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SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 21 January 2013 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.

CHRISTINE GILBERT Chief Executive

Cist, Ciker

Dated: Friday 11 January 2013

For further information contact: Peter Goss, Democratic Services Manager 020 8937 1353, peter.goss@brent.gov.uk

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www.brent.gov.uk/committees

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting



Agenda

Apologies for absence

1 Minutes of the previous meeting 1 - 18 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. Mayor's announcements (including any petitions received) Appointments to committees and outside bodies and appointment of chairs/vice chairs (if any) Report from the Leader or members of the Executive 19 - 20 To receive reports from the Leader or members of the Executive in accordance with Standing Order 42. Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Executive Members Questions will be put to the Executive Reports from the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees 21 - 26 To receive reports from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in accordance with Standing Order 41. Changes to constitution 27 - 30 The report proposes that the Director of Legal and Procurement act as a Returning Officer for any elections of Councillors and as Electoral Registration Officer. Ward Affected: All Wards Contact Officer: Fiona Ledden, Director of Legal and Procurement Tel: 020 8937 1292 fiona.ledden@brent.gov.uk	ltem	tem			
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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





LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held on Monday 19 November 2012 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Michael Adeyeye

The Deputy Mayor **Councillor Bobby Thomas**

COUNCILLORS:

Aden Al-Ebadi Allie Arnold

Ashraf Mrs Bacchus

Baker **Beck Beswick** Brown Butt Cheese

Chohan S Choudhary

A Choudry Colwill Crane Cummins Denselow Daly Gladbaum Harrison Hashmi Hector Hirani **Hopkins** Hossain Hunter John **Jones** Kabir Kansagra Kataria Leaman Long Lorber Mashari Matthews McLennan J Moher R Moher Moloney Naheerathan Ogunro **BM Patel** Oladapo CJ Patel **HB Patel**

Pavey Powney Ketan Sheth Ms Shaw Krupa Sheth Sneddon

Van Kalwala

HM Patel

Apologies for absence

RS Patel

Apologies were received from: Councillor Mitchell Murray

1. Procedural motions

Councillor Butt moved a procedural motion stating that it was with considerable regret and sadness that following advice received from the Director of Legal and Procurement, in order to enable the proper democratic meeting of the Full Council to take place, he had felt it necessary to exclude a number of members of the public who had previously caused such disruption to Council meetings and meetings of the Executive to the extent those meetings had not been able to continue without moving to another room and thereby restricting the rights of the public to observe the proceedings.

Councillor Butt added that he would continue to require officers to work to find a better solution than excluding members of the public from the Town Hall.

RESOLVED:

that the exclusion from this Full Council meeting of members of the public who have caused disruption to the previous Full Council meeting and/or to the previous meeting of the Executive and/or the Budget and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee be endorsed.

Councillor Choudhary moved a procedural motion in respect of discussing summons item 7.

RESOLVED:

that in respect of the item on the 1st reading debate – 2013/14 budget:

the Leader be permitted up to 10 minutes in which to present the reports, the Leaders of the Liberal Democrat Group and the Conservative Group be permitted up to 10 minutes each to debate the item, with a general debate to follow, in accordance with Standing Order 44(b).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 September 2012 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None declared.

4. Mayor's announcements

The Mayor introduced Christine Gilbert to the meeting as the newly appointed interim Chief Executive.

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 referred to his announcement at the last meeting of Full Council that Sir Rhodes Boyson had passed away and invited members to pay tribute.

The Mayor announced with sadness that Shabna Abbasi, a school governor at Oliver Goldsmith primary school, had died at the young age of 39, leaving a husband and three children, all who attended the school. He added that she was a dynamic parent governor who touched the lives of all parents, pupils, teachers and governors she had dealings with. Councillor J Moher paid tribute to the work of Shabna Abbasi.

The Mayor announced that he had decided to choose three chaplains, the Revds Graham Noyce and Felicity Scroggie, and Pastor Olufemi Popoola to be his spiritual mentors, guides and advisers for his mayoral year.

The Mayor was delighted to announce that he would be holding his charity Christmas party on 30 November 2012 and tickets were available from his office.

Members paid tribute to Sir Rhodes Boyson who had passed away on 28 August 2012.

Councillor Lorber paid tribute to the work of Jeff Bartley, Environmental Projects and Policy Manager, who passed away on 12 November 2012.

Members stood for one minute's silence in memory of Jeff Bartley.

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

There were none.

6. Report from the Leader or members of the Executive

The Leader welcomed Christine Gilbert to the meeting as the Council's new interim Chief Executive. He referred to the recently held leadership awaydays and stated that the issues discussed would feature in the First Reading debate. Councillor Butt spoke in support of the White Ribbon Campaign against violence towards women, which was to be launched within the Council on Monday 26 November 2012 and he hoped all members would sign up to it.

Councillor R Moher stated that the recent budget awaydays had not been easy because of the lack of financial detail available to the Council. The local government settlement was due to be announced shortly before Christmas. In the meantime the Government had drip fed proposals affecting the resourcing of local government. Councillor R Moher referred to the localisation of Council Tax support. Preparations for a scheme were progressing as far as possible on the basis of it being at no additional cost to the Council. The proposed scheme would be put before members at a special meeting of Full Council on 10 December 2012. The current level of spend by the Government had been reduced for passing on to Councils. However the Government had recently invited bids for additional resources which appeared to be on a one-off basis. The short notice of the availability of these funds and the consequent need to change the scheme if a bid was successful presented a high risk to the Council so the Executive had decided to continue with its current plans.

Councillor Hirani referred to the partial transfer of the public health function to local government as from 1 April 2013. The Executive had agreed an integrated model of work headed by a full time director. Three public health areas would focus on health intelligence, public health commissioning and health improvement. Councillor Hirani reported that the Executive had agreed the establishment of a carer services hub advice and support service. A consultation exercise had identified what carers thought was important resulting in the following seven priorities being mandatory priorities to be delivered as part of the contract:

- 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.

Councillor Hirani stated that Supporting People was a national preventative programme administered by local government. In Brent this programme also extended to provide a range of non-statutory welfare services. The Executive had agreed a contractual arrangement with providers that had led to an improved service and saved £1.6M.

Councillor Arnold reported that the Executive had agreed a Plan for Children and Families in Brent which underpinned the Council's ambition to improve outcomes for children and their families. She urged members to look at the plan and note the priorities set out in it. Councillor Arnold reported that the £5M redeveloped Roundwood Youth Centre had been launched on 1 November 2012. She recommended that members watch the video of the opening on the b my voice web-site. Councillor Arnold reminded members of the successful work undertaken to attract myplacefunding for the project and referred to some of the out of school activities that would take place at the centre. Councillor Arnold stated that the Executive had endorsed an action plan for adoption which focused on addressing drift in the placement of children largely through better data collection, more robust performance management systems and an increased focus on the quality of planning. A recent inspection had shown the service provided good support to children and families in Brent but there was an issue around the time it took to secure a placement.

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

Councillor Brown stated that it should not surprise anyone that every Autumn leaves fell off deciduous trees and that most Autumns experienced wet weather. The combination of wet leaves on damp pavements was dangerous. Councillor Brown asked if, given the length of time it had taken the Council to sweep some roads, it was a mistake to abandon the special leaf-fall collections. Councillor J Moher (Lead Member for Highways and Transportation) replied by agreeing that fallen leaves could be a nuisance but that the Council was faced with having to prioritise the allocation of scarce resources. He added that there was some existing provision and that residents could help themselves by clearing leaves from outside their houses. Councillor Brown responded by criticising the excuse that it was all down to money and felt residents would not be pleased with the suggestion that they sweep the leaves themselves. He referred to the previous Council Administration which had ensured adequate resources were available to properly sweep the streets and the risk now of increased insurance claims from people slipping on the leaves.

Councillor Pavey referred to details from the Government of its plans to slash Early Intervention services. He asked for an outline of what impact this would have on the most vulnerable residents in Brent, and whether the Council would write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for an urgent rethink on this decision. Councillor Arnold (Lead Member for Children and Families) replied that the Government had moved the goal posts on early intervention work and was top slicing the budget to retain the money centrally to develop initiatives. Some money was being passed on but other funding remained unaccounted for leaving a 33% cut in the level of funding to the Council. Councillor Arnold outlined some of the areas that would suffer from this funding shortfall and expressed her concern at why this situation was being allowed to happen. Councillor Pavey referred to a situation known to him where the introduction to a sure start centre had provided the required support and how this change in funding jeopardised the provision of such support. He regarded the cut as vicious and heartless.

Councillor Cheese asked why local residents were being charged for the disposal of bulky waste at Abbey Road Re-use and Recycling Centre despite the assurances previously received that the charges were targeted at trade waste customers such builders. Councillor Powney (Lead Member for Environment Neighbourhoods) replied that any genuine resident of the borough could arrange to have their bulky rubbish removed free of charge. There was no reason for them to have to drive to the re-use and recycling centre. The purpose behind the charge for DIY related disposal was to bring it into line with neighbouring sites and reduce demand for this type of disposal. The income to West London Waste from such charges was substantial and amounted to £250,000 per annum. Councillor Cheese responded that it had been his understanding that West London Waste would take a pragmatic view on very small quantities of waste, and that the average householder delivering small quantities of waste in their own car would be largely unaffected. This was clearly not happening as he had received reports of intransigent staff and of residents being charged. He felt that this was not about tackling abuse of the waste disposal system but more about supporting Waste London Waste's finances. He suggested Brent taxpayers were having to contribute up to £609,000 in order to keep West London Waste solvent and this should have been reported to the Budget and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor HB Patel referred to the provision of alley gates which were popular with local residents because they helped prevent fly tipping, burglaries etc. About 200 gates had been installed across the borough. He asked, given that residents wanted alley gates, why a decision had been made not to allow the use of ward Councillor Jones (Lead Member for Customers and working funding for this. Citizens) replied that she was proud of the alley-gating scheme but it had been disbanded because cuts in funding meant there was now no-one to maintain the gates and protect the Council's interests. Ward working funding did not cover such ongoing costs. However, the issue was still under discussion and a solution was being sought. Councillor Patel responded that he was surprised at the answer because it did not appear to be a problem in the past and wondered what the potential liability was. Such concerns did not appear to be taken into account when distributing money for other projects. He hoped a solution would be found because alley-gating helped residents, the Council and the police to improve safety and security in the borough.

Councillor Hunter stated that she and the Liberal Democrat Group welcomed the Executive's decision to appoint a full-time Director of Public Health, which followed the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendation to do so, rather than have a post shared with Hounslow. However, she was concerned that the appointment was initially only for one year and so asked how the position would be monitored and evaluated to ensure that it was not merely a postponement of what was proposed in the first place, but a genuine desire to see whether it really did need a full-time post for the foreseeable future, particularly at a time of such major change with public health being brought back into the local council arena. Councillor Hirani replied that the report to the Executive made it clear that the director post would be full-time for Brent and he personally did not envisage this However, he could not say what might happen in years to come. Councillor Hirani explained the role of the new director and stressed the importance of the work to be done. Councillor Hunter welcomed the Executive's recognition that members of all parties on the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee usually had an on-going, in-depth understanding of the health issues they were asked to scrutinise. She referred to locally sensitive issues such as the closure of Accident and Emergency Units, where committee members focused on the clinical evidence such as the fact that 85% of visits to the local A & Es were already being handled by the 24/7 urgent care centres and the success of the reconfiguration of the stroke service, where, despite opposition, 32 units, Londonwide, had been replaced by eight specialist centres, resulting in the fact that 400 extra lives were being saved yearly, 100 of them in North West London. patterns of NHS healthcare were changing and Councillor Hunter submitted that it would take continued cross party work to ensure Brent residents got first class health provision both from inside the NHS and, from next April, the public health services provided by Brent Council. She ended by referring to comments made at the London Councils Summit by the London Mayor, which she supported, concerning not being too concerned about buildings over services and getting cross party buy-in.

Councillor Van Kalwala asked if it was agreed that unemployment was divisive and immoral and what was the Council doing to help residents to find work in such Councillor Crane (Lead Member for Regeneration and Major difficult times. Projects) agreed that unemployment was extremely divisive. He outlined a range of measures the Council was looking to provide in order to get people into work. BACES was seeking to help fill the gap between training and getting into employment. The Council was working with an organisation called Rocket Science and other partner agencies to try to expand the job opportunities available. A team of six 'navigators' had been recruited to work with the most excluded individuals hardest hit by the benefit caps to try to get them into work to enable them to stay in their homes. Councillor Crane added that a briefing paper on these initiatives had been sent to all councillors. Councillor Van Kalwala congratulated the Council on

the work it was doing and criticised the Brent Central MP, Sarah Teather, for not standing up for local people.

Councillor Hopkins asked if the Leader would apologise to the library campaigners who put faith in him, and believed his warm words following his appointment as Leader and who now felt let down by the obstacles his administration had continually put in their way, from the triggering of the reverter clause of the All Souls libraries to blocking the use of ward working funding for library-related projects. Councillor Butt (Leader) replied that he had nothing to apologise for because it was the Government's fault that the Council's grant had been cut requiring cuts in services to be made and he pointed out that further cuts were having to be made that would heavily impact on local residents. Councillor Hopkins pointed out that the closure of the libraries had previously been called a transformation programme, not cuts so the Leader's reply did not mean much to the campaigners who felt let down. The Cricklewood and Kensal Rise library volunteers now had to negotiate with an Oxford college for use of the buildings instead of their local council and although the negotiations were proving difficult they were less difficult than had been the case with the Council.

Councillor Naheerathan asked what the Council could do to help residents with rising energy prices. Councillor Butt (Leader) replied that this issue was one of the most important issues faced by local residents because of the recession they faced. They were being charged more for energy at the same time as energy companies were making record profits. He announced that plans would be brought forward to establish an energy co-operative whereby collective buying power could help reduce prices. Councillor Butt also reported that £160,000 had been secured from the Department of Health to support a programme sponsored by the council and NHS Brent and run by Energy Solutions aimed at lowering the number of preventable deaths in the borough in the event of a sudden cold snap by providing expertise and practical help to those who needed it most. Councillor Naheerathan responded by saying that, as residents faced more benefit cuts and higher energy bills, it was good to know that the Council was working hard to protect local residents from the cuts imposed by the Government.

Councillor Shaw asked if it was the Government that had asked the Council to close six libraries and referred to the Willesden library as the seventh casualty. She referred to the provision of IT for members, expenditure on hotels and the building of the civic centre and asked if the sustainable regeneration of the Willesden High Road had been considered. Whilst going some way to meeting residents' concerns by agreeing to retain some of the old library building, Councillor Shaw asked why the Council was giving away the land associated with the Willesden Library centre and why the consultation had been shambolic. Councillor Butt (Leader) replied that consideration had been given to all the responses received expressing concern in an effort to provide a better development. The outcome had been the design of a building that would provide better space for the library and provide community space all at no cost to the Council. The planning application for the development was now subject to consideration by the Planning Committee. Councillor Shaw responded that there was concern that some decisions were being taken for the convenience of the developer rather than the needs of local residents. The provision of 90 luxury flats did not provide the facilities needed in the area. The High Road offered plenty of eating and drinking but little else. Councillor Shaw stated that a specialist retail shop like the bookshop should be supported because it added real value to the area; and play space was needed for young people and She did not consider that the scheme contributed towards sustainable regeneration of the area.

Councillor Harrison asked what the likely impact was for Brent residents of the coalition Government and Conservative Mayor of London's plans to cut emergency services. Councillor Beswick (Lead Member for Crime and Public Safety) replied that the situation concerned life and limb. He stated that Willesden police station was closing and Willesden fire station was facing a similar situation. Services at Central Middlesex Hospital had been closed and the counter service at Harlesden police station had been closed. He regarded this as a slash and burn approach by the Government. He felt everyone needed to lobby the Government against further cuts and condemn those already made. Councillor Harrison referred to the White Ribbon Campaign and the increase in domestic violence. She stated that cuts made to the community safety fund would impact on local residents and expressed the hope that lobbying the Government would persuade it to change its mind over this.

8. First reading debate on the 2013/14 - 2016/17 budget

Councillor Butt stated that the budget marked a vital turning point for Brent. He suggested that two years ago few predicted the recession would last so long or how vindictive the Government's welfare cuts would be towards the most vulnerable people in the community; few predicted the Government would target local government to take the brunt of the cuts and he felt this was a recipe for social damage on a scale not seen since the Second World War and would leave a generation of young people permanently scarred by unemployment. Councillor Butt felt this was an ideological experiment designed by the coalition parties but one which would fail. He stated that in Brent there was a strong community focus and that the residents of the borough would not forgive the coalition government for the damage inflicted on the community. However, he stated that he had a personal commitment to improve the lives of the residents of the borough and that was what the Labour Party was doing in Brent. A package of reforms would be brought forward that would help protect the most vulnerable residents based on the fundamental idea that local people could only weather the storm if they were united and given the resilience and protection that only a community could create. The package would put fairness, jobs, growth and community at the heart of everything the Council did. It would increase the pay of the lowest paid workers, and campaign for the private sector to do the same, bring forward plans to reduce the cost of energy for all residents, tackle the problem of slum housing in Brent and focus on jobs and growth. The Council would bring forward a coherent strategy to support the high streets and local businesses and strengthen the relationships with businesses. A new deal for the voluntary and community sector would be developed to transform the lives of the most troubled families and begin the task of tackling health inequality in the Borough. The biggest school building program was underway in the borough. It would be through all these measures that the Council would act as the last line of defence for residents by protecting local schools, business and services. Councillor Butt pointed out that between 2010 and 2014 the budget had been reduced by 28% and the Government's failed austerity policies would mean the cuts would continue after 2015 with a predicted 7% cut every year until 2020 at least. He stated that more residents would find themselves relying on Council services as they struggled to find work and inflation eroded their living

The ageing population and high birth rate in the borough meant spending on children's and adults' social care was increasing dramatically. Resolving this would require the complete transformation of the Council as an organisation and the way in which it delivered services to residents. Resources would be shifted from treating problems to preventing them happening, savings would be sought from contractors and providers, inefficiency, duplication and waste would be dealt with and the levels of charges and the frequency of services would be reviewed. Councillor Butt commended the strategy he had outlined and as detailed in the reports before members.

Councillor Lorber responded saying that people were fed up hearing the messages the Leader had delivered. He reminded the meeting that the previous Labour chancellor had said that whoever won the general election would have to make the biggest cuts ever and that the previous Labour government had used £60B to bail out the banks, much of which would never be returned. More recently Labour politicians had said they would be ruthless about controlling public spending and had spoken of cutting benefits as a way of getting people into work, so he felt there should be no surprise that the government was following this course of action. The aim was to promote fairness and this could not be done if people were locked into a culture of dependency. People in the lowest income bands had been taken out of the tax net and Councillor Lorber contrasted this with the cuts imposed on grants to voluntary organisations at a time when the voluntary sector should be empowered to support local communities. He referred to people being unable to park close to local traders without being fined and to the condition of the streets following the decisions taken to reduce the street sweeping service. Councillor Lorber pointed out that the Leader's speech had made no reference to improving the performance of the Council and making positive proposals to support local businesses and communities.

Councillor Kansagra stated that the cuts had been made necessary by the previous Labour government's excessive spending. Nevertheless he stated that employment in the private sector was rising and the Council was still able to deliver good services showing that there had been economies to make. There had been alternatives to closing six libraries and the parking situation was forcing the closure of local shops. He suggested that the first ½ hour of parking should be free of charge. Councillor Kansagra referred to the new arrangements for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which had seen a large injection of cash by the Government and it was now necessary to ensure the proper management of Brent Housing Partnership. He felt ways could have been found to maintain grants to the voluntary sector. He supported the principles behind the initiative for controlling energy prices but pointed out that the Government had already taken the initiative on this and it should not be for the Council to get involved in private business ventures. Councillor Kansagra submitted that it was not fair that a working family paying taxes should receive less income than a family not working. This made it necessary to cap benefits. He felt that the Council should accept the Council tax freeze grant again made available by the Government.

In response to the comments made about parking charges, Councillor J Moher stated that the Council was reviewing its parking charges. A point was made about the scale of the cuts, rather than the need to make cuts. It was pointed out that in the last two years the Council had achieved a lot but continued to face many challenges. The priorities were to provide jobs and school places. It would be necessary to look strategically at how services were provided.

A view was submitted that it was a tribute to the Government that it had managed to reduce the deficit from the level inherited from the previous government. In contrast to the views of the Leader it was suggested that the Council had broken community spirit by closing libraries, not listening to the views of people, not reducing parking charges and cutting the maintenance of streets and pavements. A more widely supported view was expressed that parking charges were killing-off local businesses and that only small local businesses could provide the growth needed in the borough. Another aspect raised was the importance of providing affordable homes. It was submitted that the refinancing of the HRA should allow for new homes to be built. Another idea put forward was to provide outdoor fitness equipment in parks. It was submitted that it would serve the Council well to remember that it was there to serve the whole of the borough.

Councillor Butt thanked members for their input and noted the views expressed. He reminded the meeting that employment opportunities had already opened up through the regeneration of a number of areas in the borough; that the Council already had a £80M school building programme; that the closure of some libraries had allowed for an improved service to be provided and that the Council had to be fair in which organisations it grant-aided.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the broad budgetary priorities set out in the report from the Executive be noted, and
- (ii) that the issues raised in the First Reading debate be noted and referred to the Budget and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.

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

Councillor Ashraf introduced the circulated report. He pointed out that the Budget and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee had met for a third time since the last meeting of Full Council. He welcomed Councillor Hopkins as the new chair of the committee and thanked members and officers generally for their contributions towards the work of overview and scrutiny.

10. **Changes to Constitution**

Members had before them a report on changes to the constitution brought about by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and other miscellaneous amendments relating to director functions, Executive Committee structures and contract standing orders.

Councillor Lorber proposed an amendment to the recommendations which he felt would remove an anomaly in that there was no provision in the constitution for the appointment of interim senior officers. Councillor R Moher suggested the amendment was premature because it was already the intention to fully review the constitution in the near future.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the changes to the Constitution shown in Appendix 1 to the report submitted relating to meetings and access to information be agreed;
- (ii) that the changes shown in Appendix 2 to the report submitted relating to the re-distribution of Director's functions be agreed;
- (iii) that the changes to the Constitution regarding the Barham Park Trust Committee shown as Appendix 3 to the report submitted be agreed; and
- (iv) that the changes to the Contracts Standing Orders shown at Appendix 4 to the report submitted be agreed.

11. Treasury Management Annual report 2011/12

The report before members summarised the borrowing and investment activity and performance compared to prudential indicators during 2011/12. The Executive at its meeting on 19 September 2012 had resolved to submit the recommendations in the report to Full Council without any further comments. The report had also been considered by the Audit Committee on 27 September 2012 as part of the scrutiny function required under the 2009 Treasury Management Code of Practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Treasury Management Annual Report and Annual Investment Strategy Report be approved;
- (ii) that the outturn for prudential indicators be noted; and
- (iii) that the updated position since 2011/12 be noted.

12. 2012/13 Mid Year Treasury report

The report before members updated them on recent treasury activity.

RESOLVED:

that the 2012/13 mid-year Treasury report be noted.

13. Motions

13.1 Number 18 bus route

Councillor Baker moved the motion circulated in his and Councillor HM Patel's names which called for the Lead Member for Highways and Transportation to lobby Transport for London (TfL) to get the No.18 bus route extended to Harrow bus station. He pointed out that at the present time it terminated at Sudbury town centre and caused obstruction to traffic and he felt it should go on to Harrow and better serve the local community and patients at Northwick Park Hospital.

Councillor J Moher responded by stating that this issue had often been raised with TfL but it had recently responded by saying it would cost an additional £1.4M to extend the route to the hospital or £2M to Harrow town centre and the additional revenue generated would not cover this. Alternatives were being pursued and the problem of bus congestion at Sudbury town centre was being resolved with the implementation of a new bus stand. Councillor Lorber added that the matter had been raised in the past with the then Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, and suggested that the current Mayor of London should be approached about this.

Following a vote, the motion was declared LOST.

13.2 Recruitment of permanent Chief Executive and Director of Finance

Councillor Lorber moved the motion circulated in his and the names of Councillors Ashraf, Beck, Brown, Hopkins and Hunter which sought to require options for the restructure of the Corporate Management Team to be brought forward. He expressed concern that members had not been given any information about the recent loss of the Council's Chief Executive and Director of Finance and that this presented an opportunity to review the Council's management structure.

Councillor Kansagra indicated his support for the motion. Councillor Butt stated that it was necessary in times of emergency for an interim appointment to the post of Chief Executive to be made without delay. In turn, it was the responsibility of the Head of the Paid Service to arrange for the appointment of a Director of Finance.

Following a vote the motion was declared LOST.

13.3 Fire service in Brent

The motion circulated in the names of Councillors Brown, Hashmi, Hunter, Lorber, CJ Patel and Sneddon was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council expresses its support for and appreciation of the work carried out by the London Fire Brigade in Brent;
- (ii) that Council notes:
 - a) that the fire brigade attended 3,217 incidents in Brent during 2011/12, including 798 fires, 989 special services and 1,430 false alarms. In addition it carried out 2,235 home fire safety visits and other community and fire safety tasks.
 - b) that the Mayor of London has imposed cuts of £65 million (about 15%) over the next two years on the London Fire Brigade,
 - that a document leaked to the BBC lists the following 17 fire stations threatened with closure: Acton, Belsize, Bow, Clapham, Clerkenwell, Downham, Islington, Kensington, Kingsland, Knightsbridge, New Cross, Peckham, Silvertown, Southwark, Westminster, Whitechapel and Woolwich.
 - d) that although the three stations in Brent do not appear on this list of threatened stations, only one of these (Wembley) appears on a list of

- "safe" fire stations provided by the Chair of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA),
- that as a result the future of Park Royal and Willesden Fire Stations e) has become a matter of speculation;
- that Council condemns the Mayor of London for proposing reckless cuts to (iii) the London fire budget without taking advice from senior fire officers as to the consequences, therefore leading to fire station closures;
- (iv) that Council supports the retention of all three fire stations in Brent and believes that the closure of any of these stations would be unacceptable to local residents and compromise fire safety;
- (v) that Council supports the proposed increase in appliances at Hendon and Stanmore stations which will deliver extra fire cover to parts of Brent;
- (vi) that Council requests the interim Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of London with a copy to the Chair of LFEPA making this council's position clear.

13.4 Off payroll contracts

The motion circulated in the names of Councillors Brown, Cheese, Hopkins, Lorber, Matthews and Shaw which called for any member of the Council's corporate management team serving for more than three months to be directly employed by the Council and subject to PAYE was put to the vote and declared LOST.

Permitted development 13.5

The motion circulated in the names of Councillors Ashraf, Beck, Brown, Hopkins and Lorber seeking to ensure the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's proposals on permitted development were opposed was put to the vote and declared LOST.

13.6 The living wage

Councillor A Choudry moved the motion circulated and sought cross party support for it. He stated that the opportunity existed for the Council to assess what more it could do to help some of the poorest people in society and he was pleased the Council was already paying the living wage.

Councillor HB Patel suggested that pressure put on those employers paying less than the living wage would help increase wages but that some workers would continue to have to live on low wages because of the legacy of the last government. Councillor HB Patel added that the minimum wage was still relatively new to the country and so the introduction of the living wage would be opposed by some because of the costs involved. Councillor HB Patel moved an amendment to the motion which sought to remove reference to the government's failure to support the living wage.

Councillor Lorber stated that his party supported the living wage and had also sought to assist those on low incomes through changes in the tax system. However, he noted that the Council's commitment to paying the living wage excluded those working in the social care sector.

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

The motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

that Council:

- (a) welcomes the increase of the living wage to £7.45 per hour and £8.55 per hour in London,
- (b) notes that employees in cities with high costs of living, such as London, need to earn more than the national minimum wage just to stay above the poverty line, with one in ten workers in London currently earning less than the living wage,
- (c) welcomes the fact that from 1 October all directly employed staff in Brent were receiving pay rates at or above the London living wage.
- (d) welcomes the progress in ensuring employees of Brent contractors also receive the living wage,
- (e) notes its disappointment at the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Government's failure to support the living wage at a national level.

13.7 Cuts to emergency services

The motion circulated in the name of Councillor Harrison was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

that Council:

- a) notes that many of Brent's emergency services are under threat from cuts imposed by the coalition government,
- b) opposes the extent of the cuts, which are too fast and too deep and will endanger lives,
- c) notes with disappointment the failure of Brent Central MP, Sarah Teather, to oppose the cuts to emergency services,
- d) calls on the Government to reverse the cuts to the emergency services that will see Willesden Police Station and potentially two of Brent's three fire stations closed.

14. Urgent business

None.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL ADEYEYE Mayor



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held on Monday 10 December 2012 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Michael Adeyeye

The Deputy Mayor Councillor Bobby Thomas

COUNCILLORS:

Aden Al-Ebadi
Allie Arnold
Mrs Bacchus Beck
Beswick Brown
Butt Cheese
Chohan S Choudhary

A Choudry Colwill Crane Cummins Daly Denselow Gladbaum Harrison Hashmi Hector Hirani Hopkins Hossain Hunter John Jones Kabir Kansagra Kataria Leaman Long Lorber Mashari Matthews Moloney Naheerathan Ogunro Oladapo **BM Patel** CJ Patel **HM Patel** HB Patel **RS Patel** Pavev Ms Shaw Powney

Sneddon Van Kalwala

Apologies for absence

Krupa Sheth

Apologies were received from: Councillors Ashraf, Baker, Green, McLennan, Mitchell Murray, J Moher, R Moher and Ketan Sheth

Singh

1. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None declared.

2. **Procedural motion**

Councillor S Choudhary moved a procedural motion relating to discussion of the business at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

that in respect of Summons item 3 - Local Council Tax Support Scheme and Changes to Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions:

The Leader be permitted up to 10 minutes in which to present the report;

Members be given the opportunity to ask questions for clarity;

A general debate to follow for up to 30 minutes in accordance with the normal rules set out in Standing Order 44(b).

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

None.

Local Council Tax Support Scheme and Changes to Council Tax Discounts 4. and Exemptions

Members had before them the circulated report which set out the findings and outcomes of the consultation arrangements for the proposed local Council Tax Support Scheme carried out over a nine week period between 11 June and 10 August 2012. The report recommended a scheme for a new local Council Tax Support scheme based upon the outcomes from the consultation process and achieving, as far as reasonably practicable, a financially neutral position in 2013/14 (the first year of operation).

The report also recommended changes to Council Tax discounts and exemptions from 1 April 2013 for certain classes of empty properties.

Attached to the report were the financial and equality impacts of the recommended scheme and changes to the discounts and exemptions

Councillor Butt (Leader) introduced the report. He criticised the Government's proposals for replacing the current national Council Tax benefit scheme by a localised Council Tax support scheme. Despite a cut in funding passed on by the Government equalling a loss of between £3.9M to £5.1M, a scheme was proposed that was as fair as possible and protected the most vulnerable people in the borough. It was also designed to incentivise work. However, it had been necessary to ask some people to pay more in order to meet the funding shortfall. Councillor Butt pointed out that there remained the risk associated with collecting money from people not able to afford it.

During questioning it was explained that a collection rate of 80% had been set as a realistic target in the circumstances. It was acknowledged that some people would find it hard to pay and the scheme tried to provide fairness in requiring all those liable to pay a fair charge. Despite a plea for the levy on the job seekers allowance to be reviewed it was stated that this would not have been imposed if the Government had not reduced the funding made available and stipulated some groups that had to be protected. The same applied to pensioners some of whom, despite the scheme being designed to protect them, would face financial hardship. It was argued that the scheme did not need to provide for a surplus because the Council already had sufficient reserves. The Leader stated that this was normal good financial planning because if the collection rate was not achieved so the surplus would reduce.

Councillor Lorber re-iterated that the budgeted surplus was unnecessary and if the collection rate was not achieved that would reflect on the performance of the Council, not individual tax payers. He moved amendments to the scheme which sought to adjust upwards the savings cut-off, protect non-dependents in receipt of job seekers allowance for the first twelve months from their first claim and set a lower minimum contribution rate.

Councillor Kansagra stated that it was always claimed to be the fault of the Government when the present position was down to the previous Labour government. He felt the poorest were being hit instead of dealing with wastage and suggested the Council should adopt the Government's fall-back scheme. The suggested amendments to the scheme were rejected on a vote.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the making and implementation of the recommended Council Tax Support Scheme as set out in section 5 and Appendix H of the report circulated be supported and authorised;
- (ii) that the recommended discounts for the Council Tax Discount and Exemption classes to come into effect from 1st April 2013 as set out in paragraphs 10.1, 10.2 and Table 15 of the report circulated be supported and authorised:
- (iii) that the response for the Council to reject the Government's conditional offer to accept a transition grant for the Council Tax Support Scheme be approved for the reasons set out in section 4.16 to section 4.23 and Appendix F of the report circulated;
- (iv) that the findings on equalities and other impacts arising from the proposed Council Tax Scheme as set out in Section 5 of the report circulated be noted;
- (v) that the findings of the Equalities Impact Assessment in relation to the recommended changes to the Council Tax discounts and exemptions as set out in Section 10 of the report circulated be noted;

(vi) that the alternative scheme options that existed be noted, in particular the transition funding since made available to Local Authorities that designed their schemes to be compliant with certain key requirements prescribed by the Government as set out in their transitional grant scheme dated 18 October 2012.

5. **Urgent business**

None.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL ADEYEYE Mayor



FULL COUNCIL – 21 JANUARY 2013

Report from the Executive

1. Items to be reported by the Executive

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

- 1. London Living Wage
- 2. Brent Working with Families Strategy
- 3. School Expansion (Secondary) Programme 2012-16
- 4. Expansion of Vicar's Green Primary School
- 5. Green Charter report
- 6. Supporting People contracts

2. Decisions taken by the Executive under the Council's urgency provisions

Under the provisions of rule 38 of the Access to Information Rules in the Constitution, the Executive is required to report to the next Full Council for information on any decisions taken by them which did not appear in the Forward Plan giving 28 days' notice or where due notice was not given that a report, or part thereof, is to be considered in private.

Compulsory purchase of property on Northwick Avenue

The above item is due to be considered by the Executive on 14 January 2013. Notification was not given that the report would be considered in private.

Reason why it is impracticable to defer the decisions until it can be included on the forward plan

It is necessary for approvals to be given in accordance with timescales.

Temporary Agency Staff contract

The above item was considered by the Executive on 10 December 2012 when it agreed to:

- (i) give approval to the award of contract for Temporary Agency Staff to Adecco Group UK and Ireland,
- (ii) approve an exemption from the usual tendering requirements of Contract Standing Orders and approve the direct award of an interim contract to Comensura Ltd.
 - Authority to award contract (contract to be a framework agreement) for the provision of School Meals Services to Brent Schools for December 2012
 - Authority to participate in the London Highways Contract for highway services
 - Disposal of town hall

The Executive considered the above items on 10 December 2012. Sufficient notification was not given that they contained appendices which would be considered in private.

Reason why it is impracticable to defer the decisions until it can be included on the forward plan

It is necessary for the contracts to be awarded and approvals given in accordance with timescales.



Full Council 21 January 2013

Report from the Director of Strategy Partnerships and Improvement

For Action Wards Affected:

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 November 2012.

2.0 Detail

One Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2.1 The committee last met on 5 December 2012 and members considered the following:

an update on the Waste & Recycling Transformation Project, which focussed on the performance of the waste collection and street cleansing services. While accepting that the council's target of 60% of waste to be recycled is ambitious and long term, the main focus of member's discussion was on the actions being undertaken to reach this target,

an update on the Future Customer Services project and the creation of the Brent Customer Service Unit in January 2012. The report set out some of the main areas of work and also provided members with performance information relating to customer service activity. Performance in relation to telephone call handling, particularly the difficulty in comparing performance between services with differing levels of complexity was discussed. Members also raised questions about the councils approach to channel migration and the benefits that could be

derived from increasing the council's online activity. The committee will continue to take an active interest in this area,

an update on the One Council Programme and it was reported that there are currently 36 projects within the programme. Members raised issues relating to risks, project evaluation, and the financial and non financial benefits and disbenefits of individual projects within the programme.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny committee

- 2.2 The committee which last met on 11 December 2012, received an update from Brent Youth Parliament on their recent visit to Parliament and the work they are undertaking to promote the new Roundwood Youth Centre and inform the choice of activities available.
- 2.3 The committee discussed the Plan for Children and Families in Brent which aims to bring together Brent's vision and key priorities for improving outcomes for children and families. One of the main concerns raised by members was the impact of the cost of childcare for parents returning to work. Other issues raised by the committee included: ensuring a strategic approach across the borough particularly the potential for working with voluntary and private sector partners, aligning and making the most of available resources and monitoring outcomes.
- 2.4 The committee received a presentation on The Working with Families Initiative. Members were concerned that the project may evolve into dealing with families in crisis rather than early intervention so questioned how the project would be rolled out to ensure a holistic approach. Further questions focussed on how success would be measured in order to achieve the payment by results, how saving had been identified and whether or not the savings were sustainable. Members also wanted clarification on how this project differed from previous initiatives.
- 2.5 The committee also received a report on Corporate Parenting which summarised the key issues relevant to Looked after Children in Brent and set out the core principles that ensured the Corporate Parenting Group adopt a locally robust approach to ensuring that Looked After Children receive at least the same standard of care as would be given by a reasonable and responsible parent. Members raised concerns about the make-up of the Corporate Parenting Group, the support offered to care leavers in settling into their new homes, Member involvement in monitoring the progress of children and actions taken to improve educational achievement within this group.

Budget and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2.6 The Committee has met twice since the last report to Full Council. On 15

November 2012 the committee received a presentation from the Director of Adult Social Care which set out the budget pressures and issues facing the department. Members focussed on the departmental savings relating to better procurement and commissioning, unit cost trends, the impact of a growing population on service delivery and the scope for early intervention and prevention activities through partnership working. The committee also received an update on the current budget position and issues affecting the development of the 2013/14 budget. Members were particularly interested in any departmental overspends and actions being taken to address them.

- 2.7 The Director of Children and Families attended the meeting in December to discuss budget pressures and issues facing the department. Member's questions centred on overspends in the children's social care budget, the transformation of services, particularly in relation to savings targets, issues that impact on demand and measures being taken to mitigate against them.
- 2.8 A report on the financial benefits of the One Council Programme and its role in the Medium Term Financial Strategy was also discussed. Members asked questions about how savings targets were set, the associated risks, how achievable the targets were and project delivery costs. They also discussed how income could be maximised and the implementation of the corporate debt recovery policy. The committee will be finalising its First Interim Report at the next meeting in January.

Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2.9 The committee last met on 6 December 2012 and members considered reports on the following:

Brent's Employment Programme. This provided an update on the current labour market position and set out the challenges faced by the council in relation to rising unemployment, deprivation and the impact of the introduction of welfare reforms. The report also highlighted the opportunities available to tackle the growing problem through the establishment of a new "Employment and Enterprise" team within the Regeneration and Major Projects Department. Member's questions focussed on funding, the numbers of Brent residents that could be helped via the employment programme particularly the Navigator scheme, small businesses enterprise and Park Royal Partnership. Members also questioned the number and skill set of local residents employed during the building of the new Civic Centre.

Domestic Violence which provided an update on the latest trend data and the outcomes and findings of recent Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews. The report also detailed the new legislation that underpins the

Domestic Violence Homicide Review process. Members discussed the financial burden imposed by the additional statutory duty and queried the resources available to deliver and maintain service levels. Members also noted the efforts displayed in balancing this difficult and sensitive piece of work.

A presentation from the Borough Commander of London Fire Brigade, Brent. The presentation provided an overview of the services in Brent, the performance of Brent LFB and the impact of the current economic conditions. Members focussed their questions on the 2013/15 budget and the impact of final budget announcement in January 2013; members were also keen to know what options would be considered for Brent. The committee was assured that a full public consultation would take place and no changes will be made until June 2013.

Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.10 The committee met on 27 November 2012 and considered a report on the status of the merger of Ealing Hospital NHS Trust and North West London Hospitals NHS Trust and on progress towards their £72m savings target. The merger has been deferred by NHS London until it has seen further financial assurances and will not now take place on 1 April 2013. Savings to date are £9.8m compared to an £11m target. Members were concerned about the financial issues, the impact they may have on the merger and the risk of the trust going into administration. Members questioned whether rising visitor numbers at Northwick Park A&E would impact on standards and asked what actions were being taken to promote other services for non-urgent cases. The committee will be receiving a further update in January 2013.
- 2.11 The committee discussed a report which set out how the council will implement the requirements of The Health and Social Care Act 2012 in relation to the creation of a local Healthwatch and Complaints Advocacy Service. Members sought clarification on the role and structure of Healthwatch, the results of the recent consultation and the procurement timetable. The committee also discussed the procurement of a Complaints Advocacy Service.
- 2.12 The committee received an update from Ealing Hospital Trust on the recruitment of Health Visitors in Brent and the need to recruit additional Health Visitors by 2015 to meet government targets. There has been a poor uptake of 'return to practice' students across London and NHS London is now refocusing on student recruitment. Member's asked questions about recruitment issues specific to Brent including: monitoring reasons for leaving, recruitment arrangements when NHS London ceases to exist in 2013, pay differences between boroughs and the transfer of Health Visitors to the council.

3.0 Financial Implications

None

4.0 Legal Implications

None

5.0 Diversity Implications

None

6.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

None

Contact Officers

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Full Council 21 January 2013

Report from Director of Legal and Procurement

For Action Wards affected All

Changes to Constitution

1.0 Summary

1.1 Members are asked to agree that the Director of Legal and Procurement act as a Returning Officer for any elections of Councillors and as Electoral Registration Officer.

2.0 Recommendation

That members agree the changes made to the Constitution shown as track changes in **Appendix 1**.

3.0 Details

Part 4, Table 5 of the Constitution sets out the Council's Proper and Statutory Officer provisions. Currently the role of Returning Officer at an election of Councillors of the borough and the Electoral Registration Officer of any constituency in the borough is carried out by the Chief Executive. Members are asked to agree that for the time being these roles are performed by the Director of Legal and Procurement who was the Deputy Returning Officer in the previous election round.

4.0 Financial Implications

None.

5.0 Legal Implications

The Representation of the People Act 1983 requires that Councils appoint officials to undertake formal roles in relation to election matters.

6.0 Diversity Implications

None

Background Papers:

Brent Council Constitution

Contact Officer:

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Fiona Ledden
Director of Legal and Procurement

TABLE 5

PROPER AND STATUTORY OFFICER PROVISIONS

The following definitions are used in this Table:-

LGA 1972 = Local Government Act 1972

LG(MP)A 1976 = Local Government (Miscellaneous

Provisions) Act 1976

RPA 1983 = Representation of the People Act 1983

LGFA 1988 = Local Government Finance Act 1988

LGHA 1989 = Local Government and Housing Act 1989

LGA 2000 = Local Government Act 2000

FOIA 2000 = Freedom of Information Act 2000

LASSNHSCR 2009 = Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009

The following officers and their deputies or person nominated by them for the purpose shall be the proper officer for the purpose specified:-

(1) statutory provision	(2) Function	(3) Proper Officer
Section 83 LGA 1972	Witness and receipt of declarations of acceptance of office of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.	Democratic Services Manager
Section 84 LGA 1972	Receipt of notice of resignation of office of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.	Democratic Services Manager
Section 88 LGA 1972	Convening of meeting for the election of Mayor in the event of a casual vacancy.	Democratic Services Manager
Section 89 LGA 1972	Receipt of notice of casual vacancies in the council membership.	Democratic Services Manager
Section 100 LGA 1972	All references to proper officer in connection with the access to information	Democratic Services Manager

^{*}Chief Officers also have power delegated to them in the table found at paragraph 2.5 of this Part 4 to designate proper officers falling within their area of responsibility.

	provisions of the Local Government Act.	
Section 115 LGA 1972 Receipt of monies from accountable officers.		Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Section 146 LGA 1972	Certificates as to securities on alteration to local authority area or name.	Director of Legal and Procurement
Section 151 LGA 1972	Officer with responsibility for the council's financial affairs.	Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Section 225 LGA 1972	Deposit of any documents pursuant to any enactment, instrument or parliamentary standing orders.	Democratic Services Manager
Section 229 LGA 1972	Certification of any photographic copy of a document in the custody of the council or of any document destroyed while in which custody, or any part of any such document.	Director of Legal and Procurement
Section 233 LGA 1972	Receive documents required to be served on the Council.	The Chief Executive or the Director of Legal and Procurement
Section 234(1) LGA 1972	Signature or authentication of any notice or other document which the local authority is authorised or required to give or make or issue.	All officers specified in paragraph 2.4 of this Part 4.
Section 238 LGA 1972	Certification of printed copies of by-laws.	Director of Legal and Procurement
Section 41 LG(MP)A 1976	Certification of Minutes, Resolutions, Orders and Reports of the council.	Democratic Services Manager
Section 35 RPA 1983	The Returning Officer at an election of Councillors of the borough.	Director of Legal and Procurement
Section 8 RPA 1983	The Electoral Registration Officer of any constituency (or part thereof) in the borough.	Director of Legal and Procurement