

London Borough of Brent
Summary of Decisions taken by the online Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 6 April 2021

PRESENT (in remote attendance): Councillor M Butt (Chair), Councillor McLennan (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Farah, Knight, Nerva, M Patel, Krupa Sheth, Stephens, Southwood and Tatler.

ALSO PRESENT (in remote attendance): Councillors Choudhary & Kelcher (for item 5)

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence	None.
2.	Declarations of Interest	None.
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	Cabinet RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 March 2021 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
4.	Matters Arising (if any)	None.
5.	Petitions (if any)	<p>Cabinet received a petition submitted by Brent Divest, which members noted contained nearly 1,400 signatures. The petition called on Brent Council to make a public divestment statement committing the Brent Pension Fund to fully divest from fossil fuel companies and shift these funds to lower risk ethical investments.</p> <p>The petition was presented by Councillor Kelcher, on behalf of Simon Erskine (Brent Divest) who highlighted what he felt to be the strong policy, democratic and economic case supporting an immediate commitment and move towards divestment.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council advised that he had also agreed to accept an additional request to speak at the meeting on this issue. The request was from Councillor Choudhary, as Chair of the Brent Pension Fund Sub Committee, who highlighted the strategy already established by the Pension Fund to diversify their investment portfolio away from fossil fuel companies and towards more sustainable and low carbon funds.</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the online Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 6 April 2021
(continued)**

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		<p>The approach taken was designed to balance the legal and fiduciary duties on the Fund against the need to manage the overall level of risk whilst also taking account of the size of the Fund and resources available. The strategy, he pointed out, was also linked to the approach being led through the London CIV on behalf of London Councils.</p> <p>In response to the petition, Councillor McLennan (as Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources) felt there was a need to recognise the progress being made by the Pension Fund in relation to their divestment strategy, linked to the approach being co-ordinated through the London CIV. Whilst recognising this was on a longer term basis than the action being sought by the petitioners, members were advised of the Council's commitment towards progressing the divestment strategy, with a clear roadmap being developed as part of the work on delivery of the Climate Emergency Strategy balanced against the mitigation of risk to the Pension Fund.</p> <p>Having noted the progress made to date, Councillor Krupa Sheth (as Lead Member for Environment) supported by the Leader of the Council closed the discussion by re-emphasising the Council's commitment towards delivery of a responsible divestment strategy closely linked to the overall approach being co-ordinated through the London CIV and Council's Climate Emergency Strategy. It was felt this would provide the necessary transparency whilst also mitigating risk to deliver the best outcome for all.</p>
6.	Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)	There were no references from Scrutiny submitted for consideration at the meeting.
7.	Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-30	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To approve the final Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (2021-</p>

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(continued)**

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		<p>2030) following a further period of public consultation and following further officer consideration (updated strategy document provided as Appendix A of the report).</p> <p>(2) To note that a more detailed breakdown of the consultation process, a short illustrative version and an easy-read version for people with disabilities would be made available on the Climate Emergency section of the council’s website (www.brent.gov.uk/climateemergency).</p>
8.	Streamlining of the Brent Black Community Action Plan	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To note the content of the report.</p> <p>(2) To note and endorse the following appendices within the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 2: Streamlined Brent Black Community Action Plan; and • Appendix 3: Year One Delivery Plan
9.	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme - Energy Efficiency - Works in Brent Corporate Buildings	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve the project to improve the energy efficiency of selected Brent Council retained buildings with the highest energy consumption as detailed in Table 1 within section 3.8 of the report.</p> <p>(2) To delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Lead Member for the Environment, to make further adjustments to the building and technology selection for the project referred to in (1) above to ensure best value for</p>

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(continued)**

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		<p>the reasons detailed in section 3.7 of the report.</p> <p>(3) To approve the Council entering into a grant agreement with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy to fund the project referred to in (1) above in the sum of £3,234,000.</p> <p>(4) To note that officers will undertake procurements to appoint a range of consultants and contractors using powers delegated under Part 3 of the Constitution to achieve the aims of the project referred to in (1) above.</p>
10.	Corporate Performance - Q3 2020/21 Performance	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To note the performance information contained in the report.</p> <p>(2) To note the challenge process along with current and future strategic risks associated with the information provided and approve actions being undertaken on strategic risks, as appropriate.</p> <p>(3) To note the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the organisation. During Quarter 3 the Council continued to work intensively to respond to Covid-19. Members recognised, however, the impact of the pandemic on all services throughout the organisation, including on a number of performance indicators across priority areas with 34% currently rated red compared with 24% at the same point last year.</p>
11.	Water Charges and Brent Council Tenants	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to note the content of the report and approve the following approach regarding the payment of refunds in respect of water charges:</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the online Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 6 April 2021
(continued)**

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		<p>(1) Refunds for both current and former tenants being calculated from the contractual start dates i.e. Thames Water Utilities 2003 and Affinity Water from 2005.</p> <p>(2) Refunds for current tenants being issued to their rent accounts with those in credit able to apply for the amount to be debited to their bank accounts, and if in arrears, the refund being used to offset the arrears owed.</p> <p>(3) Refunds for former tenants being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) issued to their rent accounts where former tenants have rent arrears to offset any arrears owed to the Council; (ii) paid into leaseholders accounts (who were tenants at the time) if they are currently in occupation; and (iii) to establish a process for former tenants (with no current relationship with Brent Housing Management) to apply for a refund and ensure this was publicised with a cut-off date of two years from the point of launching the application process.
12.	Authority to Commission Community Equipment Provider	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To note officers involvement in the procurement of a framework for Community Equipment let by the London Borough of Barnet.</p> <p>(2) To approve the award of a call-off contract from the framework referred to in (1) above for Community Equipment to Milbrook Healthcare Limited for a period of 5 years from the 1st July 2021 until 30 June 2026 with optional break clauses exercisable at the ends of years 3 and 4 of the contract.</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the online Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 6 April 2021
(continued)**

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13.	South Kilburn Regeneration Programme: Approval of Procurement Processes for Future Phases and Associated Matters	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To approve the procurement of a delivery partner for the NWCC site including, 1-8 Neville House, 1-64 Winterleys, 113-128 Carlton House and Carlton Hall; through inviting tenders using a Competitive Procedure with Negotiation under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. (2) To approve the procurement of delivery partners/contractors for the remaining Phases (3b-8) of the South Kilburn Programme sites. (3) To delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment in consultation with the Lead Member of Regeneration, Property and Planning, to select the appropriate procurement route and pre-tender considerations for those remaining sites within Phases 3b-8 and to evaluate such tenders. (4) To delegate to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Lead Member Regeneration, Property and Planning authority to award the contract for Delivery Partners to progress the comprehensive redevelopment of the remaining sites from Phase 3b-8 within the South Kilburn Programme. (5) To delegate to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Lead Member Regeneration, Property and Planning the decision on alternative development routes if procurement was unsuccessful in relation to the remaining sites from Phase 3b-8 within the South Kilburn Programme.

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the online Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 6 April 2021
(continued)**

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		<p>(6) To approve the setting of rent levels for the affordable homes at all remaining sites within the Programme (Phases 3b-8) at the South Kilburn Social rent levels.</p> <p>(7) To approve capital funding (strategic community infrastructure levy) of £4.9m to deliver the infrastructure and public realm works within the NWCC Project.</p>
14.	Roe Green Infant School Kitchen & Improvement Works - Approval of Capital Funding	Cabinet RESOLVED to approve £538,280.36 from the Council's Basic Need Allocation to deliver the kitchen and £189,300.64 s106 funding, as detailed within sections 4.5 and 4.6 of the report.
15.	Debt Write-Off Procedure	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To note the revised arrangements for the write-off of bad debts, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.</p> <p>(2) To note the debt write-offs over £3,000 listed in Appendix 3 of the report and that these largely related to old debts from 1994 to 2010.</p> <p>(3) To note that while there was a requirement to report write-offs over £3,000 to Cabinet this was the first report of this kind since the recommendation in the Council's Internal Audit report of June 2019 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.</p> <p>(4) To note the revised debt policy referred to as Ethical Debt Policy that had been updated and approved by the Strategic Director for Customer and Digital Services to include reference to the new Breathing Space requirements as set out in Appendix 4 of the report.</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the online Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 6 April 2021
(continued)**

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16.	Exclusion of Press and Public	There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.
17.	Any other urgent business	None.