



SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 10 September 2012 at 7.00 pm
Council Chamber, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane,
Wembley, HA9 9HD

To the Mayor and Councillors of the London Borough of Brent and to each and every one of them.

I hereby summon you to attend the MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of this Borough.

GARETH DANIEL
Chief Executive

Dated: Friday 31 August 2012

For further information contact: Peter Goss, Democratic Services Manager
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For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:

www.brent.gov.uk/committees

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Agenda

Apologies for absence

Item	Page
1 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 14
2 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.	
3 Mayor's announcements (including any petitions received)	
4 Appointments to committees and outside bodies and appointment of chairs/vice chairs (if any)	
5 Debate - West London Alliance progress report	
To debate key issues affecting the Borough. Ian Nichol, Chief Executive of the West London Alliance will speak on the progress being made on the work of the Alliance after which members will debate the issues arising.	
6 Report from the Leader or members of the Executive	15 - 16
To receive reports from the Leader or members of the Executive in accordance with Standing Order 38.	
7 Questions from the Opposition and other Non- Executive Members	
Questions will be put to the Executive in accordance with 39.	
8 Reports from the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees	17 - 20
To receive reports from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in accordance with Standing Order 41.	
9 Motions	
To debate any motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 45.	
10 Urgent business	

At the discretion of the Mayor to consider any urgent business.



- Please remember to **SWITCH OFF** your mobile phone during the meeting.
- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.
 - Toilets are available on the second floor.
 - Catering facilities can be found on the first floor near The Paul Daisley Hall.
 - A public telephone is located in the foyer on the ground floor, opposite the Porters' Lodge

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LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
held on Monday 9 July 2012 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Michael Adeyeye

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Thomas

COUNCILLORS:

Aden	Al-Ebadi
Allie	Arnold
Mrs Bacchus	Beck
Beswick	Brown
Butt	Cheese
Chohan	S Choudhary
Colwill	Crane
Cummins	Daly
Gladbaum	Harrison
Hashmi	Hector
Hirani	Hossain
Hunter	John
Jones	Kabir
Kansagra	Kataria
Leaman	Long
Lorber	Mashari
Matthews	Mitchell Murray
J Moher	R Moher
Moloney	Naheerathan
Ogunro	Oladapo
BM Patel	CJ Patel
HB Patel	HM Patel
RS Patel	Pavey
Powney	Ketan Sheth
Krupa Sheth	Sneddon
Thomas	Van Kalwala

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Councillors Ashraf, Baker, A Choudry, Clues, Green, Hopkins, McLennan and Ms Shaw

1. **Minutes of previous meetings**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the special meeting held on 16 May 2012 and the Annual meeting also held on 16 May 2012 be approved as accurate records of the meetings, subject to the following changes:

Special meeting

Minute 2 - 4th paragraph to read:

“Councillors Lorber and Colwill added

Annual meeting

Minute 8 - resolution (ii):

Highways Committee – alternate to Councillor Beswick to be Councillor Hirani.

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

Councillor Cheese declared a non-prejudicial interest by virtue of his membership of the Kilburn Locality Advisory Board

Councillor Lorber declared a non-prejudicial interest by virtue of being a director and trustee of Friends of Barham Library.

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

The Mayor welcomed everyone to his first full Council meeting as Mayor and asked for people to support his chosen charities during his Mayoral year.

The Mayor extended on behalf of the Council, best wishes to Councillor Shaw, who had recently suffered an accident which had resulted in a dislocated hip.

The Mayor announced with regret that Councillor Aslam Choudry's brother and sister-in-law had been involved in a serious accident and were critically ill. On behalf of the Council, he would send best wishes to Councillor Choudry and his family.

In accordance with Standing Orders a list of current petitions showing progress on dealing with them had been circulated around the chamber.

4. **Appointments to committees and outside bodies and appointment of chairs/vice chairs (if any)**

RESOLVED:

that Councillor Daly be appointed to the Call-in Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Gladbaum and Councillor Gladbaum be appointed to the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Daly.

5. **Report from the Leader or members of the Executive**

Councillor Butt (Leader of the Council) introduced the list of Executive items circulated and called on his colleagues to present their reports.

Funding for Alperton and Copland Schools

Councillor Crane (Lead Member for Regeneration and Major Projects) reported on the welcome news received by the Council that a bid to the schools priority building programme for Alperton and Copland schools had been successful. Details of the exact funding were awaited. He referred to the previous government's much larger Building Schools for the Future programme and the fact that work on both schools would have started by now if the programme had been retained. Councillor Crane stated that it was clear that pupils performed better in improved schools.

Carers' Hub

Councillor Hirani (Lead Member for Adults and Health) referred to the work undertaken by his predecessor, Councillor R Moher, and officers which had culminated in the Council tendering for the development of a carers' hub to provide a single point of contact for carers through the coordination and delivery of a wide range of services including:

Information and advice

Access to health and wellbeing services

Whole family support

Money and benefits advice

Access to work and training

Caring support and training

Emergency support.

This had been the subject of consultation and receiving valuable feedback and it was hoped to have the service up and running by February 2013.

Expansion of schools – Newfield, Brentfield and Preston Manor Lower School

Councillor Arnold (Lead Member for Children and Families) reported on the official launches of three new school buildings as part of meeting the relentless demand for primary school places. The threat of not having capacity had been turned into the opportunity to provide new modern facilities. However there was continued demand with a need for a further sixteen reception classes. This was greater than demand in neighbouring boroughs and continual government lobbying had successfully attracted £80M funding for new school places provision. Councillor Arnold stated that a report on school places would be submitted to the Executive in August.

Recycling caddie liners

Councillor Powney (Lead Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods) reported that, thanks to the new system introduced by the Council, recycling rates had increased from 28% to 44%. He now wanted to expand the scheme by tackling food waste. Therefore liners were now being supplied for food caddies. Waste food was a major cause of greenhouse emissions and so it was hoped this initiative would be good for the environment as well as save the Council money.

Council Tax support consultation

Councillor R Moher (Lead Member for Corporate Resources) reported on the consultation the Council was due to carry out on the proposed transfer of Council Tax support from the Government to local government. She stated that it was not

good news for Brent not least because the amount of money the Government was passing on to the Council was less than it cost to currently run the scheme. Members had already been briefed on the issues faced by the Council but there was concern that the consultation was not reaching the people most in need of help. She stated she would welcome any ideas from councillors on this.

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

Councillor Brown stated that it appeared that the Leader of the Council was pursuing a different library policy to that of the Lead Member and asked if he would now seek the resignation of the Lead Member. Councillor Butt (Leader) replied that he and Councillor Powney (Lead Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods) were following the same policy which was to implement the library strategy. He added that Councillor Powney was doing a superb job and would continue to do so. Councillor Brown expressed disappointment with the reply and referred to what he saw as encouraging signs given by the Leader to the library groups. He stated that Councillor Butt could have stopped the libraries being cleared of books and the transfer of buildings and land. He felt it was time to turn words into actions.

Councillor Mashari asked what plans there were to ensure every child in Brent had a school place. Councillor Arnold (Lead Member for Children and Families) replied that 120 extra permanent places and 340 places in reception 'bulge' classes had been provided to meet the increased demand. A further 120 places were being created and a contingency plan was in place. Of the 3770 applications this year, all had been provided with a place with 79% receiving their first choice. However, no guarantee could be given that all children applying for a place this year would get one in September. Councillor Mashari felt the figures given by Councillor Arnold were encouraging and showed that the Council was doing all it could to meet the increased demand. She expressed the view that the Government appeared obsessed with the notion that the free market would address the problem but felt that funding was not being allocated to where it was most needed.

Councillor Colwill asked why only half the footway in Regal Way had been repaired. He referred to a petition on this matter that was to be received by the Highways Committee but expressed concern that from the recommendations in the report it appeared a final decision had already been made on the matter. Councillor J Moher (Lead Member for Highways and Transportation) replied that the proper place for discussion of the matter was at the Highways Committee. Councillor Colwill referred to the report to the Highways Committee which recommended rejecting the wishes of the petitioners and he re-iterated his view that the Council would be better off if it repaired the whole length of the footway.

Councillor Cheese asked why the money estimated to be spent on Kilburn Library had been allowed to increase from the £117,000 first reported to £650,000. Councillor Butt (Leader) replied that the lower figure had only covered the need for normal day to day repairs and the larger figure reflected the additional work to transform the library in accordance with the Library Transformation project which aimed to provide for six libraries to deliver a first class service to residents. Councillor Cheese responded that the answer was what he had expected and stated that if the Council could afford this it could afford to keep more libraries open.

Councillor Al-Ebadi asked what the plans were to minimise the impact of the Olympic Games on residents and ensure everyone in Brent had the opportunity to join in the celebrations. Councillor Powney (Lead Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods) replied that extensive planning had been undertaken with Transport for London to ensure traffic and people would be able to move around the borough with minimal delay, especially around the Wembley area. The Council's own staff would be carrying out a range of operational activities. The torch relay would pass through the borough on 25 July passing the stadium and going on to Barnet. There were also plans for the torch for the Paralympic Games but these were currently embargoed. Councillor Al-Ebadi was pleased with the reply he had received.

Councillor Van Kalwala asked what would be the impact of the Government's ten per cent cut to Council Tax Benefits in Brent. Councillor R Moher (Lead Member for Corporate Resources) referred to her earlier report under minute 5 above. The Council would have a shortfall of funding equivalent to 13% equalling £5.2M. She reported that a scheme would be devised that would attempt to minimise the impact it had on those currently getting benefit but it was already clear that this was another vicious assault by the Government on the poorest in the borough. Councillor Van Kalwala congratulated the Council on doing what it could to protect the most needy in the borough and drew comparisons on this with what Sarah Teather, MP had said about the new arrangements. He stated that the Liberal Democrats had shown a heartless attitude in this matter.

Councillor Matthews asked if it could be guaranteed that the level of services provided for Gladstone Park would be maintained after they transferred to a private operator. Councillor Powney (Lead Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods) replied that the services for all of Brent's parks had transferred to a contractor and there was no automatic reason why they would not all continue to be delivered. It was down to the design and monitoring of the contract. One improvement to take place was in the demarcation of the service which might open opportunities to deal more efficiently with some matters. Councillor Matthews responded by saying that everyone was proud of the parks in Brent and acknowledged the green flag awards achieved by the Parks Service. She was concerned that the service would reduce and hoped close scrutiny of it would be maintained.

Councillor Lorber stated that Councillor Butt owed his new position as Leader of the Council to the impact of the libraries programme and the objections to withdrawing funding from community organised events whilst increasing the funding for Council run festivals. He asked what would be done to restore funding to important community events. Councillor Butt (Leader) replied that it was the fault of the Government that the Council had to take decisions to cut funding and that it should be seen in that light. Councillor Lorber responded by claiming that the question had been avoided. He stated that the previous government's actions had led to the need to cut back spending. The festivals programme in Brent had been decimated and local people would not forgive the Council for this.

Councillor Daly asked how many families there were in Brent who had been in bed and breakfast accommodation for over six weeks. Councillor Long (Lead Member for Housing) replied that no family was in bed and breakfast for longer than six weeks. The Housing Needs division had been restructured to become more efficient and through hard work had managed to bring the number down to zero.

However, cuts to Housing Benefit could lead to an increase again. This depended on the supply and demand of accommodation. The number in bed and breakfast was being monitored but no guarantees could be given that the length of stay would not again increase to over six weeks. Councillor Daly responded by saying that children in families who did not have a basic level of shelter did not get a fair start in life.

Councillor Sneddon stated that residents of Willesden had welcomed the shelving of the plans for Willesden Green centre. He asked if this would now mean that more meaningful consultation would be carried out. Councillor Crane replied that the developer had withdrawn the planning application for further consultation on the scheme. A huge response had been received to the first consultation, expressing views both for and against the scheme. It was felt more time was needed to consider the way forward but the Council was still committed to delivering a top class building on the site. There was only one opportunity for this and he hoped it would get the go ahead by the end of the year. Councillor Sneddon agreed that there was only one chance to get it right, however he did not feel he had received an answer to his question regarding the scope of the consultation. He expressed the hope that the new leadership would make efforts to counter the perception held by many that consultation carried out by the Council was merely a tick box exercise.

7. Reports from the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Councillor Van Kalwala (Chair of Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee) reported that all of the overview and scrutiny committees except for Budget and Finance had met at least once since the start of the new municipal year and each had discussed their work programmes for the year ahead.

The agenda for the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been dominated by two key issues – shaping a healthier future, the NHS's plan for hospital and out of hospital services in North West London; and the merger between North West London Hospitals and Ealing Hospital Trust. Councillors Kabir and Harrison had been appointed to represent Brent on a North West London joint overview and scrutiny committee to scrutinise the proposals on shaping a healthier future. However, it was still intended that a Brent response to the plans, which would have a significant impact on Brent patients, would be submitted. A small working group was to be established to scrutinise the Brent out of Hospital Care Strategy, which is the local plan to enhance community based services in the borough. The full business case for the hospital merger would be on the committee's agenda on 18 July. Despite the ongoing structural and strategic changes in the NHS, members of the committee were trying to focus on service issues. In June consideration was given to a serious incident at the Central Middlesex Hospital Urgent Care Centre relating to radiology services. The committee also followed up a report on waiting times for health services in the borough. On 18 July a report on IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) would be considered, as members sought to do more on mental health services in Brent.

Councillor Van Kalwala reported that the Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recently received the Ward Working Annual Report. The main areas of member's discussions were:

- consultation, particularly in relation to young people,

- the key concerns of local residents, and
- how partners and voluntary community and residents groups could be involved in finding solutions and additional funding.

The committee had challenged the ward working team and councillors to find ways of increasing youth participation for the next year. The Committee also received a report on progress in delivering the work programme of Partners for Brent. An update was provided on each of the projects which included the troubled families initiative, enabling supply chain opportunities and integrated offender management. Members asked questions around employment, housing and the interlocking themes that linked the projects together. The committee had agreed to hold a crime focussed meeting in July which would include a look in greater depth at the integrated offender management project and crime performance information.

The One Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee had received an update on the One Council Waste and Street Cleansing Review, in particular the performance of the waste collection and street cleansing services. Members focussed questions around meeting the Council's and the Government's recycling target, the operation of the contract and flytipping. Councillor Van Kalwala reported that the committee had also received an update on the Working with Families initiative and the development of a suite of four new One Council projects that would collectively deliver on this initiative. Members' questions centred around how the projects differed from earlier initiatives, and how they would be delivered. They were also interested in the funding that was available and any savings that could be achieved. Members had received a verbal update on the Services for Young People One Council project which aimed to ensure that relevant and accessible provision was available to the most vulnerable. Members discussed the consultation with young people, how radical the solutions could be, the role of the voluntary sector and how service provision could be improved whilst achieving savings. The Committee was also updated on the One Council programme. At its next meeting the committee will receive information on the move to the Civic Centre, the Housing Needs Transformation Project and the Performance and Finance review Q4.

Councillor Van Kalwala congratulated Councillor Mashari on being appointed chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Cheese the new vice chair. At their first meeting of the municipal year an update was provided on the Schools Expansion Programme and it was confirmed that following a successful lobbying campaign, Brent had received approximately £80m of Basic Need allocation funding. Expansion of Brent schools would continue to be a regular agenda item as members were keen to receive updates on the capital programme allocation. Members also had the opportunity to comment on a report on the education standards achieved by young people in Brent at Key Stage 5 at the end of the academic year 2010/11. Members' questions focussed on the target to engage all young people in education or employment with training by the age of 17 by September 2013 and how that would be achieved and why there was a low take up of the apprenticeship programme. A report on the Education Achievement in Brent 2011: Analysis by Ethnicity was presented to the committee following previous requests made by members. Members focussed on how best practice from better performing schools was disseminated to other schools and how parental and family involvement could be encouraged, particularly in those groups where attainment remained a concern.

8. Motions

8.1 More democratic decision-making for Brent Council

Councillor Lorber moved the motion circulated in his and Councillors Beck, Cummins, Hunter and CJ Patel's names which sought to bring forward proposals for a modernised committee system of governance to come into force following the 2013 Annual Council meeting. Councillor Lorber expressed the view that this was a proposal that had cross party support across the country. The choice was to have a centralised form of governance or a more democratic system. He felt the public was extremely confused on how decisions were taken by the Executive when there was little debate or challenge on the decisions being taken.

Councillor Kansagra welcomed the motion put forward. He felt public participation had declined since the introduction of the present system of governance. In the past, ideas had been put forward at meetings, discussed and voted on but now he felt the essence of democracy and transparency had been lost. Councillor Kansagra expressed the view that decisions on topics such as libraries, parking and festivals would not have been taken so quickly under a more democratic system.

Councillor Butt spoke against the motion, saying that at a time when the residents of Brent were suffering under a double dip recession and cuts in services, the opposition on the Council should be expected to come up with something better than suggesting local constitutional reform. He stated that people were concerned about the issues affecting their lives and were not concerned about the Council's decision making structure or issues such as the House of Lords reform, currently being pursued nationally by the Liberal Democrats. Councillor Butt stated this was a matter of party politics and was not a priority for this time.

Following a vote the motion was declared LOST.

8.2 Working in partnership with library groups

The motion circulated in the names of Councillors Beck, Cheese, Hopkins, Lorber and Shaw called on the Executive to work with local campaign groups to run libraries. It was put to the vote and declared LOST.

8.3 Mental Health

An amendment to the motion circulated submitted by the Labour Group was accepted and the motion as amended was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) to note that:
- one in four adults and one in ten children will at some stage in their lives have a diagnosable mental health problem. In Brent, this equates to over 65,000 local residents;
 - it is estimated that mental illness costs the UK economy £105 billion a year;
 - traditionally, mental health has often been the poor relation to physical health in terms of services;

- often early intervention is much cheaper than providing more intensive therapy;
 - work is ongoing between Brent Council and Central and North West London Foundation Trust to bring mental health services together;
 - the Department of Health's recent Mental Health Strategy places a key emphasis on early intervention as the key to tackling mental illness;
- (ii) that the Mental Health Strategy's aim to help people early in their lives in order to reduce the number of people needing more intensive treatment for mental illness be supported;
- (iii) that it is believed that:
- everyone has mental health: sometimes it is good, sometimes it is ok and sometimes it is poor;
 - encouraging better mental health can have a significant impact on tackling some of the Council's other priorities such as the number of people in the criminal justice system, the number of people who smoke and are obese;
 - as well as promoting initiatives to make residents physically healthier the Council should look at promoting initiatives that make residents mentally healthy too;
 - the Council, NHS Foundation Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Groups should make early intervention a priority which will give benefits to local resident's mental health and at the same time reduce the burden on more intensive therapy and in the long-term will save the Council money;
- (iv) that Charles Walker and Kevan Jones who, amongst other MPs, spoke out recently in the House of Commons about their own mental health problems be applauded for their actions;
- (v) that the clause in the Health and Social Care Bill that places a duty on the Secretary of State for Health to promote 'parity of esteem' between physical health and mental health be welcomed and that a similar sentiment be embraced by the Council;
- (vi) that the approach taken by the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board in recognising that mental wellbeing begins early in life and in developing strategies to tackle this issue be welcomed;
- (vii) that all Councillors be called upon to promote a positive atmosphere in the Council Chamber and beyond where those who have suffered with mental illness feel comfortable to speak out without fear of being stigmatised;
- (viii) that the Council sign up to the Time to Change campaign which aims to end mental health discrimination.

8.4 **Titus Barham's legacy**

An amendment to the motion circulated submitted by the Labour Group seeking to delete reference to allowing Friends of Barham Park to use the empty library building was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

The motion, as amended, was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESLOVED:

- (i) that it be noted that Sunday 8 July 2012 was the 75th anniversary of the death of Wembley benefactor Titus Barham;
- (ii) that the Council's appreciation of Titus Barham's legacy be recorded, which has benefitted Brent residents for generations and includes:
 - donating Barham Park to the people of Wembley,
 - providing the premises for Barham Park Library,
 - donating the collections which form the basis of the Brent Museum,
 - contributing to the setting up of Wembley Hospital, and
 - donating land to Wembley Tennis Club.

8.5 Standards Committee

Councillor Kansagra moved the motion submitted in his name which sought to establish the membership of the new Standards Committee as being one councillor from each political group. He referred to having a Standards Committee for around 10 years during which it had considered some serious issues but also some frivolous ones reflecting the experience of such committees across the country. He supported the re-establishment of a Standards Committee but because it now had such limited powers he felt this added weight to his call for it to have an equal membership from each group. Councillor Kansagra acknowledged that the position of chair of the committee had been offered to the opposition but he felt this did not go far enough.

Councillor Beck expressed his disappointment that the old arrangements had been removed and that the new committee would have no powers. He felt the committee would become more political as a consequence, especially as the chair could no longer be an independent person. In light of this he felt that a membership of one from each group would not have a detrimental impact on its operation.

Councillor R Moher reminded members that legislation had removed the previous standards arrangements. She expressed the hope that all councillors would maintain standards and behave properly but could not support the motion.

The motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

8.6 Parking restrictions in Preston Road

The motion submitted in the name of Councillors Colwill and Kansagra sought to instruct the Executive to reconsider the parking restrictions in Preston Road.

The motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

8.7 Accident and Emergency services

Councillor Hirani moved the motion submitted in his name. He stated that if a health service was to be designed from scratch there would be A&E provision at Central Middlesex hospital and that it was only because Northwick Park hospital was being re-organised that the A&E facility was being taken away from Central Middlesex hospital. Local residents had recognised the improvements made at the hospital but the proposal was a result of the Government's ruthless health reforms. Councillor Hirani submitted that although there were proposals to create urgent care centres these would not provide all the facilities of an A&E department. This would leave areas of the borough with a much longer journey time to the nearest A&E facility.

Councillor Lorber moved an amendment to the motion which sought to substantially add to it by referring back to the previous Labour government's policies. He pointed out that the performance of different hospitals varied greatly and that studies had shown that to create specialised hospitals was the only option if standards were to be improved. It was not viable to spread resources so thinly that it became a lottery as to the level of service people received when visiting hospital. The NHS had embarked on a long consultation process which he felt all interested people should respond to. Councillor Lorber stated that the problem for A&E services was that the great majority of people that visited the service had been taken off the streets in a drunken state.

Councillor Colwill supported the points made by Councillor Lorber. He stated that in 2009/10 the then Labour government had plans to close local hospitals. He added that it was the Labour government that had started the health reforms and referred to some of the changes that had then been proposed which, he felt, had adversely impacted on elderly people.

The amendment to the motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

The motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

that the Tory and Liberal Democrat Government be condemned for the lack of consideration to Brent residents over the likely closure of Accident and Emergency (A&E) services at the Central Middlesex Hospital, which will lead to people in the poorest part of Brent having to travel longer distances to address life threatening imminent needs.

8.8 By elections

Councillor Lorber moved an amendment to the motion submitted which sought to recognise the dedication of Brent's Liberal Democrat councillors, which was put to the vote and declared LOST.

The motion submitted by Councillor Al Ebadi in the absence of Councillor A Choudry was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

that Brent Liberal Democrats be condemned for their weak position and stance on councillors living outside of Brent and disappointment be expressed in the show of contempt to Brent residents by not holding by-elections when there was an opportunity to do so on the same day as the 2012 London Mayoral elections.

9. By election results

RESOLVED:

that the by election results be noted.

10. New standards regime under Localism Act

Members had before them the report on the implications of the Localism Act 2011 in relation to the Member’s Code of Conduct, the Standards arrangements and the regulations published on 8 June 2012 setting out the pecuniary interests.

Councillor Jones drew attention to the criminal sanctions for breach of disclosable pecuniary interests. She also referred to the recommendation to re-establish a Standards Committee. Councillor Lorber stated that there was no barrier to establishing the Standards Committee on the basis of equal representation from each of the political groups if there was unanimous agreement and he felt it was wrong for one party to have a majority on the committee. Councillor Kansagra referred to his earlier motion and re-iterated his support for equal representation from each of the political groups.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the implications of the Localism Act 2011 and in particular that it places an obligation on the Council to promote and maintain high ethical standards by its members and co-opted members be noted;
- (ii) that the Code of Conduct for Members as attached at Appendix 1 to the report submitted be adopted;
- (iii) that the sanctions available to the Full Council in relation to members found to be in breach of the new Code of Conduct set out in paragraphs 12 and 16.7 of the report submitted be noted;
- (iv) that a new Standards Committee be appointed with the terms of reference attached as Appendix 2 to the report submitted;
- (v) that the allocation of seats on the new Standards Committee be:

	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Conservative
Number of seats	3	1	1

- (vi) that a non-voting co-opted member (and alternate) be appointed to the new Standards Committee;

- (vii) that the Monitoring Officer be delegated the decision to refer a written complaint to Standards Committee and to take other action, including no action;
- (viii) that two 'independent persons' be appointed to fulfil the role set out in paragraph 13 of the report submitted;
- (ix) that the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to take decisions in relation to dispensations, as set out in the Code of Conduct;
- (x) that the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to draw up and agree detailed procedures to support the Code of Conduct and the new standards regime, including detailed powers and duties and procedures for the new Standards Committee following consultation with the Constitutional Working Group;
- (xi) to note that the new Standards Committee will review and refine the detailed procedures and operation of the new regime at a meeting during the 2012/13 municipal year;
- (xii) that the advice note from the Monitoring Officer to all members in relation to the definition of pecuniary interests, attached as Appendix 3 to the report submitted, be noted;
- (xiii) that the Constitution be amended in accordance with the tracked changes shown at Appendix 4 of the report submitted;
- (xiv) that the following be appointed members of the new Standards Committee for the remainder of the municipal year:
 - Councillor Beck (Chair)
 - Councillor Gladbaum
 - Councillor Harrison
 - Councillor Ketan Shah
 - Councillor HB Patel
 - Sheila Darr (non voting co-opted member);
- (xv) that John Mann and Sola Afuape be appointed as 'independent persons'.

11. **Urgent business**

None.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL ADEYEYE
Mayor

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FULL COUNCIL – 10 SEPTEMBER 2012

Report from the Executive

Items to be reported by the Executive

The Leader has given notice that the Executive will report to Council on the following items:

1. Exam results
2. Food growing and allotments strategy
3. Meanwhile partnerships
4. Willesden Green

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Full Council
10 September 2012

**Report from the Director of Strategy
Partnership and Improvement**

For information

Report from the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the work of the overview and scrutiny committees in accordance with Standing Order 14 and covers the period since the last Full Council Meeting in July 2012.

2.0 Detail

One Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1 An update on the Civic Centre Project was discussed at the committee's July meeting. Members' questions focussed on flexible working, the charging strategy for parking and rooms within the Civic Centre and the savings attributed to the project. A number of concerns were raised about whether or not transportation services would be sufficient to facilitate access to the Civic Centre.
- 2.2 The committee received a report that provided an update on the Housing Needs Transformation Project, which the committee had last discussed in July 2011. Members heard that the key aim was to deliver performance improvements with fewer resources in a more challenging operating context driven by welfare reform, recessionary pressures and rising demand. Members' concerns centred around customer satisfaction and the likelihood of the number of complaints increasing due to a reduction in staff.
- 2.3 Members of the committee also discussed the Performance and Finance report for Quarter 4. Questions were raised on spending pressures on placement and safeguarding budgets, street cleaning and the impact on partner organisations of council delays in making payments.

- 2.4 The committee will meet again on 16 October 2012.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.5 The committee last met on 19 July 2012 and members considered reports on the following issues:
- 2.6 The chair of Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) provided members with an update on the work of BYP. The committee was informed that they had identified a number of concerns. These were: that not enough is being done to tackle bullying in schools, there needs to be more valuable work experience offered to young people and there are not enough activities for young people in the school holidays. Members agreed that the BYP can suggest items to be put onto the agenda for the committee to consider.
- 2.7 Members were provided with a report on issues found in Brent schools, many of which were found as the result of audit work. Members' questions focussed on the responsibility of the schools and their governing bodies, the council's audit and inspection regime and the support and training in place for head teachers and governing bodies. The Director of Finance informed the committee that he had written directly to all Head Teachers and Chairs of governing bodies outlining the importance of strong financial controls and the importance of following strict financial regulations and good practice. The committee has asked to receive an update report in six months.
- 2.8 The committee received a presentation on the Adoption Inspection and the Adoption Scorecard. Members were particularly interested in the Special Guardianship Orders, the increased risks and what the council does to mitigate those risks. Questions were also raised about the number and success of transracial adoptions in Brent.
- 2.9 The committee will meet again on 11 October when it will be updated on the Safeguarding and Looked After Children action plan along with a report on Corporate Parenting.

Budget and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.10 At its meeting in July the Budget and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the budget strategy 2013/14 to 2015/16. Members spent some time exploring issues relating to the changes to local government funding and the new homes bonus. Budget pressures relating to: adult social care, children's social care, the changes to benefits, temporary accommodation and increased demand for services were also discussed.

- 2.11 The committee also received a report on the localisation of council tax benefits focussing on the financial impacts to the council and proposed mitigation. Members' queries focussed on: the implications of the tight timescales and the resources needed to implement the new scheme, the risks to the council, the choices open to the council in achieving the required savings and the impact of other welfare benefit changes.

Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.12 The July meeting of the committee focussed on crime and community safety. A report on crime statistics in Brent included an in depth look at burglary. Discussions centred on the areas that were most affected in Brent, the types of perpetrators and the actions being taken by partners to reduce burglary in Brent.
- 2.13 Members received a presentation on the multiagency Integrated Offender Management project. Concerns were raised about the participation of partners particularly in relation to mental health provision and about employment opportunities for ex-offenders.
- 2.14 A report on the introduction of the Local Joint Action Groups which are designed to streamline the delivery structure of Brent's Crime Prevention Strategy Group was discussed. Members queried how under represented partner agencies, such as mental health, could be encouraged to become more involved.

Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.15 The Committee last met on the 18 July 2012. The main issue considered by members was the merger of North West London Hospitals NHS Trust and Ealing Hospital Trust – whilst the merger is progressing, members are concerned by the amount of transition funding that could be required to support the new organisation (as much as £96m). It was agreed that this should be followed up so that councillors can be sure that services aren't affected as the organisational changes take place.
- 2.16 A report on tobacco control and smoking cessation was considered. Councillors have agreed, in the light of a new paper from ASH (the anti-smoking charity) to recommend that the Brent Pension Fund Sub-Committee reconsiders its tobacco investments. This recommendation will be considered in September.
- 2.17 The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Shaping a Healthier Future continues, and a Health Partnerships OSC response is also being developed. The committee is running a task group on diabetes in Brent, which should report later in the year.
- 2.18 Mental health is a theme for the committee this year – a report on Improving Access to Psychological Therapies was taken in July. A

further report on step up mental health services in the borough will be considered in October.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 None

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 None

5.0 Diversity Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

6.1 None

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