



Brent

Questions from the Opposition and Other Non-Cabinet Members

Full Council – 18 November 2024

1. Question from Councillor Kelcher to Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment & Enforcement)

What assessment has the Cabinet Member made of the effectiveness of Brent's School Streets programme in reducing harmful emissions and protecting young lungs?

Response:

Our schools' streets schemes have proven to be very popular with both the school community and with residents that often experience traffic and parking congestion.

These schemes restrict through traffic during school arrival and dispersal times and have helped reduce traffic and parking congestion outside schools, encouraging walking, cycling, and scooting. These schemes are introduced on a trial basis where schools have a Travel Plan which would include annual targets to increase the numbers of parents, carers and pupils travelling more sustainably.

The success criteria include improving air quality, reducing road traffic related casualties and an increase in active travel. Officers monitor the performance of these schemes, and a review indicated a 14% increase in pupils walking and cycling to school and a 12% decrease in car use for school journeys.

These schemes also contribute to delivering our Air Quality Action Plan and cleaner air in the borough. We have a network of diffusion tubes that monitor air quality and the data from these are included in our annual status report that is reported to the GLA, details can be found here [Air quality monitoring and reports | Brent Council](#).

2. Question from Councillor Choudry to Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment & Enforcement):

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the negotiations she has been having with Lime, in an effort to balance access to active travel with protecting residents' safety?

Response:

As a result of negotiations with Lime Bikes, they have committed to a new operating plan:

- They will invest to create 200 bike parking bays.
- These will become mandatory for users when complete from July 2025
- Their fleet is to be reduced by a third from 750 bikes to 500, until the new parking bays are in place and complaints have been addressed.
- They will ban the parking of bikes where misuse is severe and parking poor (we're working on these areas with the highest complaints)
- Introduce automatic speed controls in busy hotspots.
- Their operational staff on the ground will increase from 14 to 24 to improve responsiveness.
- Agreed KPIs including the removal of inappropriately parked bikes when reported within 2 hours.
- Reinvesting fines from poor parking back into the community through the Together Towards Zero grant scheme.
- Launching a new resident forum to meet on a quarterly basis and provide a cycle training session each month for residents.
- Working to commence immediately on a revised MoU.
- A new and separate email address for Councillors to contact Lime.
- Weekly operational meetings for the first few months to ensure improvements are in place and working, then a review with a possible move to monthly monitoring meetings.

3. Question from Councillor Benea to Councillor Mili Patel (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources)

Given that the Elections Act 2022 introduced significant changes to the voting rights of EU citizens living in the UK, which came into effect from May this year, can the Cabinet Member outline what steps the Council is taking to contact Brent residents to ensure free and full participation in UK elections?

Response:

Work has already started on ensuring eligible EU nationals remain on the register through emails and letters. If necessary we will be contacting residents by phone or a personal visit if they have not responded to the email and paper communications. There is information on the council [website](#) and the changes are also part of the standard canvass process.

Every property in the borough will receive a canvass form containing information about EU nationals voting rights. Work is also being carried out with the communications and engagement team using media sources from the Electoral Commission, through social media and communication with EU community groups. We have until 31 January to complete the process. The remaining residents that do not respond to our communications will be removed from the register, however they can re-register.

It should also be noted that agreements with Portugal, Poland, Spain, Denmark and Luxembourg mean that nationals of these countries have retained rights and do not need to take action to remain on the register. Communications have however still been sent

4. Question from Councillor Hirani to Councillor Muhammed Butt (Leader & Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration, Planning & Growth):

How much finance has been allocated to implement the Private Sector Landlord Selective Licensing scheme which has been introduced across all wards across the borough, with the exception of Wembley Park?

Response:

The Council has not allocated any finances at all for the implementation, administration or enforcement of the Private Sector Landlord Selective Licensing scheme which was introduced across all wards across the borough, with the exception of Wembley Park.

The scheme is self-financing and financed solely via the income generated from the licence fee.

5. Question from Councillor Matin to Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment & Enforcement):

Transport for London has started design work on making Alperton tube station step-free.

With a growing number of developments in the local area, step free access is becoming ever more important. Can the Lead Member confirm if the Council will commit to contributing match-funding to help ensure these works can be completed, and can the Cabinet Member also confirm the timeline for this project and the estimated date when the step free access at Alperton Station will be in place?

Response:

Following the completion of a feasibility study earlier this year, TfL has confirmed it is now progressing with design work on a single preferred option for step-free access to both platforms.

The design stage is to confirm that the single preferred option works and to get a better idea on the costs looking more deeply into the architectural, structural and mechanical services design and specifications and how they fit together to meet the requirements for step-free access at Alperton.

TfL has indicated that this current stage of work should be completed by Summer 2025. A delivery timescale will then emerge once the scale and complexity of works has been considered.

Any financial commitment would be a cabinet decision. At this point officers are engaged with TfL on the project and will review the position once we have clarity on the project costs. Current work is being undertaken at TfLs expense.