

APPENDIX 1 – UPDATES FROM LEADER AND CABINET

1. Leaders Introduction – Councillor Muhammed Butt

- 1.1 As the following reports from my Cabinet colleagues outline, since our last meeting of Council, in which we welcomed our new Mayor and Deputy, we have been anything but quiet; as their civic year begins, the Cabinet's continues at pace. A limited summary of the Cabinet's work follows overleaf.
- 1.2 While the Government tries to agree on the exact shade of Brexit, normal life is not on hold. The effects of austerity keep marching on, with the rest of the country gazing on as our public services teeter further towards the edge. For local government, we are torn between impossible choices on a daily basis as our financial future lies in the hands of Parliamentarians that are impervious to the scale of need in our borough.
- 1.3 My colleague, London Councils Chair Peter John has highlighted, that the government's proposed blueprint for funding councils, that downplays the influence that levels of deprivation have in the running of services; does so at the expense of London, with eight out of twenty of the most deprived areas in the country. Between now and our next meeting later in the year, we hope once more that politicians in Westminster have the courage of their convictions to reverse cuts to essential public services' on which our residents rely.
- 1.4 To this end, we have continued to meet with representatives from across the political spectrum to reinforce the need for a step change in the way that we talk about councils, from the Shadow Communities and Local Government team through to the Minister of London Nick Hurd MP.

2. Deputy Leader – Councillor Margaret McLennan

2.1 Finance

A number of financial reports detailing past, present and future forecast projections and current budget state will be discussed at Cabinet on the 15th July. These reports are due to be published on the 5th July and though challenging, the Authorities financial outturn projections have proved correct and a balanced budget was produced for 2018/19. Areas of pressure are in Children and Adult Social Care and Temporary Accommodation, as projected.

2.2 Digital

Digital is now within a new department that includes Customer Services. A new updated and enhanced Digital strategy is being drafted for 2019 – 2023 by the Digital Transformation Team that sets out how new technologies and AI can better support access to residents to Authority services and better support staff in delivering more targeted services and support. The ICT and Transformation team has been put forward for several awards including at 'Connected Britain' and the MJ Awards.

2.3 Procurement

An 'Ethical Procurement and Social Value' strategy is being drafted by our teams. This document is set to drive our procurement processes and ensure wider gains, across all communities, is received from our Suppliers, outside the ones usually set within current contracts and leads on from the principles contained in the Social Value Act. The question will always be asked of 'What benefits will you bring to Brent residents'? This will be produced for consultation in late summer. Brent will be the only Council in the country to tease out higher levels of social value for our residents.

2.4 Equalities

The Authority's Equalities Strategy 2019 – 2023 is currently out to consultation during the period June to the end of August. The strategy is due to be published in September 2019. I urge all to complete the online and paper copy questionnaire and have your say, as we want to make sure everyone has a stake in the Equalities agenda in Brent. Help us to shape equable and equitable services.

3. Public Health, Culture and Leisure – Councillor Krupesh Hirani

- 3.1 Our Community Advisors have been going through the first round of 2020 Culture Fund applications and have decided on the final awards. Successful groups have been notified and unsuccessful groups have been offered constructive feedback to improve their bids to increase the chances of success for next time. The next round of the Culture Fund opened on June 13th and will be accepting applications until 12th August.
- 3.2 Our London Borough of Culture quarterly public meeting where the Artistic Director and myself give a public update to the community, was held at Kilburn library. Our Cultural Network event at the Granville was also a resounding success and we also had potential funders at the event such as the Arts Council so that people could learn more about grant opportunities. I hosted a visit from the Cabinet Member for Lewisham as they wanted advice on their London Borough of Culture bid in the future. I spoke at the Brent Pensioners Forum about the Borough of Culture. I met with academics from Kings College London who are interested in doing some research work around how we have involved people as part of our Year of Culture.
- 3.3 We hosted a warm up event for the Borough of Culture bringing together Councillors, our Young Ambassadors, staff, the Community Advisors and Trust members where the brand was revealed for LBOC2020. I met with the organisers for the Corner Space at the Wembley library regarding closer collaboration for events and public talks. I met a group interested in a music project with schools and nursing homes. I met with potential Borough of Culture funders and partners such as the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Arts Council, GLA and Heritage Lottery. I met with the Neasden Temple regarding potential areas we could work together on in 2020. I also attended their health themed seminar. I also attended health Seminars at the Brent Indian Association building, held in partnership with the Nepalese community and also a health awareness day with the Oshwal Community.
- 3.4 The Journey to Justice exhibition which celebrates local and international struggles and campaigns against injustices was launched at Willesden Library. The exhibition will be open until 1st September.
- 3.5 I attended events promoting Mental Health Awareness Week hosted by Hestia at Kilburn Library and at the Stonebridge Hub. I also attended the programme of activities hosted at SEIDS hub in Wembley. The Cobbold Road Westminster Drugs Project (WDP) centre, which houses our drug and alcohol support services, hosted a delegation from Government departments as they recognise our work in this field as best practise.
- 3.6 I attended the screening of One Dynamic Act at Wembley Stadium which was organised by the Brent based organisation Slenky. The event looked at race relations in Brent in 1979 and delved into changes since then, 40 years on.

- 3.7 I attended the national holocaust commemoration event with the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan where all the different sects of the Jewish community come together to commemorate at the Memorial stone at Hyde Park.
- 3.8 I met the organisers of the Queens Park Book Festival to talk about closer working. We have agreed in principle to add their 2020 event to our London Borough of Culture programme and help with the promotion of their event. I attended the first ever production from Brent Youth Theatre 'Noise!'
- 3.9 I attended the charity fundraiser event hosted by Tamu Samaj who are based at Barham Park. I attended Vishnu prayers at the Damecha Centre along with other fellow Councillors. I attended the launch of the 1 in 4 photograph exhibition at the Brent Civic Centre which aims to promote awareness of prostate cancer among black men. I met an organisation interested in having a large scale outdoor entertainment event at Fryent Country Park over 2020. I met Koolcha based at Box Park who are drawing up a programme of summer events. I attended Inheritance Day at the Jewish Cemetery in Willesden and at the event officially opened the gate which divided the Orthodox and Liberal Jewish graves. I handed out awards and spoke at the Brent Schools FA awards night.
- 3.10 Initial talks have been held with Queens Park Councillors regarding the potential renaming of Kilburn library. We will also sound out local groups and library users as well as the History societies before we go any further.
- 3.11 I also held an initial meeting with Collaborate who will be looking at our outlook locally and recommending a way forward regarding our future relationship with the voluntary sector. A proposal to set up a local Brent lottery where the proceeds would be going to local Brent charities was agreed by Cabinet. There are 50 examples across the country where these have been set up and are bringing in additional income for the voluntary sector. I chaired CVS Brent's all day event on Social Prescribing which brought organisations together to find a way forward to progress social prescribing in Brent.
- 3.12 I have had the pleasure of joining Iftars at the Pakistan Community Centre and the Wembley Islamic Cultural Centre. I attended Eid celebrations at the Asian People's Disability Association's centre and at the St Raphaels Children's Centre. I attended a community day at the Willesden Baptist Church at St Mary's Church's annual fair. I contributed to the Scrutiny work plan for the Community Wellbeing Committee and offered my suggestions on what they could look into over the next municipal year.

4. Environment – Councillor Krupa Sheth

4.1 Bee Corridor

As part of our plan to create bio diversity in the borough, we sowed wildflower seeds in 24 of our meadows across Brent Parks. We have created a bee corridor. I went down to Woodcock Park and King Edwards Park to sow some seed. We have had some great coverage. I was on the on the BBC Radio breakfast show, and articles were published on BBC news and many other websites. The story has reached the national papers in Slovakia, Spain and Argentina. Wildflower meadows are in full bloom in some areas of the borough; with Tookey Close, Church Lane Recreation Ground and Barham Park looking particularly impressive. We have had very positive feedback from residents following the article on the bee corridor in the Brent Magazine and our social media stories.

4.2 King Edwards V11 Park

We are developing a project plan for improvements in King Edward VII park, due to the receipt of s.106 funding from The Hub, with a successful afternoon planting in an enhanced wildflower meadow, which is the first step in this summer's improvement programme.

4.3 Drinking Fountains in Parks

Our team put forward an application for the Mayor of London's Drinking Fountain for London Scheme. Our application was successful and the following locations have been approved, **Harlesden community garden, Harlesden Town Garden, Challenge Close; Willesden Green tube, Outside Willesden Green Tube Station, Walm Lane; Gladstone Park Gladstone Park, Dollis Hill Lane, by the crossroads next to the Children's playground.**

The other two projects for Barham Park and Northwick Park could not be approved at this stage because the water supplier in these locations is Affinity and this initial project is being supported by Thames Water.

4.4 Wildlife Photography Competition 2019

Our Wildlife Photography Competition for 2019 has been launched and we have already had over 25 entries. The link to the competition is below and the closing date is the 27th October. Please pass these details on:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks/biodiversity/wildlife-photo-competition/>

4.5 Recycling Awards

We have been selected as a Finalist for National Recycling Awards for Veolia's creative approach on reducing contamination in blocks of flats (awards being held on the 27th June). It involved targeted communication with residents in blocks of flats and working to increase the proportion of recycling bins compared

to general waste bins at flats to increase the capacity for recycling as well by changing the use of existing bins rather than just asking managing agents to pay for additional recycling bins. It has been carried out all across the borough where recycling problems have been highlighted by councillors and neighbourhood managers.

4.6 **Allotments**

Vacant plots are being filled through our allotments services and we hope to have all vacancies filled this year.

4.7 **Central Government Town Centre Cleaning Fund**

On 19th March, Neighbourhood Management received £57,000 from a Central Government Town Centre Cleaning fund, for additional cleaning in our High Streets. The grant has been provided to every local authority in the country. Brent used the grant to conduct a project in high profile town centres over 4 weekends. We commenced with this project on Saturday 23 March in Queensbury Station Parade. We have had a clean-up in some of our main town centres, Neasden, Wembley High Road, Ealing Road, Willesden High Road, Walm Lane and Kilburn High Road. In partnership with Veolia, we focused on jet washing pavements, graffiti and paan removal and removing both stickers and fly posting on the public highway.

4.8 **Tackling Paan Spitting**

Following a positive campaign on paan spitting with coverage from ITV last year, we did an action weekend in Wembley to tackle paan spitting. It was a community led campaign with the support from our officers, enviro enforcement officers and Veolia. BBC came down and did a story on our campaign and we had some positive coverage. The Brent Paan Action Network was launched by Neighbourhood Management earlier this year with the intention of bringing the community, local organisations and the Council together to develop sustainable solutions for tackling Paan spitting. This has now become fully independent and community led with the first resident chaired meeting held last week. A programme of campaigns and other initiatives is now being developed with an initial focus on the Ealing Road area with borough wide expansion to follow thereafter.

4.9 **Clean up Action Days**

The roll out of the borough wide community skip / community clean-up programme launched on the back of a successful pilot in the Queensbury area is currently underway with Neighbourhood Managers in the process of developing plans to launch events in their areas.

The historically successful Community Payback scheme which makes use of offenders to clean up graffiti as well as overgrown and littered private alleys is in the process of being relaunched this summer. Discussions are also taking place to use Payback to litter pick parks as well.

Assessments are also now underway to recruit officers for the new Neighbourhood Patrol Team who will soon be focussing on on-street PSPO enforcement across the borough.

4.10 **Electric Vehicle Charge Points**

We now have electric Vehicle charging points in operation in many areas across Brent and we are working on installing more.

4.11 **Air Quality**

We are progressing with the two pilot school streets outside Harlesden and Wykeham Primary schools which should be implemented by the end of May.

Our Breathe Clean project is proving very popular with schools, air pollution workshops are being carried out and diffusion tubes installed to help identify hot spots in individual schools

No-idling signs are being installed outside schools and various other locations across the borough. Four Idling action events have been conducted to raise awareness of this with the support from an enforcement officer.

4.12 **Car Free Day**

We signed the Car Free Day pledge and will be hosting an event in Ealing Road on Sunday 22nd September. Residents are encouraged to host their own events and we will offer road closures free of charge if on car free day.

4.13 **Parking**

- We have installed a second re-mountable CCTV camera to enforce Keep Clear zones outside schools.
- We were shortlisted by the British Parking Association for their '*Team of the Year*' award
- We have signed up to Serco's '*Respect and Protect*' campaign to ensure the safety of their staff.
- A Harlesden resident has been hit with an unprecedented fine of over £2,000 for repeated Blue Badge fraud following action by Brent Council.
- As a key contribution to improving the borough's air quality we will be introducing a diesel surcharge on resident parking permits of £50 from June 3rd. This seeks to persuade motorists to switch to less polluting vehicles and other more sustainable modes of transport.
- Over-large vehicles are set to disappear from streets in CPZs, as we will no longer allow them.

- Our new moving traffic enforcement camera at High Street Harlesden has reduced traffic violations by 20% already, and we are expecting this improvement to continue. This is being complemented by joint Parking and Police patrols in Harlesden town centre to tackle illegal parking

4.14 **LED Street Lights**

- 21,000 LED street lights were installed during a 12month investment programme which was completed earlier this year. Our 21,000 street lights will save £850,000 every year.
- Conway have now taken over all lighting maintenance from Bouygues.

4.15 **Highways & Infrastructure**

There is a report scheduled for September regarding amendments to the Cycling in Parks Byelaw. We are currently out to consultation and the report will be drafted once consultation has finished.

4.16 **Trees**

Defra is making £10m available over 2019-20 and 2020-21 to support planting of street trees in towns and cities through a new Urban Tree Challenge Fund. The GLA will submit a London-wide bid to the fund for a London Street Trees project, working in partnership with boroughs and the London Tree Officers Association. This is the first opportunity which has arisen for street tree planting in 5 years – all other bidding rounds have been for parks, housing estates and green spaces. Match funding will be required from Brent which will be done through CIL.

5. Regeneration, Property and Planning – Councillor Shama Tatler

- 5.1 I am delighted to announce the first two School Streets at Harlesden Primary School and Wykeham Primary School have been implemented. Working with the Mayor of London and TfL this initiative addresses the issue of congestion and dangerous parking around schools. Using cameras, designated roads will only be accessible to pedestrians, cyclists during school drop-off and pick up times. Residents will also be access the roads. This has already seen a huge reduction in congestion around the schools and will see improvements in safety and air quality. In addition, it has encouraged more active travel to and from schools. We are now assessing other primary schools in borough so we can look to introduce this scheme elsewhere.
- 5.2 Injection patching for potholes has started in the borough. Velocity will be visiting every residential street in the Brent aiming to be in each ward for at least 2 weeks. Velocity can fill a pothole in 3mins rather than 15min taken by the current contractor. They will be 'sweeping' each road and fixing every pothole in a street rather than one. Along with the recently announced £20million investment for Brent's footpaths, these initiatives will contribute to our commitment to our travel network.
- 5.3 There is a consultation for the whole borough about formalising arrangements for cycling in our parks. Currently, there is a bye-law in place that prohibits cycling in parks, but we all know that in most parks cycling actually does occur. This piece of work will allow officers to assess where cycling is suitable and what work (line markings etc) needs to be carried out.
- 5.4 We are delighted that on the 30th May, residents overwhelmingly voted in favour of a Harlesden Neighbourhood Plan I would like to thank the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum and the planning policy officers for bringing this forward.
- 5.5 We are currently recruitment a planning enforcement officer to work solely on improving the look and cleanliness of buildings/shop fronts of our town centres. Work has already been piloted in Neasden to great effect and we are starting to roll out across the borough.
- 5.6 We are currently putting together a proposal for the Good Growth Fund for Harlesden and a bid for the 'Future of the High Streets' fund for Willesden. We have commissioned public art in Willesden, Church End and soon Kilburn funded through NCIL. In both Willesden and Church End artists were chosen by a panel of ward councillors and residents. The artists working with the community have designed art and will be completed over next couple of months. A piece in Church End has already been completed.
- 5.7 We are launching a programme of support, 'Brent for Business'. A series of workshops to support Brent SMEs. For more information please use this [link](#). Small and medium-sized businesses are also set to benefit from more than £100 million in investment from the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. The Greater London Investment Fund that was announced by the Mayor is set up to specifically target businesses which have had difficulties in securing crucial investment.

Businesses can now apply for investment by contacting either of the independent fund managers – MMC Ventures and The FSE Group – directly. To apply for investment contact: Venture Fund: <https://www.mmventures.com/contact/> or Small and Large loans: <http://www.thefsegroup.com/>

6. Schools, Employment and Skills – Councillor Amer Agha

6.1 Schools:

6.1.1 As presented to Scrutiny, Brent Council continues to ensure that there is a clear strategic oversight of educational provision in Brent and over the last year we have worked in partnership with schools to address improvement priorities, support positive inspection outcomes and delivered improved academic results.

6.1.2 As a result, the overall effectiveness of Brent schools has remained high, with 96 per cent of Brent schools judged good or outstanding by Ofsted. Brent's margin above the London and national averages increased, with Brent ten percentage points above the national average of 86 per cent and four points above the London average of 92 per cent.

6.1.3 Schools Forum received an update from the Brent Schools Partnership (BSP) on the actions taken and progress made since September 2018 following the launch of the Schools Forum funded “**Raising the Achievement of Boys of Black Caribbean Heritage in Brent Schools**” programme. An investment of £564,750 is being made over a two-year period to commission the BSP to deliver the following products:

- A supported rigorous and robust analysis of the performance of pupils of Black Caribbean heritage, and the effectiveness of key aspects of schools' practice to ensure pupils of Black Caribbean heritage achieve well;
- The designation of a Black Caribbean Achievement (BCA) Champion in every school in Brent for a period of two years;
- A programme of half termly training for the BCA Champion to ensure high level of skills and competencies to deliver the role effectively leading to real impact on outcomes in schools;
- A programme of subsidised training for groups of staff and for school governors;
- The development of online resources for parents on strengthening their role and contribution to improving their children's learning and progress, and reducing the likelihood of their children being excluded from schools.

Schools Forum received an update from the Brent Schools Partnership (BSP) on the actions taken and progress made since September 2018 following the launch of the Schools Forum funded “**Leadership Development and Succession Planning in Brent Schools**” programme. An investment of £445,250 is being made over a two-year period to commission the BSP to deliver three products:

- A leadership development programme targeting 60 potential and current leaders, to engage in a development programme to prepare them for the next stage of their leadership career;
- A leadership development programme focused specifically on new headteachers in their first three years of headship;

- Building on the National Standards of Excellence for Headteachers, the development of a Leadership Charter

6.1.4 Over 70 applications were received for the leadership development programme. The applications were assessed for the applicant's level of experience, skills, competencies and attributes. 60 applicants were successful and 59 applicants have now commenced their bespoke leadership programmes.

Of the 32 new headteachers and heads of school in Brent who are in their first three years of headship, 24 are being actively engaged in this programme, accessing support and one to one coaching.

6.2 **Employment & Skills:**

6.2.1 **Supporting Brent residents into work and apprenticeships:**

- Brent Works and The Living Room delivered over 250 job and apprenticeship outcomes over the course of 2018-19 for Brent residents.
- The Living Room team have expanded their support beyond St Raphael's and are now operating from the Harlesden and South Kilburn Hubs. They were Highly Commended (i.e. 2nd Place) at the national Employment Related Support Association (ERSA) 2019.
- Over 90 apprentices have now been recruited at Wembley Park through construction and back-office roles, and the team is on track to deliver 136 apprenticeships across the Wembley Park Masterplan, as agreed in the Section 106 Planning Agreement.
- Brent Works won the Best Employment Initiative at the 2018 Place West London Awards.
- The team were also nominated in partnership with Wembley Park for the Best Partnership Initiative at the 2018 British Construction Awards and Best Work with Developers at the 2018 London Councils Apprenticeship Awards.
- The Council also won the Best Progression by Apprentices at the 2018 London Councils Apprenticeship Awards.
- During National Apprenticeship Week in March 2019, Brent Works co-hosted an apprenticeships and careers event with Prospects at the Civic Centre. Over 400 Brent Residents and School pupils attended.
- In May 2019 Brent Works organised the Wembley Jobs and Apprenticeship Show, with 100 employer and training provider stands, and over 3,000 people attending [note: if asked, over 2,000 of which were Brent residents].

6.2.2 Working with Creative, Tech and Digital growth sectors:

- Brent Works supported over 30 Brent residents into roles with Hyperoptic, paying the London Living Wage and are now working with Community Fibre who are also rolling out superfast broadband.
- The team will also be supporting Brent residents into 20 creative industry apprenticeships across London, as part of the London Borough of Culture 2020 programme.
- The borough's first 'Tech Camps and Awards' was delivered across 2018-19 as part of the Digital Programme. 100 people from Brent schools, the College of North West London as well as Jobcentre claimants took part in hackathon programmes to develop new mobile Apps.
- A tech event was hosted at the Civic Centre in March 2019 with over 450 residents coming to meet with tech industry employers and training providers, including Google who were present to provide a series of masterclasses (e.g. social media marketing and e-commerce).

6.2.3 New programmes to support Borough Plan priorities:

- A new project called *Bright Futures* to support ex-offenders launched on the 28th June with an employer roundtable. It was commissioned in partnership with Community Safety and Probation colleagues and includes helping ex-offenders into good quality jobs to prevent re-offending, as well as creation of a new peer and business mentor programme.
- A new project called *Moving On Up* is currently being commissioned, working with the Black Training and Employment Group (BTEG), funded by Trust for London [£220k and seeking to lever in further investment from funders such as the DWP]. It has been designed with significant input from a range of local partner organisations including the DWP, college, and voluntary and community sector organisations, as well as young black men themselves. An event was hosted earlier in 2019 with over 50 young black men attending to provide their feedback on their barriers to employment and what support they would like to receive. Businesses have been involved throughout to ensure that barriers can be broken down for this group of young people. The project will also establish a network of peer and business mentors.
- *The Work and Health Programme*, delivered by The Shaw Trust, received over 1,000 referrals from Brent in its first year of operation. Over 100 of the referrals to the programme have now started work, but it also supports progress through volunteering, training and confidence building. The support available is holistic and designed to overcome barriers to work through intensive 121 support. Some great stories of successes have come to light and a Celebration Event for West London was hosted in March 2019 at the Civic Centre.

- A new West London project has recently been launched to support people with substance misuse issues into work, which is being delivered by *Westminster Drug Project (WDP)*.

6.2.4 **Improving skills levels in Brent:**

- *Brent Start* performance continues to improve, with over 2,500 learners per annum, achieving over 89% Achievement Rate, above national and comparator averages. The aspiration is for achievement to surpass 90% this year, and for Brent Start to become an Outstanding provider of adult education.
- Brent Start launched its Digital Skills programme in November 2018, including Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality, embedded in learning for maths, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and for residents with learning disabilities.
- Brent Start was shortlisted for the Best Digital Skills Award at the 2019 national Connected Britain Awards.

7. Community Safety – Councillor Tom Miller

7.1 Domestic abuse

There is no level of domestic abuse which is tolerable, but our recent numbers reassure me that we are headed in the right direction. Our early intervention workers seem to have led to an increase in reporting with a 9% decrease in DA related injuries over the last year.

As DA is such an under-reported crime, I feel that we should welcome both developments and appreciate the relationship between them – higher reporting and earlier identification help us make sure we bring down the number of people who suffer injuries at the hands of partners and family members.

In particular, I am pleased that our independent advocacy service has been paying attention to so called ‘non-crime’ DA incidents, where a person has not reported injuries as being related to a criminal act. We know there can be great difficulty perceived by many people who consider reporting, so it is right that services try to fill some of this gap.

The approach we have taken on these issues show that domestic abuse is a high priority for us at the Council, and something we won’t tolerate. The best way of seeing this into practice is to make sure that victims are identified as early as possible, protected and supported as appropriate. If we can sustain the improvements we are seeing in reporting and violence reduction, Brent will be entitled to call itself a leading borough on the issue of domestic abuse.

I would like to congratulate all of our IDVA frontline workers who helped to make this happen, and call on them to sustain these gains. If anyone deserves the credit, it is them.

7.2 OWL

Online Watch Link has now launched in the borough following successful work in Barnet and Tower Hamlets. The platform is aimed at supporting local Neighbourhood Watch activity and radically reducing the need for administration and recruitment work. The latter point is of particular use as we are able to sign up members of the public who are not members of a formal neighbourhood watch – though of course, all of our residents are encouraged to join one.

Using the platform we will increase the level of information received by residents from the Police and departments in the Council (primarily the community protection and regulatory teams). We should also be able to tackle rumour and speculation about crime and enforcement matters much more directly, by providing a source of information which can be absolutely trusted in terms of accuracy and security.

At the time of writing we are following a slow rollout, so we have around 2000 active users. I would strongly encourage residents to sign up for alerts in their patch.

www.owl.co.uk | www.nextdoor.co.uk

7.3 PSPOs

Following lengthy conversations with residents and other local stakeholders about the parks and cemeteries PSPO put forward in the Spring, by the time this report applies, the PSPO should be in force. We have made significant changes from the initial proposal because we are serious about listening to our residents through the consultation process. This has included measures to liberalise how the PSPO would apply to dog walkers, and the removal of measures relating to encampments in parks.

Residents and reporting - A reminder that our page for reporting crime and ASB is here:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/crime-and-community-safety/antisocial-behaviour/>

Our Community Safety Strategy is available here:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-council/about-brent-council/council-structure-and-how-we-work/strategies-and-plans/community-safety-strategy/>

7.4 Neighbourhood Patrols

This is the name we will be using for the new patrols we are bringing in to replace some of the function of the Police Partnership Targeting Team. It will consist of a small team of officers who will have the usual enforcement powers over issues like PSPO breaches or littering and flytipping, but they will also be security industry trained, uniformed, and are being hired with an emphasis on conflict management skills, so that we can use this team to crack down on anti-social behaviour in lieu of the budget previously allocated by the Met and the Council to the PTT.

The posts are currently recruiting, and new officers will initially serve alongside the existing PTT to give them a chance to embed and share experience with Police Officers.

7.5 Trading Standards and Food Safety

Council will have seen recent press material from the work our officers have undertaken to support National Trading Standards Week in June. With a much reduced team, we are still providing guidance and support to businesses who get it right, and enforcement against unscrupulous business and scammers. Our trading standards team are very happy to give members more information about their activities and how residents can protect themselves from scams, so please get in touch if this interests you.

I am also pleased to say that our food safety team have finally caught up with a large backlog in inspections dating back for the last 3-4 years. Where 81% of food businesses were broadly compliant two years ago, the figure has now risen to 88%. In that time we have gone from a 64% inspection rate to 92%, so it is clear that a more rigorous approach is making Brent a much better place for food and drink. This will be of particular importance given the approach of Borough of Culture and the work of my colleague Councillor Tatler in promoting and developing Brent's night time economy.

7.6 Third sector relationships and community engagement

I am pleased to be taking over political leadership of these functions from my colleagues Councillor Hirani and Councillor Butt, both of whom have done a fantastic job in remodelling how the Council works with residents, charities and social enterprise.

Brent has a fantastic civic society sector full of passionate and values driven people. The sector has however suffered with the impact of austerity on both Council and Central Government grants, confusion over the status of EU funding due to the Government's appalling handling of Brexit, and a general lack of coordination locally even where there are areas of overlap. In taking on these roles my focus will be on ensuring that the sector is skilled and coordinated enough to attract funding from trusts and small donors, and that there is strong development and support for inspirational leadership in the sector, especially when it comes to smaller charities or projects.

8. Children’s Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care – Councillor Mili Patel

8.1 Pride of Brent Youth Awards

I am delighted to announce our borough’s first ever Pride of Brent Youth Awards to celebrate the contribution of young people across Brent. I want to recognise the young people who work hard to make a difference in their community, and those who often put others before themselves. Its high time we recognised our young people for their contributions in the same way we have done for older citizens for some time.

The awards will take place on 20th July and there will be a range of awards on the night from “Good Neighbour” to “Sports Team” to “Young Environmentalist”.

8.2 Brent Foster Care Fortnight

Brent Fostering celebrated the national Foster Care Fortnight, between 13-26 May. Our Foster Care Team did great work offline and online to demonstrate how fostering is changing local children’s future prospects for the better. They also highlighted the positive outcome of fostering for parents as part of a recruitment drive.

Activities included stalls in the Civic Centre, the Library at Willesden Green and the job and apprentice show. We also launched the #future4Brent campaign.

8.3 Brent Young Carers

Brent Young Carers hosted a screening of the film *Jellyfish* at the Lexi in May. This is an excellent, but deeply troubling film about the problems facing young people who care for their parents, from house work and paying bills, to taking on low paid part time work, and becoming a parent figure to younger siblings. It is made in a similar mode to *I, Daniel Blake* and I hope it gets as much attention.

Following this event, I have agreed to meet with Brent Young Carers regularly to understand the support these remarkable young people need and to campaign for action to meet these needs. The end goal must be to give young people the time they need to enjoy their childhoods.

8.4 Roundwood Youth Centre – Scrutiny Committee Call-in

It was good to attend a lively Scrutiny meeting which discussed my paper on the future of the Roundwood Youth centre. Several teachers attended the meeting to express concerns, and other local youth charities such as Bang EduTainment and Brent Youth Foundation attend to speak in favour.

I was pleased that the committee, after hearing a significant amount of evidence supported my original position.

As I set out in my speech, my policy is driven by three priority outcomes:

1. That we increase the provision of youth services in Brent – as this committee has recommended at previous meetings – and thereby secure the long-term future of Roundwood Youth Centre.
2. That we increase the services on offer to some of our key target groups – for example teenage boys of Black Caribbean and Black African heritage, as this committee has recommended at previous meetings – in the south of the borough where support is needed most.
3. That we stop the scandal of excluded pupils being forced to travel miles out of the borough to continue their education, if at all.

8.5 Safeguarding in Action event

The work I am doing around Roundwood Youth centre, leads me onto a recent panel I sat on. The event was hosted by Newman Catholic College and I was invited to participate in their public debate on “Safeguarding in Action” as the Council’s lead on safeguarding. I sat alongside representatives from the school, Ofsted, the police and local ward councillor colleagues.

I think this is a fantastic school who do a great amount of outreach in the community, and I have worked with their school council to campaign for better lighting in Roundwood Park.

At the meeting we heard about the impact police cuts have had on the ability of the local force to tackle problems, the additional work schools can do with policies like safety arches, and the importance of the community working together. I look forward to working with local schools much more in this area and offer support wherever possible.

8.6 Local Authority Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) re-visit outcome

It is important that Brent Council gives all children and young people the opportunity to succeed and realise their aspirations in a supported environment.

Therefore, I am pleased to report that following a recent visit, Ofsted and the Care and Quality Commission decided that Brent Council and the local CCG have made sufficient progress in its work in SEND. As part of the revisit, inspectors met with children and young people with SEND, parents and carers, and local authority and NHS officers. Inspectors met with leaders and practitioners from the local area for education, health and social care. They considered 89 responses to the online survey for parents and reviewed a range of information about the effectiveness of Brent’s SEND arrangements.

Here are some of the things the inspector said in her letter:

“They have fully embraced the spirit of the SEND reforms and worked together in partnership to make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people with SEND in Brent”

“Through strong governance structures and increased accountability, they have made sure that the health needs of children and young people with SEND remain high on the agenda.”

“The joint commissioning partnership group also provides a forum for stakeholders, including parents, to identify any concerns or areas of best practice that they would like the local area to discuss with providers.”

“EHC plans that have been written recently show that when a child or young person is accessing support from more than one therapy service, those teams work together to provide coordinated advice with integrated targets.”

“Everybody knows who leads each aspect of the work because leaders have established clear lines of accountability. This ensures that no group of children falls through the net.”

It is satisfying to note the significant progress we have made in this area but we should not be complacent. I will ensure the partnership with the local CCG remains strong and continues to make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people with SEND.

8.7 **Multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements in Brent, 2019 onwards**

On 17 June Cabinet were presented with a proposed model on partnership safeguarding oversight arrangements for Brent’s children and young people.

Under The Children and Social Work Act 2017, the new safeguarding oversight arrangements replace the Local Safeguarding Children Boards with the new arrangements to be delivered by the local authority, CCG and police. The new model requires partners to have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Cabinet approved this new model and you can read the draft arrangement report [here:](http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=455&MId=5263&Ver=4)
<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=455&MId=5263&Ver=4>

8.8 **The Family Hub Model**

At the moment, Brent has a number of Children’s Centres, which deliver services for 0-5 year olds. I want to move to a more comprehensive model which delivers wraparound services right up to the age of 18 (and up to 25 for people with disabilities). This should deliver better outcomes for residents who

will be able to access all of the support they need in one clear location in each community.

9. Adult Social Care – Councillor Harbi Farah

9.1 Safeguarding Adults Peer Review June 2019

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS) undertook a Peer Review of Brent's Safeguarding Adult Services between Wednesday 19 and Friday 21 June. A Peer Review is not an inspection, but it does provide external scrutiny of services, and ideas about how you can improve practice and outcomes.

9.2 Outcomes

The Peer Review team were very positive about our dedicated and engaged staff, particularly the central Safeguarding Adults Team. They were clear that our approach is fundamentally sound – that they found evidence that safeguarding alerts are responded to in a timely fashion, effective arrangements are made for investigations, and the safeguarding process helps to mitigate risk for vulnerable adults.

They were also positive about the leadership in Brent - that there is a strong voice across the Council in ensuring parity of esteem for adult safeguarding, and that there are particularly strong links between housing, health and care, and with social care providers.

9.3 Social care green paper delayed yet again.

Once again, the Government has missed its self-imposed deadline for publishing the social care green paper. Health Secretary Matt Hancock had promised in January that it would be published "before April". This failure to publish is the fifth occasion that the green paper has been delayed in just over two years.

The green paper has become an object of ridicule, but the Government's constant foot-dragging is no laughing matter. Ongoing prevarication has already created serious problems and is storing up more for the future. It is impossible to plan effectively for the future without clarity about the funding. But while the government delays, we still have to meet the ever increasing demand. We have seen over the last three years

9.4 We continue to do what we can to meet the needs of our residents in the most efficient and effective way possible.

9.5 Our integrated reablement and rehabilitation services continues to provide people with greater independence – last year 88% of people who used it didn't need support afterwards.

9.6 Our New Accommodation for Independent Living (NAIL) programme delivered 180 new homes for people last year (more independence at a lower cost for the Council), and in the last 6 months we have reduced delayed transfers of care significantly, benefitting Brent residents, and saving the health service money.

However, we cannot keep doing more and more with less and less, especially as demand continues to grow.

- 9.7 Social care has reached a crisis point, with funding failing to keep pace with the rising needs of people in England. We are living longer but have more complex care and support needs, which is to be celebrated, but once those needs used to be met by the NHS, more and more the pressure is on local government, families and communities. The latest delay must be the last.
- 9.8 More than 64,000 vulnerable older people have died since the Government first announced it would publish a green paper on social care to tackle the care crisis, which has been delayed six times, according to analysis by Age UK. Since March 8 2017, the number of over-65s to have died after making a request for support but before receiving services stands at 64,367 equal to 77 a day. The Department of Health and Social Care could not say if the document would be published in the next six months. The LGA said since 2010 councils have had to bridge a £6 billion funding shortfall just to keep the adult social care system going and estimates adult social care services face a £3.6 billion funding gap by 2025, just to maintain existing standards.
- 9.9 Finally, I very much look forward to working with all our partners in Brent to perform our local commitments. I am committed to listening and taking forward collective actions to improve services. In particular, I would like to see that our services are embedded with our needs and values.

I am proud that Brent has achieved so much despite devastating central government cuts since 2010. As a cabinet member, my main priorities will focus on how to bring our services closer to our residents, while making sure our residents feel our system is ready to help, is respectful, and fair.

I look forward to meeting and hearing from you all in the coming days, weeks, months and year.

10. Housing and Welfare Reform – Councillor Eleanor Southwood

10.1 Housing Allocations Policy

10.1.1 Cabinet has agreed changes to the policy that defines how we allocate the very limited amount of social housing that we have access to. These changes do nothing to increase supply and is basically a response to a broken housing market. Setting priorities is therefore extremely difficult.

10.1.2 Our commitment is to take every opportunity to increase supply of affordable housing and reduce the number of families in TA – especially annex and B&B – whilst keeping Brent’s communities together.

10.1.3 As at 5th April 2019, there were 3,300 households in priority Bands A-C on the Council’s Housing Register, 2,500 of whom were living in TA. During 2017/18, only 618 units of social housing were available to meet this demand, almost half of which were 1 bed properties when our overwhelming need is for family homes.

10.1.4 In the past year, homelessness applications have increased by 52% and, with rising rents, job insecurity and a welfare system that will leave many worse off, more people are likely to need our help in coming years.

10.1.5 Following extensive consultation, the following changes have been made:

- Giving priority to victims of domestic abuse
- Adopting the policy for Displaced Tenants and Leaseholders in Regeneration Schemes which was consulted on in autumn 2018
- Removing quotas for social housing for particular groups and replacing with a Service Level Agreement covering children and young people, with all other cases going to the Allocations Panel
- Giving priority to households who need a transfer to bid for new accommodation that becomes available on their current estate
- Giving priority to accepted homeless households living in Temporary Accommodation on an estate that is being regenerated for social housing that becomes available on that estate

10.2 Consultation on extending licensing

10.2.1 On June 10th 2019, consultation began on:

- Renewing our borough-wide additional licensing scheme, which expires in Dec 2019. This will be a Cabinet decision
- Renewing selective licensing in Harlesden, Wembley Central and Willesden Green, which expires in Dec 2019. This is an MCLG decision
- introducing a selective licensing scheme to cover most of the rest of the borough, which is an MHCLG decision

10.2.2 The consultation will run for 10 weeks and the issue will be discussed at Brent Connects.

Have your say at: <https://consultation.brent.gov.uk/chief-executive-department/private-rented-sector-licensing/>

10.3 Support for people at risk of rough sleeping

We're establishing a service to provide low level floating support to ex rough sleepers and people at risk of rough sleeping. This is a joint initiative of the 7 boroughs that make up the West London Housing Partnership. The service is entirely funded by MCLG and will provide over 300 people with a few hours support each week in their own homes. The support is designed to enable people to sustain their tenancies and remain independent by building skills in financial management, independent living, building social relationships and networks. For now, the funding is only guaranteed for 2019/20 but this is a great opportunity to offer support to people who are often at risk of returning to sleeping rough.

10.4 Increasing supply of affordable housing

The only way to ease the pressure on Brent residents who are struggling to find affordable homes is to increase supply and I wanted to update on a couple of areas of work:

- Building council homes – the London Mayor has agreed to a £65m part funding package for us to build 817 homes at social rent. Some of these developments are underway and conversations with residents and Cllrs will take place as we look at sites across the Borough. It's an ambitious plan but we're determined to deliver
- We've had the inaugural meeting of Capital Letters, a not-for-profit company jointly owned by 13 London boroughs, including us. The company will contract with owners of private housing to increase supply, improve quality and prevent competition. Currently, we often find ourselves being beaten to Brent property so this is also a way to keep our residents closer to Brent. Capital Letters will be a PRS landlord and, by collaborating in this way, we'll have a much stronger position in the market. The first tenancies are expected in summer.

10.5 The future of St Raphael's Estate

Over the past few months, conversations have been taking place with residents on St Rapses about how they would like their estate to look and feel in future. Last October, Cabinet agreed to start a largescale engagement programme, led by residents, to explore options. Residents have selected an organisation to act as an independent advisor during this process and work is underway to appoint a design team.