

## London Borough of Brent - Summary of decisions taken by Council on Monday 17 September 2018

PRESENT: Councillors Mahmood (Mayor), Ezeajughi (Deputy Mayor), Aden, Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Allie, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudhary, Choudry, Colacicco, Colwill, Conneely, Crane, Daly, Dar, Denselow, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Gbajumo, Gill, Hassan, Hector, Hirani, Hylton, Johnson, Kabir, Kansagra, Kelcher, Knight, Lo, Long, Marquis, Maurice, McLeish, McLennan, Miller, Mitchell-Murray, Naheerathan, Nerva, M.Patel, Patterson, Perrin, Sangani, Shahzad, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Southwood, Stephens, Tatler, Thakkar.

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
1	Apologies for Absence	Apologies received from Councillors Abdi, Dixon, Mashari, R.Patel and Pavey.
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 July 2018 agreed as a correct record, subject to the spelling of Councillor Muhammed Butt's name being corrected on page 18.
3	Declarations of Interest	No interests declared.
4	Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)	<p>NOTED the announcements from the Mayor in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor's Civic Service</li> <li>• Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur</li> <li>• Flag Raising Ceremonies</li> <li>• Tokyo Metropolitan Government visit</li> <li>• Srebrenica Memorial Ceremony</li> <li>• Civic Centre Floor Walking</li> <li>• London Remembers WW1 commemorative event</li> <li>• Borough Remembrance Sunday</li> <li>• Mayor's Fundraising Gala Dinner</li> <li>• Petitions</li> </ul>
5	Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs (if any)	<b>AGREED</b> the appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, as detailed in the supplementary paper.
6	Reports from the Leader and Cabinet	NOTED the report and accompanying updates provided by the Leader of the Council in relation to Council priorities and Cabinet Member for Public Health, Culture and Leisure in relation to

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		<p>progress on the London Borough of Culture and Cabinet Member for Schools, Employment &amp; Skills in relation to development of the Skills for Life, Sure Start, Brent Works, Living Room and West London Health programmes along with current performance across the boroughs schools.</p> <p>Responses were also provided by the relevant Cabinet Members on the following questions raised during the open session of this part of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Donnelly-Jackson seeking details on plans to make the Borough of Culture programme as inclusive and accessible as possible.</li> <li>• Councillor Kansagra seeking an update on the removal of culturally sensitive advertisements from public toilets and thanking the Leader of the Council for his apology to community representatives on the matter.</li> <li>• Councillor Nerva on the steps being taken by the Council in order to identify the potential risks and mitigate the potential impact from the outcome of any “hard” Brexit.</li> </ul> <p>As part of the response on this question, Members noted that a further report on the impact of Brexit would be provided for the next Council meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Choudhary regarding measures being taken to provide adequate funding for schools in order to maintain performance.</li> <li>• Councillor Chan congratulating the Council on the successful prosecution of the former headteacher along with other former staff and governors at Copeland School and asking the Council to acknowledge the contribution made by Hank Roberts in raising the initial “whistleblowing” concerns, which was <b>AGREED</b> by the Mayor.</li> <li>• Councillor Colwill regarding the impact of the financial operating loss at Bridge Park Community Centre.</li> </ul>
7	Annual Report from the Leader	Noted the annual report provided by the Leader of the Council on the work of the Council.
8	Deputations (if any)	NOTED the deputation received from pupils of Newman Catholic College School requesting the installation of public lighting in Roundwood Park and response provided by the Cabinet

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		<p>Member for Environment. Whilst no budget was maintained by the Council for the installation of new lighting the Cabinet Member for Environment advised she would be willing to explore (in conjunction with the Leader and Lead Member for Regeneration, Highways and Planning) what other funding sources may be available and also to work with the school in developing a programme of advice for pupils around staying safe in the park.</p>
<b>9</b>	Questions from Members of the Public	<p>NOTED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The written response provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform on a question submitted from a member of the public relating to Housing Association Right to Buy and housing transfers. No supplementary question was asked.</li> <li>2. The written and supplementary verbal response provided by the Deputy Leader of the Council on a question submitted from a member of the public on protection of Metropolitan open land and space at Northwick Park under the One Public Estate initiative and expressing concern about information provided for a Developer’s Forum regarding the initiative not having been shared with residents.</li> </ol>
<b>10</b>	Petitions (if any)	No petitions requested for debate.
<b>11</b>	Non Cabinet Members' Debate	<p>The following motion was agreed as an outcome of the non-cabinet member debate:</p> <p>The Government has now recognised the contribution of the Windrush generation and has established a national Windrush day for 22nd June in Britain’s calendar. This means that there will be a lasting memory of the Windrush Generation in perpetuity.</p> <p>Brent is one of Europe’s most diverse communities and home to many BAME people. It celebrates all cultures equally. Significant talented individuals from families of the Windrush generation have grown up in Brent. They have excelled in their respective fields of sport, health, politics, the arts, science and technology and much much more. I believe that we should be celebrating the fact Brent is well known for its cultural diversity. We have an opportunity to put on an exciting event in 2020 as we celebrate being the Borough of Culture.</p>

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		<p>But the Council should not just stop at the 2020 celebration. It should be celebrating the pioneers from the Windrush generation every year to make sure that it has a lasting legacy. This is to make sure that we remember the contribution of their efforts to rebuild Britain after the Second World War and the fact that the Windrush generation has fully contributed to all aspect of British life.</p> <p>As a result Brent Council agrees the proposal to recognise the contribution of the Windrush generation by:</p> <p>(1) holding an annual Windrush event on 22nd June every year; and</p> <p>(2) Proactively supporting communities across Brent to access Government funding to celebrate Windrush annually.</p>
<b>12</b>	Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members	<p>NOTED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The written and supplementary verbal response provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform in relation to a question submitted by Councillor Nerva on Blue Badge Fraud. As part of the response the Cabinet Member advised they would be willing to look at what further measures were in place or could be developed at a strategic level with other local authorities to co-ordinate action in relation to blue badge fraud on which she would provide an update after the meeting.</li> <li>2. The written response provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Highways and Planning in relation to a question submitted by Councillor Colacicco on the Cricklewood Waste Depot. No supplementary question was asked.</li> <li>3. The written response provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform to a question submitted by Councillor Donnelly-Jackson on the prevalence of out-of-borough placements within Brent. No supplementary question was asked.</li> <li>4. The written and supplementary verbal response provided by the Cabinet Member for</li> </ol>

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		<p>Environment to a question submitted by Councillor Maurice regarding the policy on introduction of Pay &amp; Display as opposed to free parking and how this had been applied to parking schemes in Preston Road &amp; Bridge Road compared to Wembley Park Drive.</p> <p>Responses were also provided by the relevant Cabinet Members on the following additional questions raised during the open session of this part of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Shahzad on the action being taken to deal with the current backlog and delays in processing blue badge applications.</li> <li>• Councillor Gill on the Council’s investment strategy in relation to fossil fuel companies given the increasing concerns relating to climate change.</li> <li>• Councillor Choudhary on the measures in place to address concerns around cyber security and ensure the Council’s IT systems and data were secure.</li> <li>• Councillor Long on the potential to offer the sale of individual visitor parking permits.</li> <li>• Councillor Ahmed on the approach towards clearing of fly-tipping by the Council’s contractors with the Cabinet Member for Environment advising that she would provide the member with an update on the outcome of a recent trial undertaken in Willesden, once the results had been analysed.</li> <li>• Councillor Kansagra expressing concern about the proposed introduction of a diesel surcharge for car owners in the borough and what measures were being considered to mitigate the impact on those residents on low income likely to be affected.</li> <li>• Councillor Kelcher on potential ways in which the Council may be able to open up and improve how residents are able to influence decisions regarding the provision of street furniture, which the Cabinet Member for Environment advised she would be willing to take back and consider in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Highways and Planning.</li> <li>• Councillor Long on the billing for and use of allotments, which the Cabinet Member for Environment advised she would follow up with the Parks Service.</li> <li>• Councillor Choudhary seeking details on the safeguards in place to ensure the Council avoided working with rogue bailiffs in pursuing debts.</li> <li>• Councillor Chan on action that it would be possible for the Council to take in ensuring that</li> </ul>

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		delays in repairs to utility company equipment on the highway were addressed by the companies concerned.
13	Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees	<p>NOTED the update reports provided by the Chairs of the Housing, Resources &amp; Public Realm and Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committees along with the responses provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Highways and Planning in relation to an issue raised under the Resources &amp; Public Realm update on the phasing out of self-monitoring contracts;</li> <li>• Deputy Leader in relation to an issue raised under the Resources &amp; Public Realm update on improving access to Council services for those unable to interact on-line.</li> <li>• Cabinet Member for Environment in relation to an issue raised under the Resources &amp; Public Realm update on training and engagement of Neighbourhood Managers.</li> <li>• Cabinet Member for Public Health, Culture and Leisure in relation to an issue raised under the Community &amp; Wellbeing update regarding the maintenance of support for diabetes prevention work.</li> <li>• Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care in relation to an issue raised under the Community &amp; Wellbeing update on the action planned by Cabinet to address the issues highlighted under the Care Quality Commission Inspection report for hospitals in North West London; and</li> <li>• Cabinet Member for Schools, Employment &amp; Skills in relation to an issue raised under the Community &amp; Wellbeing update on action being taken to address concerns around the underachievement of certain groups of pupils in schools, including black and Afro-Caribbean boys.</li> </ul> <p>Responses were also provided by the relevant Scrutiny Chairs on the following additional questions raised during the open session for this part of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Choudhary seeking an update on progress with the Resources and Public Realm asset and property review.</li> <li>• Councillor Daly regarding the potential follow up action being planned by the Community &amp; Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in relation to the outcome of the Care Quality</li> </ul>

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		<p>Commission report relating to hospitals across North West London given the ratings and concerns identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Choudry on the involvement of Housing Scrutiny in seeking to promote and encourage the private sector to work more closely with the Council and other Registered Providers in terms of improving access to the housing sector.</li> </ul>
14	Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee	NOTED the update report provided by the Vice Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.
15	Safer Brent Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021	<p><b>AGREED</b></p> <p>(1) The detailed Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021 and Action Plans, as approved by Cabinet in August 2018.</p> <p>(2) To note that the information provided within the report will be considered as part of planning of the Council’s wider operational development.</p>
16	Treasury Management Outturn Report 2017/18	<b>AGREED</b> to consider and note the 2017-18 Treasury Management outturn report, in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.
17	Motions	<p>17.1 The following motion submitted by the Labour Group was approved:</p> <p>“This council recognises that:</p> <p>The Irish Troubles were an horrific conflict which, in just three short decades, costs the lives of over 3,500 people and injured 47,000 more the vast majority of these victims were innocent civilians.</p> <p>The Troubles claimed victims all across these islands, including in our city of London which in particular saw the Docklands attack, the most financially costly terrorist attack in the history of the United Kingdom.</p> <p>This council notes with pleasure that this seemingly intractable conflict was ended</p>

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		<p>twenty years ago this year with the signing of the Belfast Agreement (aka Good Friday Agreement), and; that this milestone agreement has undoubtedly saved hundreds of lives and directly benefitted the many thousands of families with Irish heritage in Brent.</p> <p>This council endorses the principles of the Agreement which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consent;</li> <li>• self determination;</li> <li>• abandonment of violence;</li> <li>• recognition of both identities in Northern Ireland;</li> <li>• power sharing;</li> <li>• devolution;</li> </ul> <p>This council notes with concern that in its twentieth year the Belfast Agreement has never been as threatened as it is today by the prospect of a hard border on the island of Ireland imposed by Britain’s exit from the European Union, which would undermine the ideas of inter-island cooperation, recognition of dual identities and self-determination in the Agreement.</p> <p>This council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• celebrate the Belfast Agreement as an historic achievement in all of its cultural work in Brent;</li> <li>• register its opposition, on behalf of the Irish community in Brent, to a hard border between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland in writing to the relevant Secretary of State;</li> <li>• continue to promote the values of consent, harmony and cooperation in its community work in the spirit of the Belfast Agreement.”</li> </ul> <p>17.2 The following motion submitted by the Labour Group was approved:</p>



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		<p>“As a major employer, and investor in local, regional, and national supply chains, this council recognises that, far too often, exploitative, unscrupulous, and abusive employment practices exist. This council condemns those practices and is committed to rooting them out</p> <p>As part of its determination to tackle modern day slavery, this council adopts the following cooperative charter which sets out strategies for more rigorous supply chain management and reporting processes.</p> <p>Whilst recognising the action already being taken, Brent Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply’s (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.</li> <li>• Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for noncompliance.</li> <li>• Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.</li> <li>• Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.</li> <li>• Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.</li> <li>• Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.</li> <li>• Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with</li> </ul>

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		<p>modern slavery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.</li> <li>• Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency’s national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.</li> <li>• Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.”</li> </ul> <p>17.3 The following motion submitted by the Conservative Group was approved:</p> <p>“With anti-Semitic hate crimes rising across London and the United Kingdom – this Council expresses that it is appalled at the increase in anti-Semitic Hate Crimes, and reiterates its support for the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism.</p> <p>This Council is shocked at the recent spate of anti-Semitic posters that have been going up across TfL run bus stops, and it is further shocked at the recent comments by those who have described the recent condemnation of anti-Semitic language and behaviour as a ‘Zionist’ movement – using anti-Semitic language and imagery in campaigning and online, further enflaming anti-Semitic hatred across the Borough.</p> <p>This Council will immediately adopt, into its councillor and public workers code of conduct, the full and complete IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, and implement policies to ensure that hate crimes against Jewish people are acted upon quickly and decisively.”</p> <p>As part of the decision on the motion it was noted that reference to the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism would be included within the Member and Employee Codes of Conduct as a footnote.</p>

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18	Urgent Business	None