

Appendix 2

Stronger Communities Strategy Commitments

Tackling poverty

- We will ensure that residents have all the information they require about the roll out of Universal Credit and in particular the transition from existing benefits to Universal Credit. We will do this through social media, local events and our work with partners.
- We will provide adult education provision to over 2,000 residents per annum, delivered by Brent Start. Including a range of basic skills and progression courses in the community, such as ESOL, English, Maths, Digital Skills, employability skills linked to jobs, health and wellbeing courses, and vocational courses such as childcare and early years.
- We will support over 2,000 people into employment. This will principally be achieved through the Brent Works jobs and apprenticeship brokerage, the employment team operating from community Hubs (where different organisations come together in one place to deliver services in a local area), and the Work and Health Programme delivered by the Shaw Trust. Projects are also being commissioned to specifically prevent offending and re-offending, to help young people to access creative and tech industry careers, and also to support young black men into work.
- We will build on our localised approach through the roll-out of HUBs across the borough.
- We will promote employment support and skills provision, including increasing the take-up of apprenticeships and the provision of digital skills.

Tackling extremism

- We will continue an approach of regular public discussions around violent extremism and its effects in the borough, and work to make sure that both the Council and the government are as accountable as possible. In addition to this existing work, we will introduce a series of outreach meetings with interested faith and cultural community groups to allow the community to ask questions and make suggestions about tackling radicalisation with violent extremism, as an expansion to our “Time to Talk” series.

Engaging new and emerging communities

- We will further develop the 'Stronger Communities' online portal, which will encourage and support Brent residents to work with their neighbours to identify and find solutions to local problems, confidently work with institutions to report threats and create a sense of belonging for new members of their community.
- We will deliver further events in the 'Time to Talk' series, to enable local residents to share concerns and pose questions to expert witnesses and elected members on issues that impact on good community relations in Brent.
- We will deliver activities and events focused on Brexit with the aim of informing and supporting our communities.
- We will continue to refine our hate crime portal and provide a greater range of accessible materials for those affected by disability hate crime.
- We will develop a fast response approach to local hate crime aimed at providing information, managing community concerns, and politically opposing attempts to divide people in the borough by their background and status.
- We will review the Armed Forces Covenant and its implementation in the Borough to help us be sure that veterans are being integrated and supported well.
- We will deepen the borough's work in the Brent multi-faith forum by encouraging more faiths groups to be more strongly involved and by working in support of the Brent Faith Covenant. In addition, we will investigate the creation of a Brent Communities Forum along similar lines, to encourage similar dialogue between other interest groups in the borough such as those based around nationality.
- We will review how places of worship are used by different denominations, genders and generations, to inform our work with faith-based groups.

Tackling underachievement

- We will monitor and challenge the progress and impact of the school based black Caribbean boys achievement project.
- We will develop Family Hubs.
- We will monitor the take up of early year's education by specific underachieving groups and develop plans to address any issues.
- We will work with the Young Brent Foundation to develop effective youth provision to support improving outcomes.

- We will support schools in developing online resources for parents on strengthening their role and contribution to improving their children's learning and progress. These will provide links to opportunities for accreditation, face-to-face advice and workshops. The resources will draw on the experience and expertise of local community groups.

Promoting gender equality

- Working with our Community Protection team, we will develop a public charter for the safety of women within the borough, outlining what they can expect from us and how women can best be protected from and supported through exploitation, sexual violence and domestic abuse.
- Using existing data sources we will audit the social and economic wellbeing of women in the borough and make recommendations in support of greater gender equality.
- Working with partners, we will explore the provision of "safe spaces" for women to engage.
- We will seek to identify and support women in Brent at risk of marginalisation.
- Working with the voluntary and community sector we will continue to explore women-only events and forums for those women who do not feel comfortable engaging in the presence of men.
- We will continue to work with our staff networks in supporting activities and events, for example the LGBT network.