



## **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

**Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
held on Monday, 11 July 2011 at 7.00 pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**The Worshipful the Mayor**  
Councillor M Aslam Choudry

**The Deputy Mayor**  
Councillor Michael Adeyeye

### **COUNCILLORS:**

Aden	Al-Ebadi
Allie	Arnold
Ashraf	Mrs Bacchus
Baker	Beck
Beckman	Beswick
Brown	Butt
Castle	Cheese
Chohan	S Choudhary
Clues	Colwill
Crane	Cummins
Daly	Denselow
Gladbaum	Harrison
Hashmi	Hector
Hirani	Hossain
Hunter	John
Jones	Kabir
Kansagra	Kataria
Long	Lorber
Mashari	Matthews
McLennan	Mitchell Murray
J Moher	R Moher
Moloney	Naheerathan
Oladapo	BM Patel
CJ Patel	HB Patel
HM Patel	RS Patel
Powney	Ms Shaw
Sheth	Singh
Sneddon	Thomas
Van Kalwala	

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Councillors Leaman and Mistry

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the annual meeting held on 11 May 2011 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. **Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

Councillor Beck declared a personal interest in item 7 - Debate, by virtue of his employment at the GLA.

Councillor Powney declared a personal interest in item 5 - Report from the Leader or members of the Executive, by virtue of being a member of the West London Waste Authority.

3. **Mayor's announcements (including any petitions received)**

The Mayor said that he was honoured to be chairing his first Council Meeting and looked forward to the year ahead. He advised the meeting that he had chosen Brent Mind and the Central Mosque of Brent as his charities for the coming year.

The Mayor stated that in accordance with Standing Orders a list of current petitions showing progress on dealing with them had been circulated around the chamber.

The Mayor explained that a procedural motion would be submitted to bring forward the debate on the Olympics and the meeting was lucky to have two senior officials present who would each be giving a talk on the preparations for the Olympics.

4. **Appointments to committees and outside bodies and appointment of chairs/vice chairs**

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Councillor R Patel be appointed to Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Hirani;
- (ii) that Ms Elsie Points be appointed a voting co-opted member of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2011/12 municipal year, representing the Church of England.

5. **Procedural motion**

Councillor Moloney moved a procedural motion proposing a change in the order of business.

RESOLVED:-

that the order of business listed on the summons be amended to allow for Item 7 - Debate on the Olympics - to be brought forward and taken immediately following item 4 - Appointments to Committees/Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs - after which the order shall be as listed on the summons.

## 6. **Debate**

The Mayor welcomed Neale Coleman, the Mayor of London's Olympic advisor and Richard Sumray, chair of the London 2012 Forum at LOCOG (The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games).

Neale Coleman expressed his gratitude for being given the opportunity to address the meeting and referred to his association with the borough dating back to the time of the construction of Wembley Stadium and the visit by the International Olympic Committee's evaluation panel, which had turned out to be very successful. The collaboration between the Mayor's office and the Council had continued to be strong and he referred to the borough's Chief Executive being a member of the steering group looking at the Olympic operation right across London. Mr Coleman explained that the GLA had given consideration to the extra costs associated with hosting the Games and the Council had been awarded £700,000 which was in the process of being paid over. He reminded members that it was not just the stadium that would be used during the Olympics but also Wembley Arena and so there would be a large number of visitors to the borough which would make it a very exciting place to be. Mr Coleman stated that there were discussions taking place between the Mayor's office and the IOC to ensure that London would present itself as an Olympic city and in turn there was close liaison with the boroughs over this. The GLA would be allocating an additional sum of £50,000 to every London borough to support activities designed to achieve this. Details on this would emerge soon. A volunteer programme was being run by the GLA to recruit ambassadors who would be present at all the Olympic venues to welcome and assist the people visiting the games and many people from Brent had put themselves forward for this role. Neale Coleman reported that the Mayor had recently announced a scheme to provide free tickets for schools in London with the only requirement being for schools to ensure they registered with the LOCOG Get Set network. He was aware that there were still a large number of schools in Brent who had yet to do this. It was pointed out that being registered with Get Set was not the same thing as being a member of the Get Set network and that registered schools and colleges had to ensure they joined the network.

Richard Sumray stated that this was his third visit to the borough in recent months which was symptomatic of Brent's involvement in the Olympics. He re-iterated the importance of schools registering with the Get Set network by saying that of 107 schools in the borough, 71 had registered with Get Set but only 29 had joined the network. There continued to be significant progress made on preparing the venues which was ahead of schedule and within budget. Test events were already underway at some venues and there would be a badminton tournament held at Wembley Arena shortly. The number of tickets available for the events taking place in Brent would not be far short of one million. Consultations were taking place on the need to close Engineers Way during the Olympics in order to allow for temporary changes to be made for Wembley Arena. Mr Sumray reported that the torch relay was due to arrive in Brent on 18 May 2012 and if the experience of

Sydney was anything to go by, this would galvanise interest in the Olympics. He was sure there would be people from Brent who had been nominated as deserving of being one of the 8,000 being sought to carry the torch. A cultural festival would open prior to the Olympics and run through to the end of the Paralympic Games. Interviews were taking place to appoint volunteers to help with the running of the Games and it would be a challenge for the boroughs to harness this spirit of volunteering as a legacy of the Games. Brent had eight projects included in the Inspire programme which was designed to deliver projects and events genuinely inspired by the London 2012 Games. Mr Sumray felt that with one year to go, people around the UK were enthusiastic about the Games coming to London. The sale of tickets had given opportunities to a lot of people to purchase them and there were still around one million to sell. He had been to the last five Olympics and seen how it brought the host cities to life. The year 2012 would be a unique year in the life of Londoners and he suggested that as representatives of the people of Brent, members were in a position to ensure the year was special and had a lasting impact for the benefit of generations to come.

Councillor John thanked the speakers for their contributions. She wanted it to be known that Brent was proud to be an Olympic borough hosting football, badminton and gymnastics. She was glad that past support for the Olympics had been cross party. Councillor John added that the borough was also proud to be able to contribute to the cultural aspect of the Olympics. Her personal experience of attending an Olympic Games had given her an insight to the effect it had on a city and she felt Brent was ready and willing to play its part.

The Mayor opened the issue up for discussion. There was endorsement of the sentiment that Brent was proud to be a host borough and congratulations were passed on to all those involved in the hard work so far undertaken into making the arrangements. The hope was expressed that there would be a fair allocation of tickets for schools. A primary concern expressed was the effect the games would have on transport in the borough, especially the impact on the North Circular Road. Another concern was for those residents that would be affected by parking restrictions and road closures. It was pointed out that the residents of Wembley were already inconvenienced by parking restrictions on event days and the hope expressed that any restrictions imposed by the Games would be for the minimum duration possible.

Neale Coleman responded by explaining that a lot of work had already gone into formulating an overall transport plan for the Games. The ambition was for all spectators for all events to use public transport in getting to them. It was of paramount importance to ensure that the athletes and officials would be able to travel around London efficiently. There were no proposals to create a priority lane along the North Circular Road. It was the intention to impose parking restrictions around venues only during the time events were taking place. It was re-iterated that the only criteria for the allocation of tickets to schools was for them to be registered with the Get Set programme. Richard Sumray added that the closure of Engineers Way required some overlay and so would have to be closed for a longer period than the time the Games took place. His experience from the Sydney Games was that it changed people's travelling habits towards greater use of public transport and lessons for London needed to be learnt from this.

Further views expressed were that it was felt to be wrong to propose banning London taxis and cyclists from the priority road lanes created to each of the venues. The question was asked if the appropriate agencies would get additional funding to meet the increased public safety needs so that their normal duties could be carried out as well as covering the Olympics. A message of support was provided from the Lead Member for Highways and Transportation that the Council would do whatever it could to facilitate the Games taking place, using the considerable experience it had of catering for the events that took place at Wembley Stadium. Further clarification was sought over plans for the North Circular Road because some residents had received letters about it.

In response, Neale Colman re-iterated that there were no plans for a priority lane on the North Circular Road but that there might be some other changes made to the road such as different signalling or turning arrangements. All residents affected had been written to and all the changes were detailed on the Transport for London (TfL) web site. A lot of representations had been received from the taxi trade concerning use of the priority lanes and these were under consideration by the Mayor. However the point was made that the main way in which traffic would be moved through the London road network would be by signalling and so the impact on taxis might not be as great as feared. There was a determination to keep the period during which priority lanes were enforced to a minimum and their operation would always be with a view to ensuring athletes and officials were able to get to their events. Richard Sumray explained that a huge amount of effort by the emergency services was going into ensuring public safety. Evidence showed that during the Olympics crime levels fell in the hosting city but that the level of domestic violence increased. A significant number of extra police would be drafted in from other parts of the country and trained in their duties around countering the terrorism threat that would inevitably exist.

Final comments put forward were that whilst the Olympics offered an opportunity to encourage people to use public transport, the level of London fares would not and it was suggested that action needed to be taken to make public transport more affordable for all. In mentioning crime, the significant issue of prostitution and trafficking was raised on which the Council had carried out a detailed study, the findings of which could be useful in the planning for the Games.

In his final comments, Neale Coleman stated that the issue of trafficking was a problem that was being looked at closely by the police. He stated that a substantial amount of work had gone into preparing a transport plan for the Games and pointed out that every ticket for an event included with it a free travel card for zones 1-6.

The Mayor thanked Neale Coleman and Richard Sumray for their attendance.

## **7. Report from the Leader or members of the Executive**

### **(a) Items reported by the Executive**

#### *Leader's meeting with Mayor of London*

The Leader reported on her and the Chief Executive's meeting with the Mayor of London at which Wembley and Crossrail were discussed. He had also asked about the library transformation programme and expressed a wish to visit Brent.

### *Arts and festivals strategy*

Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Customers and Citizens) reported that a review of the strategy was well overdue and that the current arrangements had developed in an ad hoc way. The proposal was to support a transition from Council supported festivals to self-supporting events. It was timely in view of the impact of the Equality Act 2010 and the perception by some people that the strategy was divisive. The review took account of the move to the civic centre where there would be performance space and of the need to save money. It moved away from faith based festivals to ensure there was not a bias towards certain groups and to deliver one Brent Celebrates event, a fireworks event and Holocaust Memorial Day.

### *Waste strategy*

Councillor Powney (Lead Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods) reported that the Waste Strategy was well on its way towards implementation on 3 October 2011.

### *Stonebridge adventure playground and SEN after schools clubs*

Councillor Arnold (Lead Member for Children and Families) was pleased to report that the adventure playground and SEN after schools club had been protected from the cutbacks the Council was having to make and outlined the services provided.

### *John Billam Adult Day Care centre*

Councillor Crane (Lead Member for Regeneration and Major Projects) reported that the contract for the construction of a new building for the day care centre to replace the provision at Albert Road had recently been awarded and that the use of the Albert Road site was the subject of a report to the Executive.

### *Day Opportunities strategy review*

Councillor R Moher (Lead Member for Adults and Health) reported that following a three month consultation exercise in the Spring, work had been undertaken in partnership with the health service to produce a very different set of proposals to those outlined in the consultation which would provide an improved service for people in the borough with mental health issues.

## **(b) Decisions taken by the Executive under the Council's urgency provisions**

RESOLVED:

that the decisions taken by the Executive under the Council's urgency provisions relating to the following item be noted:

Crest Academies

## **8. Questions from the Opposition and other Non- Executive Members**

Councillor Kansagra referred to the closure of Fryent Way for the UEFA Champions League final at Wembley Stadium. He felt this had been an unnecessary measure and reflected on the terms of the planning permission for the stadium which had restricted the provision of parking and this meant there was extra pressure put on the surrounding roads. He asked if it was intended that this would be repeated for the Olympics. Councillor J Moher replied that the Champions League final had

been the biggest event to take place in the borough and was run by UEFA who set out the requirements for hosting the game. Upon the award of the game to Wembley Stadium a planning team had worked on the logistics of preparing for two, at that time, unknown teams from unknown parts of Europe bringing their fans into the area. The closure of Fryent Way had not been a complete closure and lessons from it had been learnt. Councillor Kansagra responded that he was not satisfied with the arrangements and wondered if fees were paid for parking coaches in Fryent Way. He made reference to the difficulties people faced when attending funerals in the area and suggested the experience showed there was not enough parking provided.

Councillor Hunter stated that she understood lead members had received representations from residents asking that Veolia be excluded from the current procurement exercise for waste disposal because they felt the company had demonstrated racist recruitment practices with reference to its activities in the West Bank and Israel. Councillor Powney replied that West London Waste was embarking on a waste procurement exercise and it could not jeopardise this by not following the proper processes. Councillor Hunter responded by saying that she would like to see West London Waste take the concerns of local residents seriously and that she had been shocked to see the advertisement for jobs on the Jerusalem Light Railway which effectively prevented the majority of local Palestinian citizens from applying. She asked how it could be allowed that Veolia was treated as a suitable contractor and felt that the matter needed to be given serious consideration.

Councillor Beckman asked how often would Brent residents have their rubbish collected under the new waste and recycling strategy. Councillor Powney replied that from October food and organic waste would be collected weekly, with dry recyclables and waste going to landfill being collected every alternate week. He added that under the new strategy all households would be able to recycle more waste material. Councillor Beckman thanked Councillor Powney for his reply.

Councillor Beck stated that whilst he was glad the Council had secured the funding for the CREST Academies he was concerned over the effect of the redevelopment plans on the residents in Hillcrest Gardens and Vincent Gardens who were concerned about overlooking from the buildings and the access road. He felt the residents had asked for reasonable changes to be made but this had so far been met by a poor response from the Council and asked if any further help could be given to them. Councillor John replied by saying that she had already received a lot of messages about this matter and that she would be only too pleased if planning solutions could be found that would satisfy the residents. She added that she was happy to receive the views of residents on this matter. Councillor Beck acknowledged the answer to his question.

Councillor R Patel asked if residents of South Kilburn would be affected by the coalition Government's desire for social housing tenants in London to pay rents of up to £450 a week. Councillor Crane replied that the tenants would be rehoused into new homes provided in phase 1 of the redevelopment owned by Fortunegate and London & Quadrant Housing Associations. It had been agreed that the new tenants would only pay up to 10% more than their current rent when they transferred. An example of the effect of this was that the rent on a 2 bed property would be £88 per week (or £352 per month) rather than the target rent of £103 per

week (£412 per month). The amount they paid would increase over a period of time until it hit the target rents. As a further example, Councillor Crane stated that the market rent for similar properties was £260 per week or £1040 per month. Councillor Patel responded by expressing reassurance over the reply he had received but felt it showed how the Government wanted to move families out of areas such as Kilburn. He was pleased that the Council had been able to keep the promises it had made to its tenants living in Kilburn.

Councillor Ashraf asked why the school crossing patrol at Dollis Hill Lane had already been withdrawn. Councillor J Moher replied that from time to time it was necessary in specific cases to remove school crossing patrols. However he gave a re-assurance that no decision had been made to permanently remove any school crossing patrols. Further consideration would be given to the issue and any decision to remove patrols would be implemented in January 2012. Councillor Ashraf responded by saying he was not happy with the reply and that it came as no surprise that residents were suspicious of the Council's actions especially given the short consultation period that took place over the half term holiday and now that a final decision would be taken during the summer holiday period. He stated that the Council needed to be clearer about its position on the matter if it wanted to gain the confidence of local people.

Councillor Van Kalwala stated that the Evening Standard had recently reported that London councils were failing to collect hundreds of millions of pounds of Council Tax and asked if Brent was letting tax dodgers get away with it. Councillor Butt replied by assuring members that the council was not letting people get away with not paying their Council Tax. For the financial year 2010/11 the Council had achieved record collection rates and since 2002 had managed to collect 99% of all Council Tax. The objective was to make sure that whoever was liable for Council Tax and had the means to pay would pay. Councillor Van Kalwala responded by congratulating the Council on the collection rate achieved and asked that the new contract being entered into for Council Tax collection should ensure this continues.

Councillor Brown asked how axing school crossing patrols could be justified and how accident data was used to justify such action. Councillor J Moher replied by first reminding members that the Government had required the Council to find £43m savings from its budget and that in such circumstances every aspect of the Council's services had to be reviewed. Proposals for school crossing patrols had been put out to consultation and it had to be remembered that this was not a statutory service. The feedback to the consultation had been considered and as a result an extended period of consideration had been undertaken because of the concerns expressed. Councillor Moher was therefore able to reassure members that child safety was taken very seriously. Councillor Brown responded by saying that he felt the key driver behind the proposals was a financial one and that he had not received a reply regarding the use of accident data. He added that parents were worried about the proposals. Fourteen of the busiest roads in the borough were faced with losing a school crossing patrol and he felt it was important to explain how the proposals had been assessed.

Councillor Oladapo asked, given the considerable concerns of many residents about the use of khat, what steps were being taken to address this problem, when a report would be received from the task group looking at the issue and could an assurance be given that the affected communities would receive the support they



needed to tackle the issue. Councillor R Moher replied by saying that stopping the use of khat was a difficult issue because it was not a banned substance in Britain. She was aware that it posed a particular problem in some communities because of the side effects it could have; it could put a great strain on family relations and it did not always get the attention it needed which was why a task group had been established to look into this issue which would report in the autumn. She had also asked the Chair of Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee to keep the issue on the committee's work programme. Councillor Oladapo expressed the hope that similar action on the use of khat might be taken as was taken in dealing with the use of paan in Wembley.

Councillor Lorber asked if the Executive was ready for the confusion that would follow the publicity on the future arrangements for the collection of waste. Councillor Powney replied by referring to the publicity set out in the Brent magazine and saying that he felt it was clear enough. In addition further publicity would be undertaken so that as the new arrangements were put in place people would be clear about them. Councillor Lorber criticised the presentation and use of colour in the publicity, saying that it was not representative and that many people did not have a green and a grey bin. He felt the use of language would be misleading to many, given the many languages used in the borough. He submitted that the biggest obstacle to increasing recycling was in getting the message across and that required good communication. He felt the current publicity was misleading and that the bins should be clearly labelled.

## 9. **Reports from the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

Councillor Gladbaum (Chair of Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee) reported on behalf of the chairs of the overview and scrutiny committees. She first welcomed the two new Chairs, Councillor Kabir and Councillor Ashraf to the scrutiny function and stated that all the overview and scrutiny chairs would soon be meeting to discuss co-ordinating work programmes, agreeing the annual report, scrutiny training and engaging with residents. She thanked the outgoing chairs, Councillor Ogunro and Councillor Castle, for their work.

Councillor Gladbaum reported that since the last update to full council three overview and scrutiny task groups had either reported or were about to report. These were:

**Fuel Poverty in Brent**, chaired by Councillor Long – this report looked at the work being undertaken in Brent to tackle fuel poverty, how the council, NHS, voluntary sector and the private sector need to work in a collaborative way to tackle the issue and the need to tackle general poverty to address fuel poverty.

**Car Repair and Spray Painting Garages**, chaired by Councillor Moloney – this task group was set up following a motion to Full Council. The main areas the task group looked at were the scale and nature of the problem, enforcement activity and enforcement action.

**Preventing Youth Offending**, chaired by herself. This task group would be reporting to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee the following evening and its key findings centred around:

- a change in emphasis to effective early intervention
- changes in practice

- collaboration between agencies
- the crucial role of schools
- the crucial role of parents, and
- other organisational issues.

Councillor Gladbaum reported that for the first time three of the committees – Children and Young People, Partnership and Place and One Council had held a joint meeting. The agenda enabled all members of these committees to have the opportunity to hear from and question the Leader of the Council about the administration's priorities for the year ahead and to receive a presentation on key issues facing Brent including:

- demographic and population projections
- health and well-being
- child poverty and the local economy, and
- housing

Information on the implications and responses to the Localism Bill was also provided so that Members of the committees could make suggestions for the overview and scrutiny work programmes. She added that the committee's work programmes were flexible enough to pick up issues as they arose and strongly encouraged Members to make suggestions for agenda items or task group reviews at any time.

The Health Partnerships Committee had met to discuss plans for the North West London Hospital Trust, provided comments on the North West Hospital NHS Trust Quality Accounts, received an update on GP Commissioning Consortia and agreed to start a new task group looking at the health and social impact of Khat.

The One Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recently discussed the Housing Needs Transformation Project which focuses on the work of the Housing Needs Resource Centre and Housing Solutions. It also received an update on the One Council Programme, its status, risks, dependencies and management.

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee was to meet the following evening and would be receiving its regular updates from Brent Youth Parliament and on school places. The input from representatives of the youth parliament continued to have a very good impact on the work of the committee. The committee would also be looking at the provision of services for children with disabilities and the implications of Government policy on Academies and Free Schools.

Finally, Councillor Gladbaum reported that the Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Budget and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee were due to meet later in the month.

## 10. **Site Specific Allocations DPD adoption**

Members had before them the report which explained that the Council had received an Inspector's report into the Examination of the Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and that the Inspector had found the document to be sound, subject to

recommended changes being made. The Executive had considered the matter on 11 April 2011 and was recommending to Full Council that the DPD be adopted with the changes incorporated.

RESOLVED:-

that the Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document, taking account of the recommended changes, be adopted.

#### 11. **Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy and Procedure**

The Gambling Act 2005 requires Licensing Authorities to publish a Statement of Principles that sets out their policy for dealing with applications and regulating gambling premises within their borough, which Brent did in January 2007. These Statements of Principles are required to be reviewed, revised and published to reflect changes in legislation, the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities, and on the experience of administration and enforcement by authorities. The Executive agreed the final Statement of Principles on 11 April 2011 for approval by Full Council and members now had the report before them for consideration.

Members expressed concern that the Council's licensing responsibilities did not extend to being able to take into consideration the proliferation of gambling premises within an area. Looking at the map of the borough attached as appendix A of the Statement of Principles it was clear that gambling establishments were targeting areas of deprivation in which to conduct their business. It was important to take account of the effect on crime and disorder and for the Council, with its local knowledge, to be able to influence how many similar establishments operated within a given area.

RESOLVED:-

that the Council's revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Principles be approved for publishing.

#### 12. **Revised London Councils Grant Scheme 2011/2012**

Members had before them a report which informed them of a revision to the proposed level of contribution Brent would make to the London Councils Grant Scheme in 2011/12. This increase in the contribution previously agreed by Full Council in January 2011 was required following the outcome from the judicial review of changes to the London Councils Grant Scheme.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the revised contribution to be paid by the Council in the sum of £460,929 as recommended by London Councils towards the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2011/12 be agreed;
- (ii) to note that the additional £24,584 required as a result of the outcome of the judicial review of changes to the London Grants scheme would be met from centrally held funds;

- (iii) to note that Full Council in February 2011 agreed that the 2011/2012 budget include reallocation of the funding no longer expected as a contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme and that of the funding no longer required for the London Councils Grant Scheme, £231,500 was reinvested in safeguarding advice and guidance services provided by the voluntary sector and £249,000 was allocated to savings.

### 13. **Changes to the Constitution**

Members had before them a report which proposed three changes to the Council's Constitution: firstly the inclusion of a protocol on Call in of Executive decisions, secondly the inclusion of the new Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, and lastly some minor amendments in relation to Contract Standing Orders.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Constitution be amended to incorporate the changes to the Standing Orders relating to Call in of Executive decisions as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) that the Constitution be amended to replace the old Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity with the new Code set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (iii) that the Constitution be amended to incorporate the changes to Standing Orders relating to contracts as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

### 14. **Dates of Council meetings for 2011/2012**

RESOLVED:-

that the removal of the October meeting of Full Council from the 2011/12 meetings programme be noted.

### 15. **Motions**

#### 15.1 **DNA records of innocent people**

Councillor Allie moved the motion circulated in his and Councillor Lorber's names. He made it clear that this was not to be seen as an attack on the local police but hoped that the Council would take a lead on this matter and that in turn the local police would write to everybody affected explaining what they would have to do to get their names removed from the records.

In supporting the motion, the view was endorsed that efforts needed to be made to continue to lobby for the necessary changes in law to be made and that there was no justification in keeping the DNA records of innocent people.

The motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that Council notes that:

- in January 2007 Brent Council called for the destruction of DNA records held by the police on innocent people who have not been charged with or found guilty of any offence, and measures to monitor this,

- the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights have stated unequivocally that the retention of DNA records of innocent citizens is unlawful and that that practice violates Article (8) of the European Convention on Human Rights and that the current ACPO guidelines are unlawful,

- Brent Police does not have local discretion to delete the DNA records of innocent Brent residents,

- Council believes that the continued practice of retaining DNA records of innocent Brent residents can no longer be justified in light of the recent rulings by the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights;

(ii) that a letter be sent to the Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Mayor of London requesting them to advise the Metropolitan Police to contact every innocent Brent resident on the DNA data base to inform them of the procedure to remove their records from the DNA database;

(iii) that continuing concerns be expressed about:

- the continued taking of DNA samples for Fixed Penalty and Public Order offences which has contributed to the heavily imbalanced racial profile of the DNA register, and

- the lack of any effective independent scrutiny of the DNA database.

## 15.2 Proliferation of betting shops

Councillor Lorber moved the motion circulated in his and Councillors Allie, Brown and CJ Patel's names which was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

(i) Council notes:

a. the proliferation of betting shops in Wembley, Alperton, Sudbury, Tokyngton and other parts of Brent,

b. the concerns expressed by many local residents about the increasing number of betting shops in small areas including by the newly formed Sudbury Town Residents' Association about the opening of a third betting shop in a small shopping parade,

c. residents' concerns about the impact this has on the community by encouraging addiction to gambling, the consequent effect on health and well-being and the link with anti-social behaviour in some streets,

d. that the Government is currently consulting councils and other interested parties about the control of change of uses through its

consultation paper: *How Change of Use is handled in the Planning System*;

- (ii) that Council's view is that local communities should have more influence over the mix of uses permitted in their area;
- (iii) that:
  - a. a response be submitted to the Government's change of use consultation expressing the Council's concern about betting shops and proposing measures to enable more effective control of betting shops and similar uses,
  - b. the implementation of Article 4 directions be considered in areas with a particular concentration of betting shops in order to prevent the further proliferation in Brent,
  - c. continuing regard be had to the management of gambling activity during the progress of the Local Development Framework,
  - d. Government and local MPs be lobbied to reform those provisions in the 2005 Gambling Act which relaxed controls over gambling and made effective control of betting shops difficult.

### **15.3 Cutting back-office functions, not libraries**

Councillor Lorber moved the motion circulated in his and Councillors Ashraf, Beck, Castle, Green, Hashmi, Leaman, Matthews and CJ Patel's names which called for management structures to be cut in order to save the money needed to keep six libraries open. The motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

### **15.4 School crossing patrols**

Councillor Lorber moved the motion circulated in his and Councillors Allie, Ashraf, Brown, Hunter, CJ Patel and Sneddon's names which called on the Council to abandon proposals to withdraw some school crossing patrols. The motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

### **15.5 Preston Road parking**

Councillor HB Patel moved the motion circulated in his and Councillor Kansagra's names which asked that the proposal to replace the one hour free parking in Preston Road with pay and display parking meters be re-considered in favour of retaining the current system. He submitted that the consultation documents had been misleading and that the views of local people were not being heard. Councillor J Moher stated that the Highways Committee had received a deputation from traders in Preston Road but the problem was that there were parking restrictions in adjoining roads that put pressure on Preston Road. He referred to the part of the motion concerning competition from supermarkets and stated that local shops were closing because of the recession, not because of competition from those supermarkets able to provide parking. The matter would be considered at the Highways Committee on 27 July 2011 when the outcome of the consultation would be taken into account. Councillor Brown pointed out that other shopping areas were surrounded by CPZs but the Preston Road area was not and so parking would be displaced, which in turn would lead to pressure for a CPZ. He felt the proposal

was just a means to raise money at a cost to hard working families. The motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

#### 15.6 Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Councillor Beswick moved the motion circulated in his name. He was grateful for the work undertaken by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams but these were now facing being cut and asked where the commitment was to protect local residents. He submitted that following the London Mayoral elections and the Olympics the teams would face being cut again and asked members if they wished to see this happen. Councillor Hunter moved an amendment to the motion seeking to remove the name of Ken Livingstone and inserting 'any mayoral candidate'. She felt the motion as drafted was clear electioneering and that if it was amended as she suggested it would get much wider support. Councillor HB Patel stated that it was because of the actions of the last government that such cuts were having to be made. He submitted that crime was falling under the current Mayor and that the proposals would still leave the same number of police officers as during the time of the previous Mayor so the motion did not make sense. The amendment to the motion was put to the vote and declared LOST. The motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) to note that police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) were first launched in Stonebridge by Mayor Ken Livingstone and the Labour Government, that since the introduction of SNTs crime has fallen steadily, while resident satisfaction with policing has increased;
- (ii) that the Conservative Mayor's cuts to frontline policing which will remove five police Sergeants from Brent's SNTs and break up the ward based neighbourhood policing model which has protected residents so well be condemned; and Ken Livingstone be congratulated on his clear pledge to Brent residents to restore SNT officer levels once he is re-elected in May 2012.

#### 15.7 Housing

Councillor Long moved the motion circulated in her name which was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

that this Council believes it has a moral duty to ensure all its residents have a roof over their heads, in particular families with young children; following the leak of Eric Pickles' letter to David Cameron which showed the government expect their policy to make over 40,000 families homeless, deplores the callousness of a Liberal and Conservative Government knowingly prepared to make tens of thousands of families homeless; and expresses concern that the cost of housing the victims of this government's social apartheid could stretch this Council's resources to breaking point.

15.8 **Legal Aid**

Councillor J Moher moved the motion circulated in his name which was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

that this Council believes that access to justice is a fundamental right, without which there can be no fair society; condemns the coalition Government's assault on the legal aid system, under which at least half a million people will lose access to legal advice, not-for-profit advice agencies such as the Brent CAB and Brent Community Law Centre will be severely hampered in their ability to help the most needy in society, and many thousands of people will suffer avoidable poverty and distress; and calls on the government to abandon this economic cleansing of our civil courts.

16. **Urgent business**

None.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

COUNCILLOR M ASLAM CHOUDRY  
Mayor