



**Full Council**  
19 September 2016

**Report from the Director of Policy,  
Performance and Partnerships**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Update report from the Chair of Community and Wellbeing  
Scrutiny Committee Councillor Ketan Sheth**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the council's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 14. The report covers the period from 18 May to present, and details its work programme, visits and engagement, committee discussion and training.

**2.0 Detail**

**2.1 Work programme 2016/17**

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

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

The 2016/17 work programme is in Appendix A.

Members should note that the committee had made sure pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet decisions is threaded through the work programme. It includes reports on Brent Housing Partnership, Sustainability and Transformation Plan, Community Libraries Strategy and Air Quality Plan, which will be discussed by Cabinet. This ensures scrutiny plays a role in policy development by allowing discussion to happen at a stage before a formal decision is taken by Cabinet.

In 2016/17, there will be scrutiny task groups covering:

- Signs of Safety
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Children's oral health.

These time-limited task groups will include a small group of councillors and be led by a member of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

## 2.2 **Engagement and visits**

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

So far, the committee members have made a number of visits, including:

- 11 August 2016, Landlord licensing raids in Kingsbury
- 12 September 2016, Willow House in Wembley
- 16 September 2016, Brent Housing Partnership services.

Members of the committee will also be organising more visits this year. In November, Councillor Sheth will be visiting the Northwick Park Hospital A&E department with Dr Ethie Kong, Chair of Brent Clinical Commissioning Group.

As part of engagement with residents, the Chair of Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Councillor Sheth and a Scrutiny Officer also attended a number of Brent Connects area forums to do a presentation about scrutiny. The purpose was to explain to residents the new dual scrutiny committee structure which was agreed by Full Council in March 2016, and the role of scrutiny within the local authority more generally, which is sometimes not fully understood. Interaction with residents at those meetings was good – and lively at times – and residents were given the opportunity to put forward their ideas.

Area forums attended by the chair included:

- 21 June, Brent Connects Willesden
- 22 June, Brent Connects Kenton and Kingsbury
- 13 July, Brent Connects Wembley.
- 14 July, Brent Connects Kilburn

Also, special mention should be given to a meeting of Brent Youth Parliament at the civic centre on 30 July attended by Councillor Sheth and a Scrutiny Officer to do a presentation on Scrutiny. Young people asked about scrutiny

and said what it meant to them and put over ideas about what they thought the committee should be looking at. It's important to note that Brent Youth Parliament has observer status on the committee and the chair is committed to giving them a more active role at meetings to ensure the voices of young people can be heard in discussions.

Councillor Sheth would also like to attend the same area forums and youth parliament in 2017 to give a six-month update about his committee's activities.

Also, as part of Local Democracy Week 2016, the chair will be hosting a Scrutiny Café at coffee shop in central Wembley on 14 October. The café allows residents to meet with the chair face-to-face and suggest ideas for scrutiny. It also takes scrutiny out of the formal atmosphere of the civic centre. In addition, scrutiny has been making use of social media to enhance its accountability and transparency. The committee has been using Twitter to update residents about what it's been doing and to engage with organisations.

Finally, the committee has built links with members elsewhere in London who are involved in scrutiny in their local authorities through the London Scrutiny Network. Councillor Sheth attended a meeting of the network at Haringey Civic Centre on 8 July which discussed health and social care integration.

### 2.3 **Training**

On 26 May the scrutiny committee's members took part in training on their role in accordance to the governance of the council, as well as to outline the legal and statutory function of scrutiny with regard to both the council and other public service providers. The session also covered local accountability. Ed Hammond, from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), led the training, which highlighted the important role that scrutiny plays within local democracy.

On 11 October Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) will be doing more training with members on effective skills for scrutiny, which will include an introduction to questioning skills, making recommendations and influencing techniques. All the co-opted members of the committee have been invited to attend this training.

### 2.4 **Committee Meetings**

The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has held one meeting so far this municipal year on 20 July, which heard reports on landlord licensing, Brent's ethical lettings agency and the scrutiny task group report on Brent's housing associations, which was chaired and led by Councillor Tom Miller.

Scrutiny members heard that Brent has three landlord licensing schemes: additional, selective and mandatory. A report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing, Operational Director Housing and Culture, and the Private Sector Licensing Manager, and there were supplementary questions from scrutiny members about licensing. It was clear to scrutiny members that landlord licensing has varied widely in its effectiveness. Selective licensing in the three wards where selective licensing was introduced has been the most successful and the number of properties

licensed has actually exceeded the initial estimates of the number which would require a licence.

Additional licensing had been the least effective as so far as 1,304 properties had been licensed out of an estimated 16,000 needing a licence under the scheme. Members also asked for more information about the raids by officers to properties which are suspected of being in breach of the local authority's licencing scheme. From the evidence and testimony at the committee, eight recommendations were made to Cabinet. But perhaps the most important of these recommendations made by the committee was that Cabinet should seek to expand the selective licensing scheme across all 21 wards in Brent.

Officers and the Cabinet member also updated the committee on the Ethical Lettings Agency which in 2015 the council had asked Brent Housing Partnership (BHP) to lead on establishing. The report explained that the proposal had not been viewed as viable by BHP, but that a number of other projects had been brought forward. It was now intended to wait for details of a London-wide letting agency being developed by the Mayor of London.

Committee made four recommendations to Cabinet about the scheme and noted its concern that a project which the Cabinet had committed to introducing a year or so ago had still not been implemented by 2016. Members of the committee recommended that officers explore the possibility of a pan-London or sub-regional ethical lettings agency within the public sector on a not-for-profit basis, as one of its four recommendations to Cabinet.

A task group report was presented by Councillor Miller on Brent's housing associations. This was a timely piece of work because of the changes which housing associations will face as a result of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. They will have major implications for how the local authority works with housing associations in the future. All of the 19 recommendations were agreed, with some amendments, and will be put to the Cabinet. The Chair would like to thank Councillor Miller for his work in this important area.

Brent is also takes part and contributes to the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The last meeting took place in early May before the new committee was established and the next is scheduled for October at which it will be looking at other aspects of Shaping A Healthier Future.

Members should note that the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee regards the work outside of committee meetings as highly important because it gives scrutiny the ability to respond to events as they happen. As such, Councillor Sheth wrote to North West London Healthcare NHS Trust about its Quality Accounts 2015/16, and to Brent Clinical Commissioning Group about the future of the Brent Sickle Cell and Advice Support Service.

### **Contact Officers**

Pascoe Sawyers  
Head of Strategy and Partnerships

## APPENDIX A

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

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

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

## 20 September 2016

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

\*Items involving school education. \*\* Items which may involve partnership work with schools. \*\*\* The report on BHP is expected to be rescheduled for a special meeting in October 2016.

## 23 November 2016

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives for scrutiny</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Member</b>	<b>Brent Council/Partner organisations</b>
1.	NHS estate in Brent	Evaluate impact of changes by NHS Property Services	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Jake Roe, NHS Property Services Sue Hardy, Head of Strategic Estate Development Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon and Ealing CCGs
**2.	Brent Local Safeguarding Children's Board	Receive 2015-16 annual report.  Additional paper on safeguarding children.	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People	Mike Howard, Independent Chair Brent LSCB
**3.	Task Group report Signs of Safety	Receive task group report on Signs of Safety	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People  Task group chair	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
**4.	Task Group scoping paper CAMHS	To agree the scoping paper for CAMHS task group and TOR.	Task group chair	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People  Brent CCG

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

## 1 February 2017

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives for scrutiny</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Member</b>	<b>Brent Council/Partner organisations</b>
1.	Community Pharmacies	Assess impact on community pharmacies of recent changes by central government.	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	NHS England Local Pharmaceutical Committee
2.	Brent Safeguarding Adults Board	Receive 2015-16 annual report  Additional paper on safeguarding adults	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Michael Preston-Shoot, Chair Brent ASB
3.	Air quality and public health	Evaluation of air quality and public health.	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing  Dr Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health  Brent CCG
**4.	Task Group report CAMHS	Receive report from task group and discuss recommendations for Cabinet.	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray  Task group chair	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
**5.	Task group scoping paper children's oral health	Agree scoping paper for task group and TOR	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing  Task group chair	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing

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**29 March 2017**

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives for scrutiny</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Member</b>	<b>Brent Council/Partner organisations</b>
<b>*1.</b>	School Annual Standards and Achievement report	Receive report.  Examine reasons for underachievement in Brent's schools among particular groups.	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
<b>*2.</b>	Special educational needs (SEN)	Update and evaluation of SEN provision.	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
<b>3.</b>	Task Group report on extended GP services	Update on implementation of recommendations from September 2015.	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Brent CCG  Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing

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

9 May 2017

<b>Agenda Rank</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives for scrutiny</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Member</b>	<b>Brent Council/Partner organisations</b>
1.	Brent's community libraries	Community libraries and draft cultural strategy.	Cllr Michael Pavey, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing.  Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture
2.	Primary Care Transformation	Review implications of primary care transformation for Brent	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Brent CCG
**3.	Task group report children's oral health	Receive report from task group and discuss recommendations for Cabinet.	Task group chair  Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing  Dr Melanie Smith Director of Public Health

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