

APPENDIX 1 – UPDATES FROM LEADER AND CABINET

1. Leaders Introduction – Councillor Muhammed Butt

- 1.1 It has only been two short months since our last meeting of full Council, but in the current political climate, months feel closer to years. While Westminster still oscillates between a state of musical chairs, Parliamentary psychodrama and Groundhog Day; Labour in Brent is anything but inert, as the accompanying reports will set out.
- 1.2 Now more than ever, with a democratic deficit at the heart of government, I believe the words in our manifesto ring true: “we believe there has never been a more important time, to get involved, be engaged, or commit to protecting the best possible standard of essential public services. We are the party of that standard, and we are the party of that commitment”.

2. Deputy Leader – Councillor Margaret McLennan

2.1 Finance

- 2.1.1 You will all be aware that the Chancellor announced the Spending Review on Wednesday 4th September that will determine Council budgets for the next year. Myself and the Finance team are still quantifying the overall impact to Brent and will update Council in due course.
- 2.1.2 Nonetheless, we have embarked on the next phase of our budget setting process for 21/23 that will continue to be set for two years. Each department is set for a confirm and challenge meeting to discuss their, as yet provisional, spending cut total. Further details to be revealed post Wednesday, pending the Chancellors budget.

2.2 Joint ICT Partnership

- 2.2.1 A new Managing Director is about to be appointed for the ICT Shared Service. As you will be aware, Brent hosts the networks for Lewisham, Southwark, LGA and Air France and has other Authorities keen to have our post Oracle developed systems once fully embedded within the authority.

2.3 Events and Conferences

- 2.3.1 Last year was a successful year for The Drum, seeing solid demand which helped to produce £575,000 in revenue from sales to external. Bookings overall increased with 2,358 events taking place (671 of these were external) and ranged from small meetings to large-scale exhibitions and weddings. The Events team have been tasked with increasing this during 2019/20 and have developed a Marketing Strategy to maximise the potential to generate income over future years.

2.4 Customer Services

- 2.4.1 A revised Complex needs and assisted digital offer pilot began on 26 June and is still ongoing in the Customer Service Centre (CSC) and Harlesden and Kilburn Community Hubs. The pilot is showing that most residents can use self-service but levels of confidence vary greatly. Older residents and those with disabilities are most likely to need more intensive support to use self-service and this is being trialled.
- 2.4.2 Work is also in progress to coordinate the management of more complex cases who are being supported by a Community Hub but are also interacting with staff in the Civic Centre (typically housing and benefits).

2.5 Community Hubs

- 2.5.1 The purpose of the Community Hub model is twofold: making it easier for people, who might otherwise struggle, to get the help they need when they need

it & to create a safe and welcoming space making local expertise available in conjunction with other service providers.

- 2.5.2 The concept evolved from community consultations where residents asked for easier access to local services in one place. Harlesden and Kilburn Hubs: After successfully completing the Harlesden pilot and launching the Kilburn Hub, we are ready to expand across the borough.
- 2.5.3 All hubs have locations in the Brent Connect areas. The next stage is to open new hubs in Willesden, Ealing Road and Kingsbury libraries. They will provide the flexibility that has proven so effective, on people's doorsteps, ready and waiting to help, support, and advise in a way that leads to real and lasting change.

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

3.1 London Borough of Culture

- 3.1.1 Successful applicants for Round 1 the London Borough of Culture Fund have been announced. The first 14 projects to receive funding, comprising three individuals and 11 organisations, are:

BOLDER NOT OLDER

A programme of free dance classes for adults aged 65+, taking place in Brent's care homes, sheltered accommodation and community centres, organised by DanceWest.

BRENT UK UNSIGNED FESTIVAL

A series of performances by unsigned artists, each describing the story of how their community came to be established in Brent. Organised by SABA.

CULTURE CLICK

This project will engage and document the local community through a new photography series led by Skylight Brent, the local homelessness charity run by Crisis UK.

THE HARLESDEN & WILLESDEN PHOTOGRAPHY ARCHIVE

A comprehensive, unseen archive of photographs, curated by Roy Mehta, documenting everyday life in Brent in the late 1980s, which will be recovered and displayed in an exhibition at Willesden Green Library.

THE HOUSE OF LIFE

The House of Life is inviting artists to respond to the extraordinary history of the 21-acre Willesden Jewish Cemetery and create new experiences for people from all backgrounds to enjoy.

LEAP INTERGENERATIONAL ART

A series of community outreach projects which will see primary schools, day-care centres and artists work together to produce a creative project, from exhibitions and recordings to live performance.

A LIFETIME'S WORK

A photography project by Jude Wacks documenting local businesses around Brent, celebrating the history, entrepreneurship and community contribution of family firms across the borough.

MAPPING BRENT

A Kiln Theatre community outreach project, working with young people from every corner of the borough, giving young people a platform to tell their stories, showcase their talents, and participate in the transformative power of theatre.

MASS STEEL ORCHESTRA & GREY PANTHERS OF PAN

A series of intergenerational steel pan workshops and performances run by Phoenix Rising, taking place in public spaces around Brent and inspired by the borough's rich musical heritage.

MEMORY BANK

A series of short screenings of vintage, amateur films presented in a pop-up analogue screening space in the borough.

OTHER CINEMAS

A curated programme of screenings and events, delivered by Other Cinemas, showcasing BAME filmmakers, as well as films that speak to the experiences of Brent's diverse communities.

LGBT+ EAST FILM FESTIVAL

A programme of films celebrating queer stories from east and south east Asia, curated by The Culture Laboratory, aiming to raise awareness of the Asian LGBTQ+ community and highlight Brent's cultural diversity.

SLAM FOR BRENT

A programme of slam poetry and spoken word workshops for young people, led by The Poetry Society and professional slam poets, culminating in a public performance.

20:20 YOUTH RADIO

A new two fortnightly radio programme run by Bang Media that aims to provide skills training to the young people of Harlesden, whilst also providing a forum for cultural issues to be discussed.

3.1.2 Artists, creatives, community groups and cultural organisations based or working in Brent are invited to apply for funding. The 2020 Culture Fund will support cultural activities of all shapes and sizes and across all art forms. The deadline for applications for Round Two is 16 September 2019. A third and final round will launch on 16 January 2020 with a deadline of 16 March 2020.

3.1.3 Round Two of the Culture Fund is open. This summer's quarterly open meeting was held in Harlesden and was very well attended. The application deadline is 16th September 2019 – the application link is: <https://www.lbc2020.com/2020culturefund>

3.2 London Sport data

3.2.1 We are working with London Sport on new Londonwide data they have looking at motivations from Londoners to be more health aware. The work will lead to more targeted interventions to people depending on their profile and motivations.

3.3 Preston Community Library Planning

- 3.3.1 The August meeting of the Planning committee approved proposals for the new Preston library building which will include 12 new i4B Housing units with 100% of them at London Affordable Rent. There was opposition to the scheme but once the new facilities are there with the library being more secured for the future we are hopeful that it will serve residents in the local area better and at the same time will provide much needed housing support for those who do need it most.

3.4 **Cambridge University Research on physical barriers to physical activity and exercise**

- 3.4.1 Those on the childhood obesity taskgroup will have already had a preview of the research but we have new Brent based research from a Cambridge student on the physical barriers to activity from Brent school children. We are taking recommendations forward with the relevant teams and departments within the Local Authority. The good news is that there are existing opportunities that we can work with to start addressing some of the barriers including heavier promotion of play streets and making sure that pavement improvements we make within existing funding commitments in Brent are weighed towards school routes.

3.5 **London Cricket Trust**

- 3.5.1 The London Cricket Trusts are interested in improved the local cricket offer in London and beyond to improve grassroots take up of the sport. After English success in the Cricket World Cup, there has been an increased take up of Cricket both formally and informally nationally. We are looking at where within our parks and in partnership with local cricket clubs we can invest in pitches.

3.6 **Public Health Campaigns on Ealing Road**

- 3.6.1 We have had street stall based public health awareness campaigns on tobacco and diabetes on Ealing Road where there is a particularly high incidence of these issues. On the more recent day we had the Silver Star van providing free diabetes checks for residents which proved very popular.

3.7 **FA Art Programme**

- 3.7.1 The FA have been in discussions with us to launch an art programme with schools which will see children in Brent through our schools take part in an art competition with winners and their families seeing their work displayed at the Stadium and a visit for their family.

3.8 **Reading Challenge**

- 3.8.1 We successfully completed the Reading Challenge for adults in partnership with the Reading Agency which saw new reading learners who have newly moved to Brent take up reading with ESOL support. The scheme for the summer holidays for children was also launched successfully despite a protest on launch

day outside Wembley library from an anti-LGBT group because we had the launch with a reading performance from a pantomime dame.

3.9 **Public Murals**

- 3.9.1 We have approved murals in Willesden and Church End – all of which are now up and we have received positive feedback on all of them. The projects were led by the Town Centre Managers in both areas.

3.10 **School Sports Venues**

- 3.10.1 We have worked with a couple of community groups recently to connect them with sports facilities that are in schools. Some of our schools have good quality pitches and facilities and we want to ensure that they are known and accessible to community groups. They do usually charge but most are much cheaper than commercial venues.

3.11 **Public Health Ministerial Visit**

- 3.11.1 Public Health Minister Seema Kennedy MP came to Mitchelbrook Primary School to learn more about our Supervised tooth brushing scheme in Harlesden which we are looking to roll out wider in Brent to improve oral health outcomes in Brent. The scheme launched last year is already making a difference in Harlesden.

3.12 **Cultural Events**

- 3.12.1 I attended multiple cultural events across the Borough including the Swaminarayan Mela, Anniversary celebrations at Willesden Temple and at Kingsbury Temple, Flag raising ceremonies for Jamaica, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Mandata Community Gujarati programme, networking event for community engagement officers from various Brent organisations at the Yellow, Pride of Brent Youth Awards, Brent Punjabi Association lunch, Mayor of Brent Civic Service, and the Track Academy's outdoor running challenge event.

4. Environment – Councillor Krupa Sheth

4.1 Bee Corridor

- 4.1.1 As part of our plan to create bio diversity in the borough, we sowed wildflower seeds in 22 of our meadows across Brent Parks to create a bee corridor. I have been visiting our parks across the summer and they are buzzing with colour and insects from different butterflies to bees. We have received a lot of positive feedback and are now seeing what we can do with our roundabouts and grass verges. Plans are underway to develop the meadow cutting schedule from September onwards. The team will be looking to schedule the cuts so that we benefit from allowing the wildflowers to self-seed and therefore increase the potential amount of colour and new wildflowers for the coming year.

4.2 Drinking Fountains in Parks

- 4.2.1 The GLA have confirmed that a public water fountain will be installed outside Willesden Green Tube station. We remain in negotiations for one to be placed in Gladstone Park.

4.3 Recycling

- 4.3.1 Brent has been selected as one of four boroughs to participate in a 'Contamination Hit Squad trial' being managed by Recycle for London and Keep Britain Tidy. The project will focus on how residents are informed about contamination in the recycling bins and seek to remove the responsibility for hanging contamination tags on bins from collection crews and place it on team of officers from KBT instead. The aim of the trial is to identify whether a separate team looking at contamination issues, makes things easier for collection crews and also results in better quality recycling from residents. The trial is due to start in Brent from November. The other boroughs are Haringey, Lewisham and Greenwich.
- 4.3.2 Brent was also successful in its application to receive funding to participate in a TRIFOCAAL food waste reduction project being run by London Waste and Recycling Board. The project will see food waste reduction workshops being provided to Brent residents later this year. Project planning is now underway with LWARB.

4.4 Wildlife Photography Competition

- 4.4.1 The link for our Wildlife Photography Competition for 2019 is below and the closing date is 27th October.

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

4.5 Clean up Action Days

- 4.5.1 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 3 held so far. I attended one on Temple Road in Mapesbury on 10th August, which was a major success with over 20 residents turning out for a litter pick and the skip filling up in around 22 minutes. Lessons are being learned with Neighbourhood Managers also seeking to improve the experience on each and every event going forward.

4.6 Climate Change

- 4.6.1 In July I took on additional responsibilities as Lead Member for the Council's response to the Climate & Ecological Emergency. We have committed as a Council to doing all in our gift to becoming carbon neutral as a borough by 2030. This is not something the Council can achieve alone, but we are best placed to provide leadership on this issue, working together with the whole community in Brent. We have therefore agreed to hold a Brent Climate Assembly, convening a demographically representative group of over 50 residents who will consider the environmental science and the current and planned, national, regional and local initiatives, before putting forward ideas for how the Council and the community can work together towards achieving the carbon neutral goal.

4.7 Car Free Day

- 4.7.1 We signed the Car Free Day and pledge and will be hosting an event in Ealing Road on Sunday 22nd September.

4.8 Project 2023

- 4.8.1 A number of environmental service contracts have been deliberately aligned to end in 2023 and the Council has initiated a strategic project seeking to achieve a better integration of these services, to improve how Brent's public realm "looks and feels" to residents, businesses and visitors. "Project 2023" was launched at an officer and member away day in May 2019.
- 4.8.2 The away day helped us to frame the priorities and outcomes we are seeking to achieve from the project. Our vision is to ensure that our environmental services continue to meet the needs of residents, businesses, visitors and the environment, that local people and businesses benefit economically from the services we provide, and that they provide best value for the Council in the context of our overall finances.
- 4.8.3 Officers have now initiated detailed reviews of these services and contracts, to explore how they can be improved in line with our priorities, seeking out best practice and innovation from the UK and abroad. Once these reviews are complete, later this autumn we will begin exploring in detail a range of potential delivery models for these services, from retendering them to bringing them in house.

4.9 Injection Patching Programme for Potholes

- 4.9.1 Our contractors, Velocitypatch are continuing to carry out road defect repairs and now have three machines working in the borough. They are going around the borough, visiting every ward fixing potholes. In the w/c 5/8/19, 1256 repairs were completed. Highways Contracts Officers are working with the contractor to arrange traffic management for “hard to reach” defects, in roads where there are enough defects to make it worthwhile doing so. We have just heard that Brent and Velocitypatch have been shortlisted in the Highway Awards.

4.10 LED Street Lights

- 4.10.1 Following a successful pilot last autumn in Fryent, Queensbury and Welsh Harp wards, we have now adjusted street lighting outputs in residential streets borough-wide. This will provide another £100k of energy and carbon savings, on top of the £850k already achieved. No negative feedback has been received from any borough residents.
- 4.10.2 FM Conway are performing well with street lighting maintenance, attending faults within the set KPI's. Our central management system for the LED Lights is working well and is detecting faults itself which has reduced reported complaints from councillors and residents.
- 4.10.3 We have been shortlisted for a national Public Service Excellence award for our Lighting energy efficiency achievements.
- 4.10.4 Following the request of pupils from Newman Catholic School at Full Council last year to install lighting in Roundwood Park Annexe, we invited them to the council for a meeting and had a consultation in the local area. The lighting has now been approved and works will commence in the next few weeks.

4.11 Parking

- 4.11.1 Our A Team are attending our hotspot requests. A special enforcement operation has taken place in Harlesden town centre during July and August, with a permanent presence of Civil Enforcement Officers in Harlesden High Street, Tavistock Road, Park Parade and Craven Park. 153 PCNs were issued in the first week, with many other vehicles moved on. The public response on social media has been very positive. We have also been carrying out successful operations to catch out fraudulent Blue Badge users.
- 4.11.2 Data on parking permit sales shows that 500 less high-carbon parking permits were purchased last year compared to the year before. So, one in six owners of high carbon vehicles had switched to greener vehicles in the space of only one year.
- 4.11.3 Three of the traffic enforcement cameras installed last year have led to major improvements in driver compliance.

- At the Ealing Road/High Road Wembley junction, contraventions fell from 144 PCNs in October 2018 to an average of only 13 PCNs per month
- At the Ealing Road/Chaplin Road junction, contraventions fell from 121 PCNs in November 2018 to an average of only 18 PCNs per month
- At the Mount Pleasant/Sunleigh Road junction, contraventions fell from 410 PCNs in October 2018 to an average of 180 PCNs per month

4.12 **Trees**

- 4.12.1 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 Assoc. 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. The planning team have been working on CIL bids for additional trees to be planted in the borough.
- 4.12.2 Our contractors, Gristwood &Toms are performing well, they had a great response to the recent strong winds where they attended emergencies for trees that were blown over and the clear up went very well.

5. Regeneration, Property and Planning – Councillor Shama Tatler

5.1 Town Centres

5.1.1 Willesden Green has been nominated for the 'Rising Star' award for the Great British High Street – the only high street in London to be shortlisted. Credit to work that the Town Centre managers, town team and businesses are doing there.

5.1.2 If you can spare a few moments to participate in voting and encourage a friend or three, please use the following link:

<https://thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk/high-street-of-the-year-awards/rising-star-willesden>

5.2 Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)

5.2.1 Successful applicants will be informed over the next couple of weeks. This will make a total of £8.3M allocated from receipts to date of £16M. The next round will be in December and we look forward to supporting more community infrastructure projects.

5.3 South Kilburn Ballot

5.3.1 As part of manifesto commitments and in line with GLA requirements, there will be a resident's ballot on the South Kilburn Estate. Over three weeks from the 20th September to 14th October residents will have the opportunity to vote on whether they support continuing the regeneration of the estate. The work on the estate is half way through and on completion will have 2400 new homes, new open spaces and parks, a new medical centre, new nursery and community facilities.

5.3.2 We have spent the summer speaking to residents and will continue to do so through a series of drop ins and meetings as well as door knocking.

5.3.3 The Electoral Reform Services will be conducting the ballot and results will be published on the 21st October.

6. Schools, Employment and Skills – Councillor Amer Agha

6.1 Schools:

- 6.1.1 This was another good year for School exam results in Brent. All of Brent's 15 secondary schools have shared their provisional 2019 results with the Council, confirming the close partnership Brent continues to have with its schools.

2019 Provisional GCSE Results

- 6.1.2 The provisional results show that the Brent averages for all measures have increased compared to 2018 and that Brent is above the 2018 national averages for all of the measures.
- 6.1.3 Attainment 8 measures the attainment of students across eight qualifications including mathematics and English, and three further qualifications. The provisional Brent average Attainment 8 score is above last year's national average. In effect the average grade for Brent students in their eight main GCSE subjects is 5, which is a strong GCSE pass.
- 6.1.4 The provisional proportion of Brent students passing both English and mathematics is 70.7 per cent which is well above last year's national average. The pass rate in English continues to be very strong across Brent schools, increasing to 81.3 per cent and the pass rate in mathematics improved further to 74.8 per cent.
- 6.1.5 This is the third year that students have taken the reformed, more challenging GCSE qualifications in English and mathematics, the second year in an additional 20 subjects and the first in a further 25 subjects. In 2020, all of the examinations will be reformed GCSEs.

2019 Provisional A Level and Vocational Results

- 6.1.6 Brent's overall A Level pass rate (grades A* - E) rose to 97.9 per cent - above the national average, which fell this year.
- 6.1.7 More than a quarter (27.3 per cent) of Brent's results are in the higher A* or A grades and the proportion of A* - C grades was also above the national average.
- 6.1.8 The A Level results are the first awarded following significant reform to 20 subject qualifications in 2017, the second set of results for 11 subjects reformed in 2016 and the third set of results for 13 subjects reformed in 2015. The reforms will conclude in 2020 when the final group of 13 subjects reformed in 2018 will be examined for the first time
- 6.1.9 The overall pass rate for Brent students studying vocational qualifications at Level 3 also improved from the 2018 results, to 98.7 per cent.

6.2 **Cabinet report School Organisation Arrangements of Roe Green Infant School**

- 6.2.1 Cabinet on 9 September will be considering a report regarding the School Organisation Arrangements of Roe Green Infant School. The Cabinet report has been published alongside other Cabinet report papers which can be found online.
- 6.2.2 This report provides Cabinet with a summary of the formal consultation undertaken between 26 June 2019 and 24 July 2019 on a change in the age range of Roe Green Infant School and the closure of primary provision on the Roe Green Strathcona site from September 2020. The report recommends that Cabinet agrees the proposals to:
- Change the age range of Roe Green Infant School from 3-11 to 3
 - Reduce the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 to 120 for September 2020
 - Implement a phased closure of the provision on the Roe Green Infant School Strathcona site so that no new admissions are made into any Reception cohort from September 2020 and the site is closed at the end of July 2022.

6.3 **Employment & Skills**

- 6.3.1 The Bright Futures programme launched in July with an Employer Roundtable, with presentations of good practice from employers who have led the way in supporting ex-offenders back into work, which in turn has a great impact on reducing re-offending.
- 6.3.2 The Forward Trust who are delivering the Bright Futures programme in Brent are also leading a campaign called '**More Than My Past**', which the council will be supporting through a social media campaign.
- 6.3.3 **Brent Start** enrolments are open for the new academic year, with a wide range of subjects on offer, including our growing digital skills offer available to 500 residents this year.
- 6.3.4 **The Brent Works and The Living Room** employment teams have supported 79 apprenticeship and job outcomes in the first quarter of this year, with over a dozen apprenticeships currently being recruited to including a chef, lifeguard, plumber, commercial, and sales apprenticeship to name a few.
- 6.3.5 The Living Room has also supported the launch of the South Kilburn Community Hub and will be available across the hubs as they progress.
- 6.3.6 Brent Works are working with Wembley Park and the London Designer Outlet to recruit for Store Supervisor and Bar & Waiter apprenticeships, seeking to improve the skills and retention of their staff. This will be supplemented by a

new skills academy managed by the LDO, to train existing staff to support their progression in work, and ultimately their pay.

7. Community Safety & Engagement – Councillor Tom Miller

7.1 Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Parks and Open Spaces

7.1.1 We have finalised a proposal to Cabinet around the PSPO for Parks and Open Spaces. We carried out a comprehensive public consultation and legal process for this, which has resulted in several changes, for example:

- The replacement of a general prohibition in ‘open spaces’ (including cemeteries) of dogs being off the lead with a model that requires enforcement officers to only apply this to dogs who are behaving in a nuisance manner
- The removal of proposals to give PSPO power to officers to take down tents in parks and fine offenders. We are taking a softer approach so as to avoid criminalising homelessness. Instead we are working across portfolios to put a ‘support first’ outreach approach in place, though officers can technically still treat empty tents as littering should this fail.
- Removal of proposals to ban animal feeding. This is frustrating, but firstly we could not provide enough evidence to pass recognised legal hurdles, and secondly there may be some added complications around duck feeding etc.

7.1.2 Proposals remain to tackle behaviours like excessive or anti-social drinking, outdoor defecation, etc.

7.2 Neighbourhood Patrol

7.2.1 The Council has now introduced its neighbourhood patrol. This team is focussed on the space between those currently occupied by street enforcement officers under Cllr Sheth, and the Partnership Tasking Team of Police officers which sits under me. They will target areas of persistent anti-social behaviour and work closely with both Police and council colleagues to issue fines and stamp out littering and ASB.

7.3 Statement of Licensing Policy

7.3.1 The Council is finally moving to consult on a new statement of licensing policy for alcohol in particular. Together the proposals add up to a transformative package for a radically improved quality of life in Brent, seeking to use licensing as a tool for social improvement and progress. It suggests measures which will spark controversy but hopefully win public support, including:

- Cumulative impact powers for colleagues on the licensing committee for deciding when an area just has too many problem off licenses to keep saying yes.
- Voluntary ban on high strength alcohol.

- Minimum alcohol pricing provisions for off licensed premises if they are being reviewed for related matters. In our consultation we will propose a minimum of +75p per item.
- Positive measures to encourage applications that contribute to a borough of culture and a vibrant dusk til dawn economy, via contributions to art, music etc.
- Measures to encourage diversity of provision of alcohol, in particular to encourage micro-brewing, off license sales of small run wines and spirits and craft beer etc
- Measures to publish landlord commitments to safety partnerships, in line with Brent Labour's 2018 manifesto commitment.

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

8.1 Partnership work to reduce risk of serious youth violence

- 8.1.1 In July, Brent Council held 'Working together to Build Safer Brent for Young People' event. The purpose of the event provided an opportunity for key stakeholders to come together to identify what is currently being done to protect young people at risk, explore any gaps and decide and shape where the focus should be for professional and the key community representatives working with young people, who are invested in ending Serious Youth Violence in Brent. The event proved a success and provided an opportunity for various stakeholders to interact with other services within the field, in order to improve lives of young people in our borough.

8.2 Family Hubs

- 8.2.1 Consultation on the proposed changes to develop the existing 17 Children's Centre into 8 integrated Family Hubs took place between 2 July to 6 August. Responses and comments from the consultation are being collated and I will be reviewing them. You can read the consultation overview here:

https://consultation.brent.gov.uk/family-hubs/childrens-centre-redevelopments/?_ga=2.88298648.2017010626.1567091711-1569009833.1567091711

- 8.2.2 During the consultation, as well as, a series of workshops for specific service users – a week of taster sessions took place in which programmes ran from Monday to Friday giving families an opportunity to see what the new hub model will offer. A public meeting was held in the Civic Centre for residents and stakeholders. I have requested an extra public meeting and another taster session in the Autumn, as soon as a date is agreed we will share this through the regular channels.

8.3 Relationships education

- 8.3.1 I know there has been much discussion about age-appropriate relationships education in primary schools, and the deeply disturbing actions of protestors in Birmingham.
- 8.3.2 I thought it important to state my position that these kind of age-appropriate classes are essential so that our children can learn about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up.
- 8.3.3 I also see body ownership as a safeguarding issue. If our kids are taught – intentionally or not - that LGBT relationships are something unusual, or secretive, or something that must be hidden from them until age 11, I believe this would create an atmosphere potential harmful to young people's mental health. Between the ages of 5 and 11 some young people will already be starting to battle against homophobic bullying and thoughts about their own

sexuality. Only being open about these issues can equip people with the tools to combat homophobic bullies and learn to be themselves.

8.4 **Family Front Door**

I've reported this before but it serves as a good reminder. It is everyone's responsibility to protect young people. If you have concerns about a child being harmed or at risk of harm you can call the Brent Family Front Door on 0208 937 4300 and hit Option 1. If you are calling outside normal office hours please call our emergency duty team on 0208 863 5250.

9. Housing and Welfare Reform – Councillor Eleanor Southwood

9.1 Consultation on extending licensing

9.1.1 The consultation has now finished. Licensing properties in the private rented sector is a really important way that we can improve standards for the third of Brent residents who rent privately. It does not solve all the issues that renters face but it gives us the tools to check basic and safety standards. Over the summer, we consulted 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 a MCLG and Secretary of State decision.
- Introducing a selective licensing scheme to cover most of the rest of the borough, which is a MHCLG and Secretary of State decision.

9.2 St Raphael's Estate

9.2.1 At the end of last year, we started a conversation with residents on the estate about its future. There is an opportunity to improve how the estate looks and feels, whilst increasing the amount of social housing in Brent. A paper approved by Cabinet last October set out two options – full redevelopment of the state or infill. An Independent Advisor was chosen by residents to support them and a Tenant and Resident Board has now been set up. Residents have also now selected architects and work is beginning to design up the two options. There will be a ballot of all eligible residents to decide on the way forward.

9.3 Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS)

9.3.1 The consultation on proposed changes to our CTS scheme is now well underway and scrutiny will be looking at this on 12 September. The consultation runs until mid October and I'd encourage everyone to give their views. I'm pleased that the amount of money we spend on the scheme will remain the same, £28.9m, reflecting the importance of this help to many of our residents. The proposed changes simplify the scheme by making it a banded scheme that fits alongside Universal Credit. The scheme is designed to give help to people who are struggling with poverty, whether they're working or not. Disabled residents, carers and war widows will continue to be supported, with the majority receiving a 100% discount. The revised scheme will come to Full Council in November before it is adopted in April 2020 and the consultation can be found on the council website.

9.3.2 Please give your views at:

<https://consultation.brent.gov.uk/community-wellbeing/ctrs/>

9.4 **Estate Cleaning**

- 9.4.1 Earlier in the year, Cabinet decided to bring the cleaning of our estates back in house. We will be welcoming colleagues from Wettons to the council later this month and work will immediately get underway, with input from tenants, to design a high quality and responsive service.

9.5 **In praise of ... council housing**

- 9.5.1 2019 marks 100 years since the Addison Act was passed, which introduced the notion of councils building social housing on a large scale. We'll be celebrating this later in the year and are working in partnership with the Chartered Institute of Housing.

10. Adult Social Care – Councillor Harbi Farah

10.1 Autumn Spending Review

10.1.1 As you are aware the Chancellor made an announcement related to the Spending Round for 2020/21, which included £1.5bn earmarked for adult social care. The social care funding will come from a combination of central government funding and an expected 2% increase in the amount councils can raise through taxes.

10.1.2 Although I welcome this funding and it will help councils to support the most vulnerable, the extra social care funding only buys us some time, it is only for one year. We still await the Green Paper for Adult Social Care, and a long term sustainable funding solution, which will ensure we can support older and disabled people to live independent and fulfilling lives.

10.1.3 Despite the ongoing funding uncertainty, Brent continues to do the very best it can for the people we support.

10.2 Delayed Transfers of Care Top Ten Performing

10.2.1 We have improved our performance on delayed transfers of care this year and are now in the top ten London Boroughs for performance ensuring more people get out of hospital and back to their home in a timely fashion.

10.3 Prince William visited Brent Mental Health Project

10.3.1 The Duke of Cambridge visited Brent on 6 September to celebrate the work being done through sport to improve people's lives, which included celebrating the football project set up for people with mental illness established by Brent's employee of the year.

10.4 Blue badge parking for hidden disabilities

10.4.1 People with hidden disabilities such as autism, dementia, Parkinson's and arthritis can apply for blue badge parking permits after the scheme's eligibility criteria in England was expanded by the Department for Transport. It also includes those who cannot walk without considerable psychological distress or risking serious harm, which will make it easier for people with conditions such as anxiety disorders or brain injuries to travel to work, socialise and access shops and services.

10.5 Health and Wellbeing (HWB) roadshow

10.5.1 I would like to draw everyone's attention couple of things relating to upcoming HWB activities.

10.5.2 We are planning pop-up events outlined below to engage local residents:

College of North West London Fresher's Fair	<u>Wednesday 11 September 11-2pm</u>
Sainsbury's Alperton	<u>Wednesday 18 September 3-5pm</u>
Kilburn Hub	<u>Thursday 19 September 11-1pm</u>

10.6 Health and Wellbeing Board agenda 7 October

10.6.1 The next scheduled meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be held on Monday 7 October 2019, with the agenda due to include updates on:

- Brent Children's Trust;
- Health and Care Transformation Board;
- Better Care Fund 2019/2020;
- Outcome Based Review (OBR} mental health;
- Public mental health strategy and suicide prevention plan; and
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) 2019.