

London Borough of Brent Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 20 July 2020

PRESENT(in remote attendance): Councillor M Butt (Chair), Councillor McLennan (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Agha, Farah, Hirani, Miller, M Patel, Krupa Sheth, Southwood and Tatler

ALSO PRESENT (in remote attendance): Councillor Kelcher

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence		An apology for latness was received from Councillor Farah (Lead Member of Adult Social Care).
2.	Declarations of Interest		None
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting		Cabinet RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 15 June 2020 as an accurate record.
4.	Matters Arising (if any)		None
5.	Petitions (if any)		None
6.	Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)		None
7.	Poverty Commission	All Wards	Cabinet NOTED that this item had been deferred for consideration at the Cabinet meeting on 7 September 2020 in order to enable advance consideration of the emerging findings and recommendations by the Council's scrutiny function.
8.	COVID-19 Support Fund	All Wards	NOTED the comments from Councillor Kelcher highlighting the recommendations made by the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee when considering the proposals outlined in the report, at

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			<p>their meeting on 14 July 2020. Having recognised the economic as well as health and social impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on local residents, the Committee had welcomed the proposed establishment of the new support funds and made the following recommendations in support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Covid-19 Interest Free Loans eligibility criteria should be extended to include debt; • A member development session be arranged on the new support funds and their referral process; • That information already held be used to proactively offer advice and support for vulnerable local people; • A review of debt collection processes be undertaken in light of Covid-19 to ensure that the circumstances of vulnerable people adversely affected by the pandemic were fully taken into account. <p>Cabinet RESOLVED to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Note the proposals set out in sections 5 and 6 of this report to introduce two new support funds using the surplus money from the Council Tax: COVID-19 Hardship Fund 2020-21. (2) To approve the establishment of a grant facility to assist Brent residents financially impacted by Covid-19 as set out in section 5 of the report (“Covid-19 Support Fund Grant”). (3) To delegate to the Strategic Director for Customer Services in

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			<p>consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform authority to agree eligibility criteria for the Covid-19 Support Fund Grant above and thereafter administer and award grants.</p> <p>(4) To approve the establishment of an interest free loan arrangement to assist Brent residents financially impacted by Covid-19 as set out in section 6 of the report (“Covid-19 Support Fund Loan”).</p> <p>(5) To approve payment to the Credit Union of such sums remaining in the Council Tax – COVID – 19 Hardship Fund 2020 – 21 and at such frequency as the Director of Finance considers appropriate from which Covid-19 Support Fund Loans will be made and delegates to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations authority to finalise the terms of the investment.</p> <p>(6) To delegate to the Strategic Director for Customer Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform authority agreement of the final eligibility criteria based on the draft eligibility criteria in Appendix 2 for the Covid-19 Support Fund Loan and thereafter administer it in association with the Credit Union.</p> <p>(7) To delegate to the Strategic Director for Customer Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare</p>

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			<p>Reform authority to review and agree revised eligibility criteria for both the Covid-19 Support Fund Grant and the Covid-19 Support Fund Loan for the reasons detailed in paragraphs 5.16 and 6.19 of the report.</p> <p>(8) To support and approve the following recommendations made by the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee being taken forward as part of the development and implementation of the new support funds:</p> <p>(a) That the Covid-19 Interest Free Loans eligibility criteria be extended to include debt;</p> <p>(b) A member development session be arranged on the new support funds and their referral process;</p> <p>(c) The Strategic Director, Customer & Digital Services be requested to consider how best to proactively use data already available to offer advice and support for vulnerable local people; and</p> <p>(d) The Strategic Director, Customer & Digital Services be requested to undertake a review of debt collection processes in light of Covid-19 to ensure that the circumstances of vulnerable people adversely affected by the pandemic were fully taken into account.</p>

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9.	Council Tax 13A Policy	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) approve the proposed discretionary reduction Policy pursuant to section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 1992 as set out in Appendix A of the report. (2) note that the proposed Policy pursuant to section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 1992 linked to council support for vulnerable residents alongside other support mechanisms such as Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) and Local Welfare Assistance (LWA). (3) delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Customer and Digital Services in consultation with the Director of Finance in respect of decisions on individual applications for reducing Council Tax payable pursuant to the proposed policy under section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. as set out in Appendix A of the report.
10.	Parking Policy 2020	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) approve the Parking Policy 2020 attached as Appendix A to the report, superseding the Council’s 2015 Parking Strategy; and (2) note and confirm the policy revisions set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report that had been introduced since 2015, following

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			Cabinet approval.
11.	Heat Billing & Metering Methodology	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) approve the option and implementation of credit billing for heating and hot water in residential communal system's and incorporate a heat meter as set out in the report. (2) approve the in house management of the billing for heating and hot water residential properties at Gloucester & Durham as set out in the report, (3) approve the setting of tariffs in accordance with the guidance set out by the Heat Trust (in the absence of any current regulation on heat prices). (4) delegate authority to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Community Wellbeing and the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Resources, to agree a metering and billing policy in line with the recommended option set out in paragraphs 5.2 – 5.5 of the report and thereafter implement and operate the policy subject to such modifications as the Director of Finance considers necessary.
12.	Estate Parking	All Wards	Cabinet RESOLVED to:

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			<p>(1) note the contents of the report and approve the proposal to introduce Off Street Controlled Parking through Traffic Management Orders on land owned by the Council within its Housing Revenue Account.</p> <p>(2) delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, to carry out statutory consultation in relation to the proposed Traffic Management Orders, consider the consultation responses and thereafter, subject to any modifications as seen fit, to make and implement Traffic Management Orders on land owned by the Council within its Housing Revenue Account.</p> <p>(3) endorse Option Two as the preferred service delivery option, as set out in paragraphs 4.8.6 to 4.8.12 of the report. This option involved implementing Off Street Controlled Parking through a Traffic Management Order and following implementation, varying the Council’s contract with SERCO to enable them manage the scheme.</p> <p>(4) note the proposed five pilot sites as set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report and approve the approach to further roll out, subject to an evaluation report, consultation with residents and approval of the capital investment required.</p> <p>(5) agree to charge residents £50 per annum per vehicle for their</p>

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Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			parking permits under Off Street Controlled Parking schemes on Council estates.
13.	6 monthly update and procurement reports on NCHP	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(1) Note, subject to the clarification provided regarding the reference to William Dunbar/William Saville Houses in section 5.6.2 of the report, the contents of the report and progress to date in delivering both the New Council Homes Programme (NCHP) and other programmes and projects in place to deliver a total of 5,000 new affordable homes in the borough by 2024.</p> <p>(2) Note the steps being taken as set out principally in sections 6 and 7 of the report to add value to the programme, specifically in relation to stakeholder engagement and landscaping.</p>
14.	2019/20 Financial Outturn Report	All Wards	Cabinet RESOLVED to note the overall financial position, as detailed within the report.
15.	Quarter 1 Financial Report 2020/21	All Wards	Cabinet RESOLVED to note the overall financial position and the actions being taken to manage the issues arising, as outlined at the meeting and detailed within the report.
16.	Medium Term Financial Outlook	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(1) note the contents of the report and the potential financial impact on the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p>

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			<p>(2) agree the budget setting process for 2021/22, including the approach to consultation and scrutiny, as set out in section five of the report.</p> <p>(3) confirm the intention, as previously announced and subject to consultation and any other material changes to circumstances, to increase council tax by 3.99% in 2021/22.</p> <p>(4) note the Capital budgets and agree the proposed 2019/20 capital budget carry forwards and capital virements, as set out in section six of the report.</p>
17.	Q4 Performance Report 2019/20	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(1) note the performance information contained in the report along with the planned review and refresh of priorities within the Borough Plan.</p> <p>(2) note the current and future strategic risks associated with the information provided along with the remedial actions identified in relation to them.</p> <p>(3) Continue challenging progress with responsible officers as necessary.</p>
18.	Exclusion of Press and Public		There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.

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19.	Any other urgent business		None.