management Team.

(g) **Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Residents Services:**

Nationality service, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, cemeteries and customer services. Revenue and benefits. Private sector housing, housing management and neighbourhood management (not including

caretaking services). ASB, nuisance and crime. Community safety and Prevent. Making all Public Spaces Protection Order under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 Act in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities & Public Protection. Housing needs. Mortuary. Communications, conference and events, assets of community value and partnerships. Cultural services (including arts, libraries, museums and archives and the London Borough of Culture legacy). Insight and innovation. Data protection and freedom of information. Community engagement and equalities. Corporate planning, policy and performance. Climate resilience. Insight, innovation, data and digital transformation.

3.3 Changes to Part 1 – Introduction

Cabinet portfolios

- 3.3.1 The list of cabinet members and portfolio holders in Part 1 of the Constitution will be updated to reflect the appointments of, and allocation of functions to, Cabinet Members by the Leader.

3.4 Changes to Part 2 – Procedural Rules

Standing Order 41 Motions

- 3.4.1 A review has been undertaken of the current arrangements for Group Motions under Standing Order 41.
- 3.4.2 Currently the Constitution provides for four Group Motion to be considered during a 40 minute timeslot. Two Group Motions can be submitted by the Labour Group and one each by the other two groups.
- 3.4.3 These Motions are the final item on the agenda at ordinary council meetings (other than the budget setting meeting) after the items involving the public, presentations by the Chairs of Scrutiny and Audit & Standards Committee, Cabinet reports and Question Time and business items.
- 3.4.5 Following discussion at the Constitutional Working Group (CWG) it is proposed that Standing Order 41 Motions be brought earlier in the agenda to be considered as item (k) after public deputations, questions and petitions.
- 3.4.6 In addition the following changes are proposed:
- To clarify in Standing Orders 28 and 42 the existing practice that amendments to be proposed to the budget are required to be received in Democratic Services by 5pm the day before the budget setting meeting.
 - To clarify in Standing Order 42 that a “point of order” is confined to an assertion that a breach of Standing Orders or of the law has occurred.

- To remove the requirement in Standing Order 76 that a report must be received by the General Purposes Committee following an interim appointment setting out the planned permanent recruitment process. This is an unusual provision and has not been found to be helpful. The requirement to report to the committee if there is to be a recommendation that an interim appointment continue beyond a year will remain.

3.5 Changes to Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions

- 3.5.1 The Deputy Director of Democratic Services is proposed to be designated as the Statutory Scrutiny Officer following the transfer of the scrutiny support function to that department.

3.6 Changes to Part 4 - Terms of Reference

- 3.6.1 The membership of the Audit & Standards advisory Committee is amended to allow for the appointment of up to 4 co-opted independent members. This means in future there will be two Finance focused co-opted members (the Chair and one other) and 2 Standards focussed co-opted members.
- 3.6.2 The terms of reference of the General Purposes Committee are amended to specifically include approval of polling places and stations. This is presently covered by provision for the committee to be responsible for all non-executive functions not otherwise allocated.

3.7 Changes to Part 5 – Codes and Protocols

- 3.7.1 Changes are proposed to the Local Code of Corporate Governance to bring it up to date.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The proposed changes have been discussed at the Constitutional Working Group.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 None

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 These are contained in the body of the report.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council has a duty when exercising its functions to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not.

This is the public sector equality duty. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

7.2 “Due regard” is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances. The weight to be attached to the effect is a matter for the council. As long as the council is properly aware of the effects and has taken them into account, the duty is discharged. Depending on the circumstances, regard should be had to the following:

- the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision;
- the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- the need to take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes taking account of disabled persons’ disabilities. There can be a positive duty to take action to help a disabled person. What matters is how they are affected, whatever proportion of the relevant group of people they might be;
- the need to encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life (or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low); and
- the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

7.3 No EDI implications arise directly from this report.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 None

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 None

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 None

Report sign off:

Debra Norman
Corporate Director of Law & Governance

Appendix

PART 2 - Procedural Rules

BRENT COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

.....

28 Council Tax Setting

- (f) Any amendment proposed to be moved to the recommendations in the report under (c) above must be set out in writing to the Deputy Director of Democratic Services by 5.00pm on the previous working day.

30 Ordinary Meetings

- (h)
Deputations
To enable deputations by Members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 32.
- (i) Questions from members of the public
To enable questions from members of the public to be put to members of the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 33.
- (j) Petitions
To enable members to reference petitions received and for there to be a debate on a petition which attracts more than 200 signatures in accordance with the Council's petition rules and Standing Order 66.
- (k) Motions
To debate Motions selected by the groups in accordance with Standing Order 41
- (l) Annual report ~~from the Leader~~ on the borough under Standing Order 38 (if applicable)
To receive an annual report on the borough from the Leader in accordance with Standing Order 38.

.....

41 Motions

- (a) Members may put motions to council. No motion may exceed 500 words in length.
- (b) A maximum of 4 motions will be put to Council at any one meeting (two by the administration group and one by each of the opposition group) which will be debated.

42 Rules Of Debate For Meetings of Full Council

(a)* Any motion or amendment to a motion may be moved without notice (except as provided in Standing Order 28 and Standing Order 41) but must relate to an item of business specified in the summons for the meeting.

(i) A member may rise to raise a point of order or make a personal explanation. A point of order shall be confined to an assertion that a breach of these Standing Orders or of the law has occurred. ~~but a~~ personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by the member at the same meeting, which may have been misunderstood. A member so rising shall be entitled to be heard forthwith.

STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO STAFF

76 Interim and fixed term appointments to Senior Management posts

- (i) Decisions to appoint to Senior Management Posts as defined in Standing Order 75(b) (ii) – (v) which are not permanent appointments but are interim appointments or fixed term contracts for less than one year be made by the Chief Executive.
- (ii) ~~Upon appointment to a post as defined in Standing Order 75(b) (ii) – (v) on an interim or fixed term basis the Chief Executive shall inform the General Purposes Committee setting out the process for selection and the timescales for a permanent appointment.~~
- ~~(iii)~~ The General Purposes Committee shall be informed of any recommendation for an extension of the interim arrangements beyond a year to a post defined in Standing Order 75(b) (ii) – (v).
- (iii) Any interim appointment to the post of Director of Public Health shall be in accordance with (i) – (iii) above.
- (iv) The appointment of an Interim Chief Executive shall be considered by a sub-committee of General Purposes Committee which shall include the Leader, Deputy Leader and a Leader of an opposition party as decided by the Leader.

PART 4 - TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

AUDIT AND STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1 MEMBERSHIP

- The committee comprises 7 non-executive councillors and up to ~~4~~3 voting co-opted members, one of whom will be the Chair of the committee.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Membership

Terms of Reference

9. To agree changes to polling districts, places and stations.

PART 5 - CODES AND PROTOCOLS

LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

INTRODUCTION

Each local authority operates through a governance framework. The governance framework is an interrelated system that brings together an underlying set of legislative requirements, standards of behaviour, and management processes.

Good governance means that the way a local authority operates is based on sound and transparent decision making with an effective process to support this; acting in the public interest at all times.

This Code sets out the Council's governance framework. It is based on Guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy ('CIPFA') and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives ('SOLACE') guidance entitled Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition.

There are seven core principles and further supporting principles identified by CIPFA/SOLACE which underpin and inform the way in which a local authority should perform its services and other functions. These principles inform the Council's governance framework, the Local Code of Corporate Governance and the standards by which the Council is audited.

The principles and standards set out below in this Code reflect those set out by the current CIPFA/SOLACE Guidance.

1. BEHAVING WITH INTEGRITY, DEMONSTRATING STRONG COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL VALUES, AND RESPECTING THE RULE OF LAW

The Constitution sets out how the council operates, how decisions are made and the policies which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. The Constitution comprises six parts which set out the basic rules for governing the council's business, as well as detailed procedures and codes of practice.

The Constitution is regularly reviewed. The Constitution sets out the responsibilities of both members and officers. In particular the council has identified the following six statutory posts:

Legislation	Statutory Post	Officer
S4 Local Government and Housing Act 1989	Head of Paid Service	Chief Executive
Section 151 Local Government Act 1972	Section 151	Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
S5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989	Monitoring Officer	Corporate Director of <u>Law & Governance</u>
S18 Children Act 2004	Director of Children's Services	Corporate Director Children and Young People
S6 Local Authority Social Services Act 1972	Director of Adult Social Services	Director Adult Social Care

Health and Director of Public Health Social Care Act 2012	Health and Director of Public Health Social Care	Director of Public Health
---	--	---------------------------

- A Scheme of Delegation sets out the powers delegated to officers as part of the Constitution. The Financial Regulations are also part of the Constitution, together with this Code of Corporate Governance and the Contract Standing Orders. The Constitution is reviewed regularly, with all changes (other than minor variations which may be made by the Monitoring Officer) approved by the Council and published on the external website.
- The Members' Code of Conduct is set out in the Constitution, together with other codes. These are kept under review and updated if necessary. The council has an Audit and Standards Committee and an Audit and Standards Advisory Committee to deal with member conduct issues and these Committees are politically balanced and consist of five members and, in respect of the latter, independent or co-opted members too. Independent Persons have also been appointed in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and have an important role to play in respect of specific complaints. The standards remit of these Committees is supported by the Monitoring Officer. There is a register of member interests and gifts and hospitality.
- All councillors receive training on the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and related issues. Monitoring Officer Advice Notes give advice to members on decision making and standards of conduct.
- All staff, in particular managers, are responsible for ensuring that laws and regulations are complied with and that the authority's policies are implemented in practice. Corporate Directors, Directors and Heads of Service are responsible for monitoring implementation of the council's policies.
- The Council has a number of key governance related policies. Officers are made aware of their responsibilities through general communications, such as Weekly Round Up, manager briefings, staff events and via the induction process.

2. ENSURING OPENNESS AND COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- The ~~Communities—Neighbourhoods~~ and Regeneration ~~Department—Directorate~~ is responsible for supporting some statutory local partnership arrangements (i.e. the Health and Wellbeing Board, -Safeguarding Adults Board and Children's Trust) and some non statutory partnerships such as Partners for Brent. The Strategic Partnerships Team co-ordinates a broad range of collaborative activities, which stem from the Council's engagement with local public, private and voluntary sector organisations.
- Partners for Brent is an advisory body which facilitates wider involvement and engagement in the delivery of public services. The Partners for Brent Strategic Forum is made up of eight organisations including the Met Police, NHS partners and CVS.
- At a ~~service area~~Department level, the objectives of partnerships are documented in the Service Plans and within contract documentation. They are then reflected in staff's individual objectives.
- Commitments to deliver against our responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity feature strongly in the Council's Borough Plan. Regard to equality, diversity and human rights duties is embedded in the budget setting and business planning process, and templates for each require that officers and members take into consideration in an appropriate manner the equality, diversity and human rights impacts of proposed decisions. The Council's approach is to embed equality and diversity within all of its work

so that equality considerations are part of day-today management. During 2024 a new officer board, the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Board has been established to oversee the council's EDI related activities and to ensure progress is being made.

3. DEFINING OUTCOMES IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- The Council has a Borough Plan for the period of 2023-2027 agreed by the Cabinet and Full Council. This document includes the corporate objectives of the Council and our shared partnerships priorities with other public agencies. Key performance indicators which relate to the priorities in the plan are monitored on a quarterly basis and reported to CMT and the Cabinet. The Borough Plan references other key relevant documents, including the following:
 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
 - Equality Strategy;
 - Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy;
 - the Black Community Action Plan, and
 - the Poverty Commission Delivery Plan
- The priorities of the Borough Plan are regularly set out in The Brent Magazine, its website, press releases and targeted campaigns. Service priorities are extensively consulted on with users and other relevant stakeholders. Departmental-Directorate Service Plans are discussed annually with Lead Members prior to finalisation.

4. DETERMINING THE INTERVENTIONS NECESSARY TO OPTIMISE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INTENDED- OUTCOMES

- We are seeking to build on the successes achieved to-date in transforming the Council and the Borough while developing a much sharper focus on services designed around the individual and creating better outcomes for those residents with complex circumstances. We are directing our resources towards priorities which will have a more significant impact in improving local people's opportunities and life chances. Our approach is intended to facilitate much closer cross council and inter-agency working on common themes and address the big issues affecting the future of the borough. A programme of activity is in place to support delivery of this vision with reports on progress provided regularly to CMT and elected councillors.
- The Cabinet consider risks as part of their decision making role on corporate policies, including the annual budget setting processes, major policy decisions and major projects. The Corporate Management Team review corporate risks through regular monitoring reports. Risks are identified within Service Plans and considered on a regular basis within departmentDirectorateal management teams and key operational risks are reported through to the Corporate Management Team.

5. DEVELOPING THE ENTITY'S CAPACITY, INCLUDING THE CAPABILITY OF ITS LEADERSHIP AND THE INDIVIDUALS WITHIN IT

- A full member learning and development programme is in place and there is a comprehensive induction programme for all councillors within the first few weeks of their election to office. Training on the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors is compulsory. The council has adopted specific codes of conduct for councillors involved in planning or licensing decision-making and these councillors receive additional training in these areas as a pre-condition of their participation. A bespoke annual learning and development

programme is provided for Councillors appointed as Members or Substitutes on the Scrutiny, Planning and Licensing committees.

- There is a corporate induction programme in place for staff, which is largely e-learning based, and one for new managers, supplemented by various internal training courses. Within the New Manager Essential Programme the key objectives are for delegates to understand the roles and responsibilities (core standards and expectations) of the Brent Manager and the Management competencies. Key information and policies are highlighted to new staff and managers and held on the intranet.
- A Strategic change programme has recently been adopted, designed to harness our strengths, focus our ambitions, and ensure that as an organisation we improve and evolve to tackle current and emerging challenges in meeting the needs of our local communities. The Change Programme is about the key cross-cutting enablers that form the building blocks of an effective organisation and will drive our operating model in the future. And at the heart, it is about how we will do things going forward, with a focus on developing a culture that enables us to work much more collaboratively with each other, with partners, and, crucially, with our residents, establishing a real sense of place. The change programme is organised into the following eight workstreams:
 - Organisational culture and workforce strategy
 - Strategic Partnerships
 - Community power and resilience
 - Place making
 - Strategic Commissioning and capacity building
 - Digital and Data
 - Property and assets
 - Customer Access

4.
6.

MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Decision making arrangements are set out in the Constitution. The Council operates a Leader and Cabinet model of decision making. Although some decisions are reserved for Full Council, most are made by the Cabinet, individual cabinet members or by committees, sub-committees or officers.
- All forthcoming Key decisions by Cabinet are published in the Council's Forward plan and published every month on the Council's website.
- Reports and minutes of meetings are also published on the council's website and are available through the Libraries. This includes urgent decisions, which are reported to the next formal meeting of Cabinet.
- The council has an Audit and Standards Advisory Committee which meets approximately 6 times during the year, and considers the findings of the council's annual governance review and recommends approval of the Annual Governance Statement by the Audit and Standards Committee in advance of approval of the annual statement of account. It also advises on member standards issues.
- The Audit and Standards Advisory Committee, has been established to enhance the effectiveness of the Audit and Standards Committee, with clear terms of reference and an annual work programme to consider and advise on internal audit and risk management. This enables the independent Members to be equal voting members of the committee.

Formatted: Normal, No bullets or numbering, Tab stops:
Not at 1.27 cm

- The Audit and Standards Committee meets at least twice a year to approve the Annual Governance Statement and the annual statement of accounts.
- The Council maintains an Internal Audit service that operates in accordance with the published internal audit standards expected of a local authority in the United Kingdom. The Head of Internal Audit (now the Deputy Director, Organisational Assurance and Resilience) has direct access to the Chief Executive, the Section 151 Officer, ~~and~~ the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee and ~~now~~ the Chair of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee.
- The council has established a counter fraud team to ensure a systematic, disciplined approach to investigation, evaluating and improving the effectiveness of fraud prevention and detection and the subsequent prosecution of individuals and organisations where appropriate.
- Robust business continuity management arrangements exist within the council, with all critical services having business continuity plans in place.
- The Council has a three year Medium Term Financial Strategy, which is reviewed and updated annually as part of the budget setting process to support the achievement of the council's corporate priorities. The budget and policy framework outlines the process and timetable to be followed each year when setting the council's budget. The financial management framework includes regular budget monitoring reports to ~~departmental directorate~~ management teams, ~~Corporate Management Team~~ Corporate Management Team and Cabinet.

7. IMPLEMENTING GOOD PRACTICES IN TRANSPARENCY, REPORTING, AND AUDIT TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

- The statutory Forward Plan is published monthly on the internet, and details all key decisions proposed to be made by the council during the relevant period. Any key decision which is not on the Forward Plan may not be taken within that period, unless the report author is able to demonstrate to the Monitoring Officer and relevant members that urgency procedure requirements are met and, where required under Standing Orders, appropriate agreement of the Chief Executive or the relevant Chair of Scrutiny is obtained. All urgent decisions taken are monitored by the Monitoring Officer and regular reports taken to Full Council.
- Members are required to make sound decisions based on written reports which are prepared in accordance with the report writing guide and have to be cleared by both Finance and Legal. The Cabinet receives a briefing concerning the most important up-coming decisions at the Policy Co-ordination Group, (which is the Cabinet's regular meeting with the Corporate Management Team, and Leader's Briefing) three weeks prior to the Cabinet meeting when members can ask detailed technical questions of officers about those issues and other matters due to be determined by Cabinet. All reports must be reviewed and signed-off by or on behalf of the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources and the Corporate Director of Law & Governance and contain clear financial and legal advice to help members arrive at decisions.
- In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council has mechanisms in place to allow the effective, independent and rigorous examination of the proposals and decisions by the Cabinet. These mechanisms involve the Scrutiny process including call-in. The conduct of the Council's business is governed by the Constitution, which includes Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

- All members and chief officers are required to complete an annual statement relating to third party transactions and a register of members' interests, which is updated by members, is maintained and published on the Council's website.
- The Brent Council Code of Conduct for Members, revised in 2022²⁴, defines the standards of conduct expected of elected representatives, based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- In addition, the following codes, protocols and systems are well established within the council. All are regularly reviewed and updated to account for developments in governance arrangements and changes in local government.

These include:

- A declaration of interest process for members and senior officers as described above;
- Rules and protocols are in place and are being further developed for all partnership working;
- Organisation-wide performance appraisal and employee development schemes are in operation;
- There is a corporate complaints procedure in place in line with Ombudsman good practice requirements;
- Whistle-blowing, anti-fraud and anti-corruption / bribery policies are in place and publicised in compliance with the national transparency agenda; senior officers' remuneration is published on the council website.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND REPORTING

Each year the council will carry out a review of the governance arrangements measured against this Code and the principles set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework to ensure compliance with this Code, and the delivery of good governance within the local government framework and current good practice. The purpose of the review will be to provide assurance that governance arrangements are good and operating effectively and to identify any action required to improve effective governance in the future.

The outcome of the review will take the form of an Annual Governance Statement prepared on behalf of the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive in accordance with the timetable for the preparation of the annual accounts. The findings of the review will be considered by the officers who make up the council's Assurance Board (the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer, the s151 officer and the Deputy Director, Organisational Assurance and Resilience) and the Corporate Management Team and then submitted to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee and then the Audit and Standards Committee for consideration in accordance with the Audit and Accounts Regulations 2015. This requires findings of the review of the system of internal control to be considered by a committee, or by members of the council meeting as whole and that the Annual Governance Statement be approved by resolution of a committee, or members of the council meeting as a whole in advance of approving the statement of accounts.

The Governance Framework consists of a range of documents, policies and procedures developed, maintained and promoted by a number of different ~~department~~Directorates which are published and promoted to members, officers and others by publication on the council's website.

This Code will be reviewed annually and when any new CIPFA/SOLACE guidance is issued.

PART 6 - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Sickness Pay

13. (1) A Councillor shall continue to receive in full a basic allowance as set out in Schedule 1 of this Scheme during any period of maternity, paternity, adoption and sickness leave.
- (2) Councillors giving birth are entitled to up to six months maternity leave with the option to extend up to 52 weeks with the approval of the Chief Executive following consultation with the Chief Whip, where applicable. Maternity leave can begin:
- (a) When the councillor chooses but no earlier than 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth, or
- (b) from the day following childbirth if the baby is born earlier
- (3) A Councillor entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance during any period of maternity, paternity, adoption and sickness leave in the same way that the Council's employees enjoy such benefits.
- (4) If another Councillor is appointed to cover the period of absence, the replacement will be entitled to receive the same allowance. In accordance with paragraph 3.3 of this scheme, no Councillor shall receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance.
- ~~(5)~~ Councillors wanting to take paternity leave must offer a declaration in writing that specifies the start day or date of the period of leave and its duration. If the child(ren) is born on a different date, the Council must be given notice of the changed period of parental leave as soon as possible.
- ~~(6)~~ Councillors shall be entitled to take up to 2 weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth or adoption of their child(ren).
- ~~(7)~~ Paternity leave can be taken as either:
(a) a single period of leave of either one week or two weeks, or
(b) two non-consecutive periods of leave of a week each
- ~~(8)~~ Councillors can take their paternity leave any time in the 52 weeks after the birth or adoption of their child(ren).
- ~~(9)~~ A Councillor who has made Shared Parental Leave arrangements is requested to advise the Council of these at the earliest possible opportunity. Every effort will be made to replicate the Council's staff policy in terms of leave as far as practicable with the approval of the Chief Executive following consultation with the Chief Whip, where applicable.
- ~~(10)~~ Where both parents are Councillors, leave may be shared up to a maximum of 24 weeks for the first six months and 26 weeks for any leave agreed thereafter, up to a maximum of 50 weeks. Special and exceptional arrangements may be made in cases of prematurity with the approval of the Chief Executive following consultation with the Chief Whip, where applicable.
- ~~(11)~~ If an election is held during the Member's maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic allowance and SRA if appropriate will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

*Where adoption has taken place through an approved (domestic or overseas) adoption agency.

This page is intentionally left blank



Annual Council Meeting – 22 May 2024

Liberal Democrats Group amendment Agenda Item 7 - Annual Review of Constitution

1st Amendment to Standing Order 49 (Appointments to and chairs of Council Committees and Sub-Committees)

Democratic scrutiny is a pillar of healthy and functioning governance. To ensure it is effective there should be a clear separation between Councillors who lead Scrutiny Committees and the governing party in the borough.

Changes made by the current Labour Administration in Brent to the way the two Scrutiny Committees are chaired and Vice-Chairs are appointed have effectively locked Opposition Groups from having a meaningful say in the way scrutiny is led. This includes in the setting of the work programme for each of the Committees.

To ensure renewed confidence in the scrutiny process in the borough it is important that the two Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees in the borough are appointed from the Opposition Groups.

To safeguard the effectiveness and independence of Brent's Scrutiny Committees we therefore propose the following change to Standing Order 49 relating to the appointment of Chairs for the scrutiny function:

- (1) Standing Order 49 (ii) be amended to require that the Chairs of the existing Scrutiny Committees are Opposition Group appointments (in order to emphasise the independence of Scrutiny from the Executive).
- (2) That Standing Order 4 in Part 1 of the Constitution be waived in order to enable the above changes to come into immediate effect during the meeting.

Councillor Anton Georgiou
Leader of Liberal Democrats Group

This page is intentionally left blank



Annual Council Meeting – 22 May 2024

Liberal Democrats Group amendment Agenda Item 7 - Annual Review of Constitution

2nd amendment to Standing Order 49 (Appointments to and chairs of Council Committees and Sub-Committees) – should the first amendment moved by the Liberal Democrats on this item not be approved the following is proposed as an alternative:

- (1) Standing Order 49 (ii) be amended to require that the Vice-Chairs of the existing Scrutiny Committees are Opposition Group appointments (reverting to the previous arrangements for appointments to these positions)
- (2) That Standing Order 4 in Part 1 of the Constitution be waived in order to enable the above changes to come into immediate effect during the meeting.

Councillor Anton Georgiou
Leader of Liberal Democrats Group

This page is intentionally left blank

 <p>Brent</p>	<p>Annual Council Meeting 22 May 2024</p> <hr/> <p>Report from the Corporate Director Law & Governance</p>
<p>Representation of Political Groups on Committees</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix 1: Political Balance Rules
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Amira Nassr, Deputy Director Democratic Services Tel: 0208 937 5436 amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk James Kinsella, Governance & Scrutiny Manager, Democratic Services Tel: 020 8937 2063 james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report fulfils the Council’s duty to review and determine the representation of different political groups on certain committees at its Annual Meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 1.2 The current membership of the Council consists of 57 councillors, which has been used as the basis for the annual review. Following this review, the Council will then have a duty to make appointments (where necessary) to those committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats.

2.0 Recommendations

Full Council is asked:

- (1) To agree the size of each committee.
- (2) To agree (where the rules of political balance apply) the allocation of seats on committees to each of the Council's political groups as set out in the report.
- (3) To make appointments to those committees (as set out at Item 9 of this agenda) giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats; and
- (4) To note that the political balance on sub-committees will be reviewed at the first meeting of the General Purposes Committee and the Licensing Committee held following the Annual Meeting.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 The allocation of seats on each of the Council's committees to which the political balance rules apply supports delivery of the borough plan by enabling the Council's decision making bodies to operate transparently and effectively whilst also supporting and promoting confidence in the good governance of the council.

3.2 Background

Representation of Political Groups

- 3.2.1 The Council is required to review and determine the representation of different political groups on certain committees at, or as soon as practicable, after its Annual Meeting.
- 3.2.2 As soon as practicable after the review, the Council then has a duty to determine the allocation to the different political groups of all seats on the relevant committees. The allocation is determined by applying the "political balance rules" prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and supplemented by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. These rules are set out in Appendix 1 to this report and are designed to ensure that the political composition of the Council's decision-making and deliberative committees, as far as possible, replicates the political composition of Full Council. Subsequently, the Council has a duty to make appointments to those committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seat(s).
- 3.2.3 The Committees that the political balance rules apply to have similar duties in relation to any sub-committees they may have.
- 3.2.4 On the basis that the overall membership of the Council stands at 57, the composition of political groups as a percentage of overall membership is as follows:

- 49 Labour Group councillors – representing 85.97% of the total council membership;
- 5 Conservative Group councillors – representing 8.77% of the total council membership;
- 3 Liberal Democrat councillors – representing 5.26% of the total council membership.

3.2.5 According to the political balance rules, a political group for this purpose is a group of two or more members.

3.2.6 Table 1 below sets out the 5 ordinary committees of the Council to which the political balance rules apply; the size of each committee (excluding any non-voting co-opted committee members in accordance with the political balance rules); the total number of seats required to be allocated; the number of seats each political group is entitled to based on the number of group members.

3.2.7 There are a total of **38** ordinary committee seats to which the political balance requirements will formally apply. Based on the overall council membership, the breakdown regarding the proportion of seats each political group is therefore entitled to on these committees is as follows:

- Labour Group – 33 seats
- Conservative Group – 3 seats
- Liberal Democrat Group – 2 seats

3.2.8 This has resulted in one seat on each of the 5 ordinary committees to which the political balance rules apply, being allocated between the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups. The allocation of seats between Committees has been agreed between the respective Groups, with the proposed division as follows.

Table 1

Ordinary Committees	Size	Labour Group 49 85.97%	Conservative Group 5 8.77%	Liberal Democrats Group 3 5.26%
General Purposes Committee	8	7	0	1
Planning Committee	8	7	1	0
Audit & Standards Committee	7	6	1	0
Corporate Parenting Committee	5	4	1	0

Licensing Committee	10	9	0	1
Total seats	38	33	3	2
Entitlement (based on a proportion of total members)		33	3	2

3.2.9 There are other committees which the political balance rules apply to but only principles (a), (b) and (d) (see Appendix 1, paragraph 3). Namely, the existing Scrutiny Committees and the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.

3.2.10 Table 2 below confirms the size and make-up of these Committees, with the Conservative and Liberal Democrats groups both entitled (given the size of each committee) to be allocated a seat on both Scrutiny Committees.

Other Committees	Size	Labour Group	Conservative Group	Liberal Democrats Group
		49 85.97%	5 8.77%	3 5.26%
Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	11 (plus 4 voting co-opted members and 2 non-voting co-opted members)	9	1	1
Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	11	9	1	1
Audit & Standards Advisory Committee	7 (plus up to 3 voting co-opted members)	6	1	0

3.2.11 Subsequent to allocating seats, the Council has a duty to make appointments to the specified committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats. This review has not led to any change in the overall allocation of seats on Committees following the previous review undertaken at the Annual Council meeting in May 2023. The appointments to each

committee being made by the respective political groups will be set out within the report to be considered as Agenda Item 9.

- 3.2.12 The political balance rules do not apply to the Health and Wellbeing Board but it has been previously agreed that this Board comprise four Cabinet Members and one opposition Member and this will continue following this review, with the Conservative Group as the Principal Opposition Group allocated the available seat.

4. Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The proposed allocation of seats between Committees has been subject to consultation with each political group.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.2 There are no financial considerations arising directly from this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 These are addressed in the main body of the report.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising their functions to have 'due regard' to the need:

- a) To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity; and
- c) Foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.

- 7.2 This is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

- 7.3 The purpose of the duty is to enquire into whether a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision. Due regard is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances.

- 7.4 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report at this stage.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

- 8.1 None directly arising from this report.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

- 9.1 None directly arising from this report.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 None directly arising from this report.

Report sign off:

Debra Norman


Corporate Director Law &
Governance

Appendix 1

The political balance rules prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the Act') and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ('the 1990 Regulations')

1. The rules are that seats on relevant committees must be allocated to different political groups so far as reasonably practicable in accordance with the following four principles:
 - (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership;
 - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that each political group is allocated the same proportion of the total seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council as the proportion of the members of the Council that belong to that group; and
 - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that each political group is allocated the same proportion of the seats on each relevant body as the proportion of the members of the Council that belong to that group.
2. Principle (c) refers to "ordinary committees" which under the Act means those appointed under section 102(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, namely General Purposes Committee, Audit & Standards Committee, Corporate Parenting Committee, Planning Committee and Licensing Committee.
3. Principles (a), (b) and (d) apply to a "body" to which the Council makes appointments. The Act provides that the bodies to which this principle applies include ordinary committees (as defined above) and ordinary sub committees, advisory committees and sub-committees, and joint committees where at least 3 seats are filled by appointments made by the Council.
4. Principles (a), (b) and (d) therefore apply to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee. Strictly speaking, according to principle (b), the Labour Group is entitled to a majority of the seats on the Committee. However, to maintain the current size of the Committee, Full Council can depart from the rules provided no member votes against the proposal.
5. By virtue of the Local Government Act 2000, principles (a), (b) and (d) also apply to the Scrutiny Committees.
6. According to principle (c) above, the General Purposes Committee, Audit & Standards Committee, Corporate Parenting Committee, Planning Committee and Licensing Committee first have to be taken together to determine the *number* of seats that should be allocated to each group. Then, in accordance with paragraph (d) above, the number of seats each political group is entitled to has to be allocated proportionately to individual committees so far as possible.
7. The political balance principles do not apply to the London Councils' Joint Committees or the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee because only one appointment on each Committee is made by the Council.

This page is intentionally left blank

 Brent	Annual Council Meeting 22 May 2024
	Report from the Corporate Director Law & Governance

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	Four Appendix 1 – Appointments to Committees & Outside bodies Appendix 2 - Cabinet Appointments Appendix 3 - Appointments to be confirmed by General Purposes Committee Appendix 4 - Appointments to be confirmed by Licensing Committee NB: Members are asked to note that the full list of above appointments will be circulated in advance of the meeting.
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officers:	Amira Nassr, Deputy Director Democratic Services Tel: 0208 937 5436 amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk James Kinsella, Governance & Scrutiny Manager, Democratic Services Tel: 020 8937 2063 james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed appointment of members and co-opted members to allocated positions on the Council’s Committees, and Outside Bodies for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year. The positions have been allocated according to the political balance of the Council and in accordance with the rules on proportionality, which are the subject of a separate report listed as Item 8 on the agenda for this meeting.

- 1.2 The recommendations below set out where, in line with the Council's Constitution, Full Council approval for an appointment is needed and which appointments are subject to confirmation by a separate body, with these presented for information purposes.
- 1.3 It also sets out the proposed appointments of Chairs/Vice Chairs for these bodies for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 For Full Council to agree or confirm (as appropriate) the proposed appointments of Members, Co-Opted Members and substitutes to Council Committees and Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 (to be circulated in advance of the meeting) and section 3.2.4 of the report.
- 2.2 For Full Council to agree the proposed appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs to Council Committees as set out in Appendix 1 for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).
- 2.3 For Full Council to note the appointments:
- (a) notified by the Leader of the Council in relation to Cabinet and Cabinet Committees and their respective Chairs/Vice Chairs, as set out in Appendix 2 for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).
 - (b) to be confirmed by General Purposes Committee as set out in Appendix 3 for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).
 - (c) to be confirmed by Licensing Committee as set out in Appendix 4 for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 The appointments being made will support the delivery of the borough plan by enabling the Council's decision making bodies to function effectively whilst also supporting and promoting confidence in the operation and good governance of the council.

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 In accordance with Standing Order 27(i) of the Council's Constitution, the membership of Council Committees and other relevant bodies plus the appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs and substitute Members for these are matters requiring agreement at the Annual Council Meeting for the upcoming municipal year.

- 3.2.2 The appointments to Council Committees are to be made in line with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the Act') and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ('the 1990 Regulations') which set out how Committees must be constituted when a Council is divided into one or more political groups. Further detail on the political balance of the Council to meet these provisions has been detailed in the report 'Representation of Political Groups on Committees' which has been listed as Item 8 on the agenda for this meeting.
- 3.2.3 The appendices setting out the proposed appointment of councillors to relevant Committees and Outside Bodies will be circulated in advance of the meeting, following consultation with each political group.
- 3.2.4 Council is also asked to confirm the continuing appointment of:
- a. the Council's three existing Independent Persons - Julie Byrom, Mr William Goh and Mr Keir Hopley. The Independent Persons fulfil a statutory role and are appointed for the purpose of being consulted by the Monitoring Officer, the Audit & Standards Committee and members in relation to any Code of Conduct complaints. They would also form the Panel, should one need to be convened, in respect of the dismissal of one of the council's three statutory officers (Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and s151 Officer).
 - b. the existing independent co-opted members on the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee (Rhys Williams & Stephen Ross) who have a particular focus on Standards matters.
 - c. the existing co-opted members on the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Jane Noy (as a voting co-opted Parent Governor member), Venerable Archdeacon Catherine Pickford (as a voting co-opted member representing the Church of England Diocese), Alloysius Frederick (as a voting co-opted member representing the Roman Catholic Diocese) and Rachelle Goldberg (as a non-voting co-opted member representing Jewish Faith Schools) & Sayed Jaffar (as a non-voting co-opted member representing Muslim Faith Schools). Members are reminded that the Terms of Reference for Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee includes the consideration of matters "relating wholly or partly to any education functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet" with provision made (under Standing Order 50e) for its membership to include the above co-opted members positions with the voting rights applying only to matters relating to education functions.
- 3.2.5 As per Standing Order 51 (a) the Council may also appoint a pool of substitute members from which a member may be selected to speak and vote in the absence of a member of the Committee, provided that the substitute member is not already a member of the Committee. This Standing Order states that each pool shall be up to the number of members comprising membership of the Committee and be divided according to the political balance on the Committee, save that where a group has only one member on the Committee up to two

members may be appointed by that group to the pool. The list of appointments also include details of the substitute pool of members nominated.

3.2.6 For information purposes only:

- the appointments made by the Leader to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees have been set out in Appendix 2.
- the appointments to be confirmed by General Purposes and Licensing Committee have been detailed in Appendices 3 & 4 respectively.

4. Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 The nominations for appointments detailed within the appendices to the report have been submitted directly by each political group.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 Certain positions to which Members are appointed will attract a Special Responsibility Allowance, the costs of which are met from within the existing Members Allowance budget.

5.2 There are no other financial considerations arising directly from this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 As already highlighted, the appointments are due to be made in line with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising their functions to have 'due regard' to the need:

- a) To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity; and
- c) Foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.

7.2 This is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

7.3 The purpose of the duty is to enquire into whether a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision. Due regard is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances.

7.4 As the appointments process is the same for all Members, irrespective of their background, there are no equity, diversity or inclusion implications relating to the proposals within this paper. Implications from the individual recommendations being considered by each body will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 None directly arising from this report.

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Corporate Director Law & Governance

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1: Full Council Appointments - For approval by Annual Council

Council Committees

AUDIT & STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (7 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Independent Chair	David Ewart (31.07.25)
Labour	Chan (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Benea
Labour	Choudry
Labour	Kabir
Labour	Long
Labour	Molloy
Conservative	J.Patel
Independent Co-opted Members (Voting)	Rhys Jarvis (May 2027)
	Stephen Ross (May 2027)
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Agha
Labour	S.Butt
Labour	Chohan
Labour	Conneely
Labour	Ketan Sheth
Labour	Smith
Conservative	Kansagra
Conservative	Maurice

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE (7 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Chan (Chair)
Labour	Benea
Labour	Choudry
Labour	Kabir
Labour	Long
Labour	Molloy
Conservative	J.Patel
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Agha
Labour	S.Butt
Labour	Chohan
Labour	Conneely
Labour	Ketan Sheth
Labour	Smith
Conservative	Kansagra
Conservative	Maurice

COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (11 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ketan Sheth (Chair)
Labour	Fraser (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Aden
Labour	Afzal
Labour	Collymore
Labour	Ethapemi
Labour	Mahmood
Labour	Rajan-Seelan
Labour	Smith
Conservative	Mistry
Liberal Democrat	Lorber
Education Statutory Co-optees (Voting-Education matters only)	Jane Noy (Parent Governor)(May 2026) Alloysius Frederick (Roman Catholic Diocese)(May 2026) Venerable Archdeacon Catherine Pickford (CoE Diocese) (February 27)
Non-Voting Co-optees	Sayed Jaffar Milani (Muslim Faith Schools)(May 2026) Rachelle Goldberg (Jewish Faith Schools)(May 2026)
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Ahmadi Moghaddam
Labour	S.Butt
Labour	Conneely
Labour	Dixon
Labour	Kennelly
Labour	Long
Labour	Mitchell
Labour	Molloy
Labour	Shah
Conservative	Kansagra
Conservative	Maurice
Liberal Democrat	Georgiou
Liberal Democrat	Matin
CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (5 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Grahl (Chair)
Labour	Collymore
Labour	Dixon
Labour	Gbajumo
Conservative	Hirani
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Chappell
Labour	Conneely
Labour	Kennelly
Labour	Rubin
Conservative	Kansgara
Conservative	Mistry
COUNCIL TAX SETTING COMMITTEE (5 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated (usually Cabinet Members)	
Labour	M.Butt (Chair)
Labour	M.Patel (Vice Chair)
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Rubin
Conservative	Kansagra
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Farah
Labour	Grahl
Labour	Nerva
Labour	Tatler
Conservative	Maurice
Conservative	J.Patel

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE COMMITTEE (8 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated (usually Cabinet Members)	
Labour	M.Butt
Labour	M.Patel (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Nerva
Labour	Rubin
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Labour	Tatler
Liberal Democrat	Georgiou
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Afzal
Labour	Akram
Labour	Crabb
Labour	Farah
Labour	Grahl
Labour	Knight
Labour	Southwood
Liberal Democrat	Lorber
Liberal Democrat	Matin

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (5 Cllrs to be nominated)	
FULL Members Nominated (Cabinet Members)	
Labour	Nerva (Chair)
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Grahl
Labour	M.Patel
Conservative	Kansagra
Full Voting Members (Voting)	Jackie Allain (Brent ICB Partnership Executive)
	Dr Mohammad Haidar (Brent ICB Partnership Executive) (Vice-Chair)
	Robyn Doran (Brent ICB Partnership Executive)
	Simon Crawford (Brent ICB Partnership Executive)
	Cleo Chalk (Brent Healthwatch)
	Kim Wright (Chief Executive - Brent Council)
Full Members (Non-Voting)	Rachel Crossley (Corporate Director Care, Health & Wellbeing - Brent Council)
	Nigel Chapman (Corporate Director Children & Young People - Brent Council)
	Dr Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health - Brent Council)
	Claudia Brown (Director Adult Social Care - Brent Council)
	Basu Lamichaane (Residential & Nursing Sector)
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	M.Butt
Labour	Farah
Labour	Knight
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Conservative	Hirani
Conservative	Mistry

LICENSING COMMITTEE (10 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ahmed (Chair)
Labour	Long (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Bajwa
Labour	Chohan
Labour	Ethapemi
Labour	Hack
Labour	Hylton
Labour	Mahmood
Labour	Rajan-Seelan
Liberal Democrat	Lorber

PLANNING COMMITTEE (8 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Kelcher (Chair)
Labour	S.Butt (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Akram
Labour	Begum
Labour	Chappell
Labour	Dixon
Labour	Johnson
Conservative	J.Patel
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Agha
Labour	Bajwa
Labour	Crabb
Labour	Gbajumo
Labour	Mahmood
Labour	Mitchell
Labour	Rajan-Seelan
Conservative	Hirani
Conservative	Kansagra

RESOURCES AND PUBLIC REALM COMMITTEE (11 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Conneely (Chair)
Labour	Kennelly (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Ahmadi Moghaddam
Labour	S.Butt
Labour	Dixon
Labour	Long
Labour	Mitchell
Labour	Molloy
Labour	Shah
Conservative	Maurice
Liberal Democrat	Georgiou
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Aden
Labour	Afzal
Labour	Collymore
Labour	Ethapemi
Labour	Fraser
Labour	Mahmood
Labour	Rajan-Seelan
Labour	Ketan Sheth
Labour	Smith
Conservative	Kansagra
Conservative	J.Patel
Liberal Democrat	Lorber
Liberal Democrat	Matin

Council Joint Committees

NORTH WEST LONDON JOINT HEALTH AND OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ketan Sheth
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Fraser

LONDON COUNCILS LEADERS' COMMITTEE (s101 Joint Committee)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	M.Butt
Labour	M.Patel (Deputy)

LONDON COUNCILS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (Associated Joint Committee)	
Full Members Nominated	
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Labour	M.Butt (Deputy)
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson (Deputy)
Labour	M.Patel (Deputy)
Labour	Rubin (Deputy)

OTHER BODIES AND PANELS

FOSTERING PANEL	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Moeen

EMPLOYEES JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE	
FULL Members Nominated (Employers Side)	
Labour	M.Patel (Chair)
Labour	Ahmadi Moghaddam
Labour	Chan
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Grahl
Labour	Nerva
Labour	Rubin
Labour	Tatler
Employees Side Members	
GMB X 4 representatives	
UNISON x 4 representatives	
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Aden
Labour	Afzal
Labour	Agha
Labour	Bajwa
Labour	Conneely
Labour	Gbajumo
Labour	Rajan Seelan
Labour	Ketan Sheth

TRADING STANDARDS JOINT ADVISORY BOARD	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Krupa Sheth (Chair)
Labour	Crabb
Labour	Kennelly
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Chohan
Labour	Farah
Labour	Miller

WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ahmed
Labour	Dixon
Labour	Mitchell
Labour	Krupa Sheth (Lead)
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Agha
Labour	S.Butt
Labour	Farah
Labour	Mahmood

BRENT CONNECTS - HARLESDEN	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ethapemi (Chair)
Labour	Chappell (Vice-Chair)
BRENT CONNECTS - KILBURN	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Cllr Begum (Chair)
Labour	Gbajumo (Vice-Chair)

BRENT CONNECTS - KINGSBURY AND KENTON	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Mitchell (Chair)
Labour	Kabir (Vice-Chair)

BRENT CONNECTS - WEMBLEY	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Benea (Chair)
Labour	Hylton (Vice-Chair)

BRENT CONNECTS - WILLESDEN	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Choudry (Chair)
Labour	Long (Vice-Chair)

BRENT YOUTH PARLIAMENT	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Choudry (Co-Chair)
Labour	Ahmadi Moghaddam (Co-Chair)

SERVICE USER CONSULTATIVE FORUM - EQUALITY	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	M.Patel

SERVICE USER CONSULTATIVE FORUM - DISABILITY	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson

SERVICE USER CONSULTATIVE FORUM - PENSIONERS	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Collymore

SERVICE USER CONSULTATIVE FORUM - PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Ahmadi Moghaddam

SERVICE USER CONSULTATIVE FORUM - VOLUNTARY SECTOR	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Fraser

BRENT ACTIVE TRAVEL FORUM	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Mitchell

OUTSIDE BODIES

Open to Non-Cabinet

All Majority Party Only

Agreed Syllabus Conference (usually same membership as SACRE)	Johnson Mahmood Nerva
Capital Letters	M.Butt
Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	Ketan Sheth Nerva (Deputy)
Chalkhill Community Centre	Fraser
Chalkhill Community Trust Fund	Fraser Johnson
Edward Harvist Trust	Akram
First Wave Housing Board	S.Butt
Newable Ltd (Greater London Enterprise Board)	Tatler
Hillside Housing Trust	Knight
I4B Board	S.Butt
Lee Valley Regional Park	Krupa Sheth (30.06.2025)
Local Government Information Unit Members' Assembly	Nerva M.Patel (Deputy)
London Housing Consortium (in process of being disbanded)	Knight Farah (Deputy)
London Road Safety Council	Krupa Sheth Tatler (alternate)
Positive Ageing in London (formerly appointed to Age UK London)	Nerva Collymore
Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group	Crabb Nerva Southwood
Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London	Kennelly
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)	Johnson Mahmood Nerva
Willesden Consolidated Charities	Chappell Choudry Long Miller
Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) Planning Committee	Kelcher S.Butt (Deputy)
Brent District Scout Council	Choudry Long Miller
Young Brent Foundation	Grahl

OUTSIDE BODIES

Open to Cabinet Only

All Majority Party Only

	FULL Members Nominated
Local Government Association General Assembly	M.Butt
	M.Patel
	Krupa Sheth
	Tatler
London Councils Greater London Employment Forum	M.Butt
	M.Patel (Deputy)
Partners for Brent (Local Strategic Partnership)	M.Butt

Kiln Theatre	M.Patel
	Donnelly-Jackson
West London Alliance	M.Butt
West London Partnership	M.Butt
West London Waste Authority	Krupa Sheth
Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)	M.Butt
	Tatler (Deputy)
South Kilburn Trust	Rubin

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 2: For noting by Annual Council - Cabinet/Cabinet Committee/Executive Joint Committees Appointments

CABINET (Between 1-10 Full Members)	
Appointed by the Leader	
M.Butt	Leader
M.Patel	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources
Grahl	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools
Rubin	Cabinet Member for Employment, Innovation & Climate Action
Krupa Sheth	Cabinet Member for Environment & Enforcement
Nerva	Cabinet Member for Community Health & Wellbeing
Knight	Cabinet Member for Housing
Farah	Cabinet Member for Public Safety & Partnerships
Donnelly-Jackson	Cabinet Member for Resident Support & Culture
Tatler	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Growth
BARHAM PARK TRUST COMMITTEE (Currently 5 Full Members)	
Nominations by the Leader for approval by Cabinet.	
M.Butt (Chair)	
M.Patel (Vice-Chair)	
Donnelly-Jackson	
Farah	
Krupa Sheth	
Substitute Members nominated by the Leader for approval by Cabinet	
Grahl	
Knight	
Nerva	
Rubin	
Tatler	
JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON BOROUGHS OF BRENT, LEWISHAM AND SOUTHWARK (Currently 2 Full Members)	
Appointed by the Leader	
M.Patel (Lead)	
Rubin	
Substitute Members Appointed by the Leader	
M.Butt	
Donnelly-Jackson	
Grahl	
WEST LONDON ECONOMIC PROSPERITY BOARD (Currently 1 Full Member)	
Appointed by the Leader	
Tatler	
Substitute Members Appointed by the Leader	
M.Butt	
M.Patel	
LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE	
Appointed by the Leader	
Farah	
Donnelly-Jackson (Deputy)	
M.Patel (Deputy)	
LONDON LGPS CIV LTD	
Appointed by the Leader	
Johnson	
M.Patel	

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 3: For noting by Annual Council - Appointments to be made by General Purposes Committee

SENIOR STAFF APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE (5 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	M. Butt (Chair)
Labour	M.Patel (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Grahl
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Conservative	Kansagra
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Farah
Labour	Knight
Labour	Nerva
Labour	Rubin
Labour	Tatler
Conservative	Maurice
Conservative	Mistry
SENIOR STAFF APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (5 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	M. Butt (Chair)
Labour	M.Patel (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Grahl
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Conservative	Kansagra
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Farah
Labour	Knight
Labour	Nerva
Labour	Rubin
Labour	Tatler
Conservative	Maurice
Conservative	Mistry
BRENT PENSION FUND SUB-COMMITTEE (7 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Johnson (Chair)
Labour	Kennelly (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Ahmadi Moghaddam
Labour	Choudry
Labour	Crabb
Labour	Molloy
Conservative	Kansagra
Independent Co-Opted Members (Non-Voting)	Elizabeth Bankole (UNISON)
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Ethapemi
Labour	Dixon
Labour	Mahmood
Labour	Shah
Conservative	Maurice
Conservative	J.Patel
BRENT PENSION BOARD (2 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated (not to be members of Pension Fund Sub Committee)	
Labour	Kabir
Labour	Smith
Independent Chair	David Ewart (31.07.2025)
Full Members	Chris Bala (Pension Scheme Member)
	Bola George (Trade Union Member UNISON)
	Robert Wheeler (Trade Union Member GMB)
	Sunil Gandhi (Employer Member - Non Brent Council)
No provision included within Boards Terms of Reference for appointment of substitute Members	


This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 4: For noting by Annual Council - Appointments to be made by Licensing Committee

ALCOHOL & ENTERTAINMENT SUB COMMITTEE (3 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ahmed (Chair)
Labour	Long (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Bajwa
Substitute Members to be drawn from reminaing pool of Licensing Committee Members	

REGULATORY SUB-COMMITTEE (5 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ahmed (Chair)
Labour	Long (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Hack
Labour	Mahmood
Conservative	Kansagra (substitute nominated J.Patel)

This page is intentionally left blank

 Brent	Annual Council Meeting 22 May 2024
	Report from the Corporate Director Law & Governance
Municipal Calendar of Meetings 2024 - 2025	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	One: Appendix A: Annual Calendar of Meetings 2023 - 2024
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Amira Nassr, Deputy Director Democratic Services Tel: 0208 937 5436 amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk James Kinsella, Governance & Scrutiny Manager, Democratic Services Tel: 020 8937 2063 james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report presents the final calendar of council meetings for the 2024 - 2025 Municipal Year.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Members approve the dates for Full Council and other meetings to take place during the 2024 – 2025 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix 1.

2.2 That the Deputy Director Democratic Services be authorised to make any alterations deemed necessary to the Municipal Calendar during the course of the Municipal Year having consulted the Leader of the Council; the Leaders of the Opposition Groups; and the Chair of the affected meeting.

3.0 Detail

3.1 **Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context**

3.1.1 The advance scheduling of meetings supports delivery of the borough plan by enabling the Council's decision making bodies to operate transparently and effectively whilst also supporting and promoting confidence in the good governance of the council.

3.2 **Background**

3.2.1 Attached as Appendix 1 is the proposed calendar of meetings prepared for the 2024 - 2025 Municipal Year, which lists the dates for Full Council, and its committee/sub-committee meetings, meetings of the Cabinet and other bodies. These will continue to be kept under review as the Municipal Year progresses.

3.2.2 In the absence of any change in legislation relating to online meetings, the Council has returned to holding its main statutory meetings in person although it remains possible for members of the public and other stakeholders to still participate online, using the available hybrid meeting technology.

3.2.3 Attempts will be made, wherever possible, to avoid clashes of meetings for Members, based on a review of committee membership.

3.2.4 Religious festivals have been included on the calendar and meetings will be avoided (as far as possible) on dates where it has been deemed inappropriate to hold them due to the importance associated with any particular religious event.

3.2.5 For information purposes, the calendar also includes principal civic events as well as school holidays.

3.2.6 The dates of the Full Council meetings for the 2024 - 2025 Municipal year have been scheduled as follows:

- Monday 8 July 2024 – 6pm
- Thursday 19 September 2024 – 6pm
- Monday 18 November 2024 – 6pm
- Thursday 27 February 2025 (Council Tax and Budget Setting) – 6pm
- Wednesday 14 May 2025 (Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making) – 6pm

3.2.7 Meetings of the following bodies have been agreed jointly with the other authorities listed:

- Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (London Borough of Barnet)
- Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board (London Borough of Harrow)
- Joint Committee of the London Boroughs of Brent Lewisham and Southwark (London Boroughs of Lewisham and Southwark)

3.2.8 In terms of attendance, each Member is responsible for submitting his or her apologies for absence in terms of the bodies they are members on. Such notifications shall be in writing and sent to the Deputy Director Democratic Services or their representative in good time and in any event, before the commencement of the meeting in question. If such notification is not received, the Member(s) apologies will not be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

4. Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 The Annual Calendar of Meetings has been subject to consultation with officers and each political group.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.2 There are no financial considerations arising directly from this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires Members of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive period, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. The calendar of meetings has been developed to ensure that membership clashes between meetings are avoided but members will still be responsible for managing their attendance, in order to comply with this requirement.

6.2 There are no other legal considerations relating to this report.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising their functions to have 'due regard' to the need:

- a) To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity; and
- c) Foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.

7.2 This is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

7.3 The purpose of the duty is to enquire into whether a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision. Due regard is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances.

7.4 As outlined above, school holidays and religious festivals have been included within the calendar. As far as practicable meetings have been avoided on evenings where it has been deemed inappropriate to hold them due to the importance associated with a particular religious festival with the arrangement of meetings also limited during school holidays.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 None directly arising from this report.

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Corporate Director Law & Governance

Day	Calendar of Meetings 2024-25 Municipal Year	Time
MAY 2024		
Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Wednesday 1 May		
Thursday 2 May		
Friday 3 May		
Saturday 4 May		
Sunday 5 May		
Monday 6 May		
Tuesday 7 May		
Wednesday 8 May		
Thursday 9 May		
Friday 10 May		
Saturday 11 May		
Sunday 12 May		
Monday 13 May		
Tuesday 14 May		
Wednesday 15 May		
Thursday 16 May		
Friday 17 May		
Saturday 18 May		
Sunday 19 May		
Monday 20 May	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Tuesday 21 May		
Wednesday 22 May	Annual Council Meeting	6.00pm
Thursday 23 May		
Friday 24 May		
Saturday 25 May		
Sunday 26 May		
Monday 27 May	Spring Bank Holiday/Summer half Term starts	
Tuesday 28 May	General Purposes Sub-Committee Cabinet	9.30am 10.00am
Wednesday 29 May		
Thursday 30 May	Member Learning & Development - Planning Committee - Compulsory for Committee members	6.00pm
Friday 31 May	End of half term	

JUNE 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Saturday 1 June		
Sunday 2 June		
Monday 3 June	Member Learning & Development - Scrutiny Committees	6.00pm
Tuesday 4 June	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 5 June	Member Learning & Development & Licensing Committee - Compulsory for Committee members	6.00pm
Thursday 6 June	Brent & Harrow Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board (Harrow to host)	6.00pm
Friday 7 June		
Saturday 8 June		
Sunday 9 June		
Monday 10 June		
Tuesday 11 June	Planning Committee Shavout starts	6.00pm
Wednesday 12 June	Member Learning & Development - Audit & Standards Advisory Full Committee - Compulsory for Committee members Audit & Standards Advisory Committee followed by Audit and Standards Committee	5.00pm 6.00pm
Thursday 13 June	Shavout finishes	
Friday 14 June		
Saturday 15 June		
Sunday 16 June	Eid-al-Adha starts	
Monday 17 June	Cabinet Member Learning & Development - Brent Pensions Fund – Compulsory for Committee members Brent Pension Fund Sub-Committee	10.00am 5.00pm 6.00pm
Tuesday 18 June	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 19 June	Schools Forum	6.00pm
Thursday 20 June		
Friday 21 June		
Saturday 22 June		
Sunday 23 June		
Monday 24 June	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Tuesday 25 June	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 26 June		
Thursday 27 June		
Friday 28 June		
Saturday 29 June		

JULY 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Monday 1 July	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Tuesday 2 July	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 3 July	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Thursday 4 July		
Friday 5 July		
Saturday 6 July		
Sunday 7 July		
Monday 8 July	Full Council	6.00pm
Tuesday 9 July	Brent, Lewisham & Southwark Joint Borough IT Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 10 July	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee	10.00am
	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 11 July	SACRE	5.00pm
Friday 12 July		
Saturday 13 July		
Sunday 14 July		
Monday 15 July	General Purposes Sub-Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
	Corporate Parenting Committee	5.00pm
Tuesday 16 July		
Wednesday 17 July	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 18 July		
Friday 19 July		
Saturday 20 July		
Sunday 21 July		
Monday 22 July	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee	6.00pm
Tuesday 23 July	Health & Wellbeing Board	6.00pm
Wednesday 24 July	End of school term	
	Audit & Standards Advisory Committee (followed by Audit and Standards Committee)	6.00pm
Thursday 25 July	Pension Board (online)	6.00pm
Friday 26 July		
Saturday 27 July		
Sunday 28 July		
Monday 29 July		
Tuesday 30 July		



AUGUST 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Thursday 1 August		
Friday 2 August		
Saturday 3 August		
Sunday 4 August		
Monday 5 August		
Tuesday 6 August		
Wednesday 7 August	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 8 August		
Friday 9 August		
Saturday 10 August		
Sunday 11 August		
Monday 12 August	Cabinet	10.00am
Tuesday 13 August		
Wednesday 14 August		
Thursday 15 August		
Friday 16 August		
Saturday 17 August		
Sunday 18 August		
Monday 19 August		
Tuesday 20 August		
Wednesday 21 August		
Thursday 22 August		
Friday 23 August		
Saturday 24 August		
Sunday 25 August		
Monday 26 August	Summer Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 27 August		
Wednesday 28 August		
Thursday 29 August		
Friday 30 August		
Saturday 31 August		

SEPTEMBER 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Sunday 1 September		
Monday 2 September	Start of Autumn term	
Tuesday 3 September	Barham Park Trust Committee	10.00am
Wednesday 4 September	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 5 September		
Friday 6 September		
Saturday 7 September		
Sunday 8 September		
Monday 9 September	General Purposes Sub-Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
Tuesday 10 September	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 11 September	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 12 September		
Friday 13 September		
Saturday 14 September	Liberal Democrat Party Conference starts	
Sunday 15 September		
Monday 16 September	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Tuesday 17 September	Liberal Democrat Party Conference finishes	
Wednesday 18 September	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 19 September	Full Council	6.00pm
Friday 20 September		
Saturday 21 September		
Sunday 22 September	Labour Party Conference starts	
Monday 23 September		
Tuesday 24 September		
Wednesday 25 September	Audit and Standards Advisory Committee & Audit & Standards Committee	6.00pm
	Labour Party Conference finishes	
Thursday 26 September		
Friday 27 September		
Saturday 28 September		
Sunday 29 September	Conservative Party Conference starts	
Monday 30 September		

OCTOBER 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Tuesday 1 October	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee	10.00am
Wednesday 2 October	Rosh Hashanah starts	
	Conservative Party Conference finishes	
Thursday 3 October		
Friday 4 October	Rosh Hashanah finishes	
Saturday 5 October		
Sunday 6 October		
Monday 7 October	Brent Connects - Harlesden	6.00pm
Tuesday 8 October	Pension Fund Sub-Committee (including training at 5pm)	6.00pm
Wednesday 9 October	SACRE	5.00pm
Thursday 10 October	Brent Connects - Kingsbury and Kenton	6.00pm
Friday 11 October	Yom Kippur	
Saturday 12 October	Last day of Navratri/Yom Kippur	
Sunday 13 October		
Monday 14 October	Cabinet	10.00am
	Corporate Parenting Committee	6.00pm
Tuesday 15 October		
Wednesday 16 October	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 17 October	Brent Connects - Wembley	6.00pm
Friday 18 October		
Saturday 19 October		
Sunday 20 October		
Monday 21 October	School half term	
Tuesday 22 October	Brent Connects - Kilburn	6.00pm
Wednesday 23 October		
Thursday 24 October		
Friday 25 October		
Saturday 26 October		
Sunday 27 October		
Monday 28 October	Health & Wellbeing Board	6.00pm
Tuesday 29 October	Brent Connects - Willesden	6.00pm
Wednesday 30 October		
Thursday 31 October	ML&D	6.00pm

NOVEMBER 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Friday 1 November	Diwali	
Saturday 2 November	Hindu New Year	
Sunday 3 November		
Monday 4 November	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Tuesday 5 November	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 6 November	Brent & Harrow Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board (Brent to host)	6.00pm
Thursday 7 November	Pension Board (online)	6.00pm
Friday 8 November		
Saturday 9 November		
Sunday 10 November		
Monday 11 November	Rememberance Day	
Tuesday 12 November	Cabinet	10.00am
	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 13 November	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 14 November	Schools Forum	6.00pm
Friday 15 November		
Saturday 16 November		
Sunday 17 November		
Monday 18 November	Full Council	6.00pm
Tuesday 19 November		
Wednesday 20 November	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 21 November		
Friday 22 November		
Saturday 23 November		
Sunday 24 November		
Monday 25 November	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee	6.00pm
Tuesday 26 November	Brent, Lewisham & Southwark Joint Borough IT Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 27 November		
Thursday 28 November		
Friday 29 November		
Saturday 30 November		

DECEMBER 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Sunday 1 December		
Monday 2 December		
Tuesday 3 December	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 4 December	Audit and Standards Advisory Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 5 December		
Friday 6 December		
Saturday 7 December		
Sunday 8 December		
Monday 9 December	General Purposes Sub-Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
Tuesday 10 December	Schools Forum (additional date if needed)	6.00pm
	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 11 December	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 12 December		
Friday 13 December		
Saturday 14 December		
Sunday 15 December		
Monday 16 December		
Tuesday 17 December	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 18 December		
Thursday 19 December		
Friday 20 December	End of school Term	
Saturday 21 December		
Sunday 22 December		
Monday 23 December	School Christmas holiday starts	
Tuesday 24 December		
Wednesday 25 December	Christmas Day Hanukkah starts	
Thursday 26 December	Boxing day	
Friday 27 December		
Saturday 28 December		
Sunday 29 December		
Monday 30 December		
Tuesday 31 December		

JANUARY 2025

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Wednesday 1 January	New Year's Day	
Thursday 2 January	Hanukkah finishes	
Friday 3 January		
Saturday 4 January		
Sunday 5 January		
Monday 6 January	Start of Spring term	
Tuesday 7 January		
Wednesday 8 January	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Thursday 9 January		
Friday 10 January		
Saturday 11 January		
Sunday 12 January		
Monday 13 January	General Purposes Sub-Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
Tuesday 14 January	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 15 January	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Friday 17 January		
Saturday 18 January		
Sunday 19 January		
Monday 20 January		
Tuesday 21 January		
Wednesday 22 January	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 23 January	Holocaust Remembrance Day - (TBC)	
Friday 24 January		
Saturday 25 January		
Sunday 26 January		
Monday 27 January	Holocaust Remembrance Day - (TBC)	
	Schools Forum	6.00pm
Tuesday 28 January	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm

Wednesday 29 January		
Thursday 30 January	Health & Wellbeing Board	6.00pm
	Holocaust Rememberance Day - (TBC)	
Friday 31 January		

FEBRUARY 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Saturday 1 February		
Sunday 2 February		
Monday 3 February	Corporate Parenting	5.00pm
Tuesday 4 February	Audit and Standards Advisory Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 5 February	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Thursday 6 February	SACRE	5.00pm
Friday 7 February		
Saturday 8 February		
Sunday 9 February		
Monday 10 February	Cabinet	10.00am
	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Tuesday 11 February		
Wednesday 12 February	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 13 February	Schools Forum	6.00pm
Friday 14 February		
Saturday 15 February		
Sunday 16 February		
Monday 17 February	Half terms starts	
Tuesday 18 February		
Wednesday 19 February	Pension Fund Sub-Committee (including training session at 5pm)	6.00pm
Thursday 20 February		
Friday 21 February		
Saturday 22 February		
Sunday 23 February		
Monday 24 February		
Tuesday 25 February	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 26 February	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Thursday 27 February	Full Council - Budget & Council Tax Setting meeting	6.00pm
Friday 28 February	Council Tax Setting Committee (ir required)	10.00am

MARCH 2025

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Saturday 1 March	Ramadan starts	
Sunday 2 March		
Monday 3 March		
Tuesday 4 March	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 5 March	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 6 March	Brent Connects - Wembley	6.00pm
Friday 7 March		
Saturday 8 March		
Sunday 9 March		
Monday 10 March	General Purposes Sub-Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
	Brent Connects - Kilburn	6.00pm
Tuesday 11 March	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 12 March	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 13 March	Brent Connects - Willesden	6.00pm
Friday 14 March		
Saturday 15 March		
Sunday 16 March	Liberal Democrat Spring Conference starts	
Monday 17 March	Brent Connects - Harlesden	6.00pm
Tuesday 18 March	Brent, Lewisham & Southwark Joint Borough IT Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 19 March	Brent & Harrow Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board (Harrow to host)	6.00pm
Thursday 20 March	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee	6.00pm
Friday 21 March		
Saturday 22 March		
Sunday 23 March		
Monday 24 March	Pension Board (online)	6.00pm
Tuesday 25 March	Audit and Standards Advisory Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 26 March	Brent Connects - Kingsbury and Kenton	6.00pm
Thursday 27 March		
Friday 28 March		
Saturday 29 March		
Sunday 30 March		
Monday 31 March	Eid-al-Fitr - Ramadan finishes	

APRIL 2025

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Tuesday 1 April	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 2 April	Health & Wellbeing Board	6.00pm
Thursday 3 April		
Friday 4 April		
Saturday 5 April		
Sunday 6 April		
Monday 7 April	Easter school holidays Cabinet	10.00am
Tuesday 8 April		
Wednesday 9 April	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 10 April		
Friday 11 April		
Saturday 12 April		
Sunday 13 April		
Monday 14 April		
Tuesday 15 April		
Wednesday 16 April		
Thursday 17 April		
Friday 18 April	Good Friday	
Saturday 19 April		
Sunday 20 April		
Monday 21 April	Easter Monday	
Tuesday 22 April	Summer Term Starts Corporate Parenting Committee	5.00pm
Wednesday 23 April	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 24 April		
Friday 25 April		
Saturday 26 April		
Sunday 27 April		
Monday 28 April	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	6.00pm
Tuesday 29 April	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 30 April		


MAY 2025

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Thursday 1 May	Brent Connects - Willesden	6.00pm
Friday 2 May		
Saturday 3 May		
Sunday 4 May		
Monday 5 May	Early May bank holiday	
Tuesday 6 May		
Wednesday 7 May	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 8 May	Brent Connects - Kingsbury and Kenton	6.00pm
Friday 9 May		
Saturday 10 May		
Sunday 11 May		
Monday 12 May	Brent Connects - Harlesden	6.00pm
Tuesday 13 May		
Wednesday 14 May	Annual Council Meeting	6.00pm
Thursday 15 May		
Friday 16 May		
Saturday 17 May		
Sunday 18 May		
Monday 19 May	General Purposes Sub-Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
	Brent Connects - Wembley	6.00pm
Tuesday 20 May		
Wednesday 21 May	Brent Connects - Kilburn	6.00pm
Thursday 22 May		
Friday 23 May		
Saturday 24 May		
Sunday 25 May		
Monday 26 May	Spring bank holiday	
	Half term starts	
Tuesday 27 May		
Wednesday 28 May		
Thursday 29 May		

Friday 30 May		
Saturday 31 May		

	School Holidays
	Weekends
	Bank Holidays

This page is intentionally left blank

	<p align="center">Annual Council Meeting 22 May 2024</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Corporate Director of Law & Governance</p>
<p>Review of Arrangements for “Call In” of Executive decisions to Scrutiny Committees</p>	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	One Appendix 1: Outline of proposed draft changes to call-in arrangements
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Debra Norman Corporate Director of Law & Governance Tel: 0208 937 1578 Debra.norman@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report presents the outcome of a review of arrangements for “Call-In” of Executive decisions to Scrutiny Committees and seeks a decision on whether to require call-in to be supported by more than one group.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To decide whether to adopt the changes contained in the appendix to this report.
- 2.2 To authorise the Corporate Director of Law & Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly if required, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to the Borough Plan and Strategic Priorities

3.1.1 Reviewing processes contained in the Constitution is supportive of good governance and contributes to the delivery of all of the strategic priorities within the Borough Plan by supporting and enhancing the Council's activity.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 the Council's executive arrangements must include a power for its overview and scrutiny committee(s) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive. This includes, where a decision is made but not yet implemented, a power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person who made it. This is generally referred to as call-in.

3.2.2 Guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government when the requirement for overview and scrutiny committees for authorities operating executive arrangements was first introduced provided that:

- provisions should ensure that there is an appropriate balance between effectively holding the executive to account, being able to question decisions before they are implemented and allowing effective and efficient decision making by the executive within the policy framework and budget agreed by the full council.
- Local authorities should ensure that the executive arrangements ensure that any call-in procedure is not abused or used unduly to delay decisions or slow down the process of decision making.
- A safeguard which could be adopted as part of a call-in procedure could be to include provision requiring a certain number of committee (or local authority) members to call in a particular decision.

3.2.3 Guidance was issued by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) in March 2023 which comments, in respect of requirements in call-in thresholds that the councillors involved should represent different parties, that "This can help to ensure that call-in's reflect matters on which there is crossparty concern".

4.0 Summary of current Brent provisions

4.1 Currently any decision by Cabinet or a Cabinet Committee, and any Key Decision by an officer or a Cabinet Member, may be called in. This is subject to urgency provisions in exceptional cases.

4.2 Call-in requires a decision of the relevant Scrutiny Committee (in the event that there is a relevant scrutiny meeting in the call-in period), or a call-in request from five non-cabinet members of the Council (for the avoidance of doubt excluding voting and non-voting co-opted and independent members).

- 4.3 There are also requirements as to the content of a call-in in order for it to be valid e.g., that it proposes alternative action.
- 4.4 This provision has been in place since 2006. The guidance from CfGS is that requirements on numbers/types of members, bodies or persons requesting call-in's should be clearly justified and reviewed following each election and after a change in political control to ensure their ongoing fairness and applicability as endorsed by the authority.
- 4.5 The threshold currently means that the Labour and Conservative Group members, if sufficient Group members agree to requesting a call-in, can call-in a decision without the co-operation of any members of any other group, but the Liberal Democrat Group members cannot.

5.0 Practice in other London Boroughs

- 5.1 A review of the arrangements in place in other London Boroughs indicates the following in terms of numbers where the threshold is expressed in that way (although some require the numbers to be across groups):

2 members - 2 London Boroughs
 3 members - 1 London Borough
 5 members - 10 London Boroughs
 6 members - 4 London Boroughs
 7 members - 1 London Borough
 8 members - 1 London Borough
 9 members - 1 London Borough
 14 members - 2 London Boroughs

- 5.2 The position when the political balance is taken into account is:

Only or main opposition can call in alone	10 London Boroughs
All groups can call in alone (where there are more than 2 groups)	3 London Boroughs
3 largest groups can call in alone	2 London Boroughs
Both opposition together can call in	1 London Borough
More than one group, including from the administration, is required	2 London Boroughs
Specific requirement for more than one group	2 London Boroughs
Committee decision and therefore requires administration support	8 London Boroughs

- 5.3 Arrangements across London are very varied, especially once the effect of political balance is taken into account. A significant number have arrangements that mean more than one party group must be in support of the call-in request. The possible introduction of this requirement in Brent was discussed at a recent meeting of the Constitutional Working Group (CWG) but a consensus was not reached. Full council is therefore requested to make a decision on this issue.

6.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

6.1 As indicated in paragraph 5.3, the potential introduction of a requirement that for a call-in to be valid the councillors involved should represent more than one party group was discussed at a recent CWG meeting.

7.0 Financial Considerations

7.1 None

8.0 Legal Considerations

8.1 These are contained in the body of the report.

9.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

9.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council has a duty when exercising its functions to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not. This is the public sector equality duty. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

9.2 “Due regard” is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances. The weight to be attached to the effect is a matter for the council. As long as the council is properly aware of the effects and has taken them into account, the duty is discharged. Depending on the circumstances, regard should be had to the following:

- the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision;
- the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- the need to take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes taking account of disabled persons’ disabilities. There can be a positive duty to take action to help a disabled person. What matters is how they are affected, whatever proportion of the relevant group of people they might be;
- the need to encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life (or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low); and

- the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

9.3 No EDI implications arise directly from this report.

10.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

10.1 None

11.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

11.1 None

12.0 Communication Considerations

12.1 None

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Corporate Director of Law & Governance

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1- Outline of proposed amendments to the arrangements for call-in

PART 2 - Procedural Rules

14 Call in of Cabinet, Cabinet Committees and Officer Decisions

- (a) If
 - (i) the relevant Scrutiny Committee decides; or
 - (ii) five non-cabinet members of the Council **representing more than one political group** (for the avoidance of doubt excluding voting and non-voting co-opted and independent members) submit a valid request.

that any Key Decision (irrespective of the decision maker) and other decisions made by the Cabinet or by Cabinet Committees be called in for scrutiny then the relevant Scrutiny Committee shall consider that decision at its next meeting

PART 5 - PROTOCOL ON CALL-IN

1. WHAT IS A CALL-IN?

- 2.1 A decision made by the council's Cabinet or a Cabinet committee, or a key decision by an officer, can be called in for review before it is implemented. Decisions can be called in by five non-executive members **representing more than one political group** or by the Scrutiny Committee. If a Cabinet decision is called-in, that decision cannot normally be implemented until it has been considered by a scrutiny committee. An urgency procedure is in place in Standing Orders for any decision that cannot afford to be delayed.

This page is intentionally left blank



Annual Council Meeting – 22 May 2024

Liberal Democrats Group amendment Agenda Item 11 – Review of arrangements for call-in of Executive decisions by scrutiny

Review of Call-In Arrangements

The replacement of the Committee system of decision making by Local Councils with a Cabinet/ Executive system was made by the Blair Labour Government.

The then Labour Government recognised that handing decision making power to a small group of councillors had to be balanced by a strong and effective scrutiny function. As part of this there had to be a meaningful ability of any councillor or Political Group to call-in decisions for review.

To ensure effective democratic practices in the London Borough of Brent it is essential to ensure that:

1. The Cabinet can make decisions based on sound information and advice; and
2. That Cabinet and their decisions can be held to account through an effective scrutiny process.

To maintain the objectives of effective democratic scrutiny, as intended by the Labour Government which introduced the current decision making process, we therefore propose, having taken account of the current review of arrangements for call-in:

- (1) That any Cabinet decision which has implications for the whole or a large part of the borough can be called in by any three Councillors (*for the avoidance of doubt these can be Councillors of one or more than one group*).
- (2) That any Cabinet decision which has implications for just one ward within the borough can be called in by any one councillor.
- (3) That's subject to the approval of (1) and (2) above the necessary amendments are made to Standing Order 14 (Call In of Cabinet, Cabinet Committees and Officer Decisions) to reflect the change in arrangements.

- (4) To confirm, the current arrangements for review by officers of any call-in to ensure that it is relevant and justified will remain in place.

Councillor Lorber
On behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group