

 Brent	Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 3 July 2018
	Report from the Director of Performance, Policy & Partnerships
Brent Priorities 2019 onwards	

Wards Affected:	All
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:	None
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report reviews the context for, and plans for the development of, the successor to the Brent Borough Plan 2015-2019.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The committee asked to note and comment on the content of this report.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Brent's existing Borough Plan was agreed by Council in March 2015. This set out a vision and the priorities for the borough, along with specific outcomes for the period from April 2015 to January 2019, with three overarching priorities of Better Lives, Better Place, and Better Locally. This was endorsed by the Cabinet and Partners for Brent.

3.2 However, following the development of the Borough Plan, the 2015 Comprehensive Spending Review brought significant further budget reductions, meaning that the council had to reduce its overall budget by a further £45m by 2019, to take account of a drastic reduction in Revenue Support Grant and increased reliance on business rates and council tax. The CSR also brought significant policy changes around welfare reform and housing. At the same time, the borough's population growth was (and is) projected to continue, with increasing demand on school places, housing, social care and skills and jobs, and the need for increased investment in our roads and pavements.

3.3 The council therefore decided to focus its efforts on a smaller number of priorities to make a significant difference. This led in 2016 to the development of the vision for "Brent 2020", with five key priorities:

Employment and skills – in order to respond to the increase in the working age population and lift people out of poverty and welfare dependency.

Regeneration – physical, social and environmental - to improve the economic, social and environmental conditions in the borough.

Business and housing related growth – to maximise the tax base to support the delivery of core services.

Demand Management – to manage down the pressure on needs led budgets such as children's social care, adult social care and homelessness.

Raising income through our assets – to support the delivery of core services.

3.4 A programme has been in place since then which has been delivering and continues to deliver significant change in these areas. This committee and others has scrutinised various elements of this programme since it commenced.

3.5 With a newly-elected administration, the council is now looking further to the future, with a new set of priorities. These have been adopted from the Labour manifesto, and are as follows:

- Every opportunity to succeed – covering work with schools, early years services and support for pupils' mental health;
- A future built for everyone, an economy fit for all – including access to employment and apprenticeships, childcare, help for those on low incomes, improving town centres, improving online connectivity, supporting the local economy and social value, housing and homelessness, managing regeneration, and improving roads and transport;
- A cleaner, more considerate Brent – working to improve air quality, reduce emissions, tackle flytipping, minimise waste and increase recycling, and maintain parks and open spaces;

- A borough where we can all feel safe, secure, happy and healthy – involving tackling violence, abuse and harassment, supporting looked-after children and those on the margins, encouraging and enabling volunteering, care for vulnerable adults, safer and stronger communities, promoting and celebrating culture, and community and democratic engagement; and
- Strong foundations – ie working more efficiently and generating more income from our assets, developing services which respond to the needs of our most vulnerable residents, and better identifying those at risk to provide better outcomes and avoid the need for costly interventions.

3.5 Work is currently underway to develop commitments for each of these priorities. Cabinet members are liaising with Strategic Directors, taking into account the continuing need to improve employment and skills, regenerate the borough, secure growth, manage demand, and raise income.

3.6 A draft Borough Plan will be submitted to Cabinet in October, and then subject to public consultation alongside the draft budget proposals. This is likely to include opportunities for residents to provide their views online, as well as meetings of Brent Connects, and other suitable channels which will be outlined to Cabinet. Following consultation, the finalised plan will be agreed with the budget at full Council in February 2019.

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 Commitments under the new Borough Plan will need to consider savings requirements for the period from 2019/20 to 2022/23.

7.0 Equality implications

7.1 Equality analysis and the potential impact of particular measures should inform the development of, and decisions, on practical activities to implement the commitments. This will include identifying any unintended consequences and mitigating them as far as possible.

8.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

8.1 Along with consideration of this report by the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, the draft Borough Plan will be subject to public consultation in advance of finally being agreed at full Council, as detailed above.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

9.1 No direct implications.

Report sign off:

PETER GADSDON

Director of Performance, Policy &
Partnerships.