

## London Borough of Brent – Decisions taken at the online Council meeting on Monday 23 November 2020

PRESENT (in remote attendance): Councillors Ezeajughi (Mayor), Colacicco (Deputy Mayor), Abdi, Aden, Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Akram, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, S.Choudhary, A.Choudry, Colwill, Conneely, Crane, Daly, Dar, Denselow, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Gbajumo, Georgiou, Gill, Hassan, Hector, Hirani, Johnson, Kabir, Kansagra, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Lloyd, Lo, Long, Mashari, Maurice, McLeish, McLennan, Miller, Mitchell-Murray, Naheerathan, Nerva, M.Patel, Perrin, Sangani, Shah, Shahzad, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Southwood, Stephens, Tatler & Thakkar.

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1.	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hylton, Mahmood & R.Patel.  Noted that Councillor Murray had been unable to attend due to illness.
2.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The minutes of the following Council meetings were approved as a correct record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Council meeting on Monday 14 October 2020</li> <li>• Extraordinary Council meeting on Friday 16 October 2020</li> </ul>
3.	Declarations of Interest	No declarations were made at the meeting.
4.	Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)	NOTED the announcements from the Mayor in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent's award as LGC Council of the Year</li> <li>• Queen's Birthday Honours List</li> <li>• Black History Month</li> <li>• Death of former Councillor Jon Mordecai, with tribute paid and a minutes silence observed during the meeting</li> <li>• Nigerian Protests</li> <li>• Remembrance Sunday</li> <li>• LBoC No Bass Like Home event</li> <li>• Petitions</li> </ul>

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5.	Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs (if any)	<p><b>AGREED</b> the following changes in Committee &amp; Outside Body memberships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Councillor Mahmood to be replaced by Councillor Kennelly as a full member of the Planning Committee.</li> <li>(2) Councillor Kennelly to be replaced by a vacancy as substitute member of the Planning Committee.</li> <li>(3) Councillor Denselow to be replaced by Councillor Saqib Butt as the Council's nominated representative on the i4B &amp; First Wave Housing Ltd Boards</li> <li>(4) Councillor Lloyd to be replaced by a vacancy as the Council's nominated representative on Chalkhill Community Centre</li> </ul>
6.	Deputations (if any)	<p>NOTED the deputation received from the Chair of Harlesden Area Action seeking an update on specific progress being made towards implementation of a greener parking strategy. The deputation included specific reference to extension of the diesel surcharge to Pay &amp; Display parking as was the case in Camden, Islington and Westminster; reducing the number of parking permits allowed per household; inclusion of motorcycles/scooters in the Pay &amp; Display and resident permit schemes as in Kensington &amp; Chelsea, Islington and Westminster and ensuring it was cheaper to park a bicycle than car in Brent.</p> <p>In responding to the deputation, Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Lead Member for Environment, highlighted the work being undertaken to develop a new parking strategy in order to reflect the Climate Emergency Strategy and recommendations within the Air Quality Scrutiny Task Group. In terms of the specific issues highlighted, members were advised of the need to recognise the different circumstances in each of the</p>

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		boroughs referred to as examples and need for consideration to be given to the impact of these proposals taking account of the circumstances in Brent. As a result, not all of the measures had been identified as appropriate for the borough. Work was, however, ongoing in relation to the provision of bike hangars with officers already considering how best to minimise costs and encourage greener car ownership and more active modes of travel.
7.	Questions from Members of the Public & Brent Youth Parliament	<p>NOTED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That no questions had been submitted for response by members of the public.</li> <li>2. The written and supplementary verbal response provided by the Lead Member for Education, Employment and Skills to a question submitted from the Brent Youth Parliament on the Council's commitment to supporting the inclusion of student Associate Governor roles on Secondary School Governing Bodies and to keeping the Youth Parliament updated on progress.</li> </ol>
8.	Petitions (if any)	<p>NOTED the petition presented at the meeting by Tariq Abdul, objecting to the proposed redevelopment plans for St Raphael's Estate and supporting, as an alternative to redevelopment, a scheme involving refurbishment and infill with limited new build.</p> <p>In response to the petition, Councillor Southwood, as Lead Member for Housing &amp; Welfare Reform outlined the consultation process the Council had undertaken with local residents and community organisations to date and reaffirmed the Council's commitment to community-led development. Given the technical difficulties experienced by the petitioner being able to connect to the meeting an offer was made to liaise further regarding the response provided following the meeting.</p>
9.	Annual Report from the Leader of	NOTED the annual report provided by the Leader of the Council on the work of the

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	the Council	Council.
<b>10.</b>	Reports from the Leader and Cabinet	<p>NOTED the verbal update provided by the Leader of the Council covering the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent’s award as LGC Council of the Year, with thanks expressed to all staff and members for their ongoing support, commitment and dedication;</li> <li>• the anticipated announcement as part of the Government’s Spending Review of a freeze on public sector pay and concern at the impact on staff, especially those who had led on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic;</li> <li>• the success of the LBOC “No Bass Like Home” online festival in highlighting the borough’s cultural diversity and thanks to those members and officers involved in its delivery;</li> <li>• the list of urgent Executive decisions taken since the last Council meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>11.</b>	Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members	<p>Council noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The written and supplementary verbal response by the Lead Member for Schools, Employment &amp; Skills to a question submitted by Councillor Sangani regarding the Council’s actions to ensure that no child went hungry over the October half-term, as well as its efforts to lobby central government to take action to avoid holiday hunger over the Christmas period.</li> <li>2. The written and supplementary verbal response by the Lead Member for Housing &amp; Welfare Reform to a question submitted by Councillor Hassan regarding the Council’s work to enhance fire safety protections in council homes and its support of the ‘End our Cladding Scandal’ ten-step plan.</li> <li>3. The written and supplementary verbal response by the Lead Member for</li> </ol>

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		<p>Regeneration, Property &amp; Planning to a question submitted by Councillor Long regarding the roll-out of the Healthy Neighbourhoods scheme and the work undertaken to engage residents with the scheme.</p> <p>4. The written and supplementary verbal response by the Lead Member for Environment to a question submitted by Councillor Maurice regarding the Council's plans to repair faulty paving along Kingsbury High Road.</p> <p>Responses were also provided by the relevant Lead 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 Kelcher regarding the Council's response to a recent fire and incidence of violent crime in Kensal Green.</li> <li>• Councillor Kennelly regarding central government's recent decision to cut funding to organisations that deal with LGBT bullying in schools and the Council's commitment to working with schools on anti-bullying measures.</li> <li>• Councillor Choudhary regarding the lessons learned by schools during the pandemic, particularly in relation to online learning.</li> <li>• Councillor Azfal regarding central government's response to the pandemic.</li> <li>• Councillor Gbajumo regarding the Council's plans to tackle gender poverty, particularly period poverty.</li> <li>• Councillor Daly regarding the Council's Public Health department's efforts to protect residents during the pandemic.</li> </ul>
<b>12.</b>	Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees	<p>NOTED the update reports provided by the Chairs of the Community &amp; Wellbeing and Resources &amp; Public Realm Scrutiny Committees.</p> <p>Responses were also provided by the relevant Scrutiny Chair on the following</p>

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		<p>additional questions raised during the open session of this part of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Long regarding plans to scrutinise the work of the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust within the borough.</li> <li>• Councillors Kennelly &amp; Maurice regarding the potential closure of Wembley Ambulance Service Station and its wider impact within the borough.</li> <li>• Councillor Choudhary regarding the status of those health services within the borough that had been or continued to be restricted due to the pandemic.</li> </ul>
13.	Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee	NOTED the update report provided by the Vice Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.
14.	Non Cabinet Members' Debate	<p>The following motion was agreed as an outcome of the non-cabinet member debate:</p> <p><b><u>Forward Together: Brent’s commitment to tackle racial inequalities</u></b></p> <p>The Council Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brent is the most diverse borough in London, with a long and proud tradition of celebrating diversity and welcoming people from all backgrounds and communities to live, learn and work here.</li> <li>▪ Brent has the seventh highest Black community in London by numbers; with generations of unique stories of trial and unsung achievements.</li> <li>▪ The murder of George Floyd in the United States of America has justifiably triggered global protests against institutional racism faced by Black people, including here in the United Kingdom.</li> <li>▪ That alongside this monstrous act of police brutality, the world is looking on with growing alarm at the ongoing situation in Nigeria, in which peaceful protestors,</li> </ul>

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		<p>campaigning for change – are being killed by security forces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ That these global protests have come alongside all the inequalities faced by Black people, in the wake of the devastatingly disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities in Britain and other parts of the world.</li> <li>▪ That it is clear that this impact has been made far worse by the structural inequalities Black people face when it comes to health, education and housing.</li> <li>▪ The welcome commitment to embed equality and diversity in all the activities the council undertakes through the ten point Brent Black Community Action Plan.</li> </ul> <p>This Council believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ That Black Lives Matter.</li> <li>▪ That George Floyd’s murder must be a catalyst for permanent change both at home and overseas.</li> <li>▪ That no institution can absolve itself of the responsibility to do more to tackle racial inequalities.</li> <li>▪ That there is no place for racism, anti-Semitism, islamophobia or any form of xenophobia or bigotry anywhere in our democracy.</li> <li>▪ That language is a powerful tool for inspiration and change, as well as oppression and ignorance and must be used wisely and respectfully.</li> <li>▪ That it is vital all efforts are taken to understand the impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities in Brent and that we should work with all relevant stakeholders to mitigate the impact now and into the future.</li> </ul> <p>This Council Resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To show continued leadership in the campaign to rid our city and world of racism.</li> <li>▪ To continue working to achieve the ten point Brent Black Community Action Plan,</li> </ul>

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		<p>which includes tackling health inequalities, developing community spaces that will be run and managed by members of the community and an internal review of processes in the council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ That the work of elected representatives in this chamber, must play a substantive and public role in ensuring racism and discrimination are challenged and eradicated at all levels.</li> <li>▪ To continually seek the views of our diverse communities across Brent on the issues arising from the Black Lives Matter protests.</li> <li>▪ To call on the government to fully uphold the protections contained in the Equality Act of 2010 and to implement the recommendations contained in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Public Health England report into the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on our BAME communities;</li> <li>(ii) The Lammy report</li> <li>(iii) The Angiolini review</li> <li>(iv) The Home Office Windrush review</li> <li>(v) McGregor-Smith review</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15.	A Fairer Future Ending Poverty in Brent - Delivery Plans	<p>Council AGREED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) To note and endorse the delivery plans relating to implementation of the recommendations from Brent's Poverty Commission, attached as Appendices 1 – 4 of the report.</li> <li>(2) To refer the delivery plans in (1) above to Cabinet for formal approval.</li> </ol>
16.	Treasury Management 2019/20 Outturn Report	<p>Council AGREED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) To note, following its consideration by Audit &amp; Standards Advisory Committee on</li> </ol>

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		<p>29 July 2020 and Cabinet on 7 September 2020 the 2019/20 Treasury Management outturn report, in compliance with CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code).</p> <p>(2) To note that for 2019/20 the Council had complied with its Prudential Indicators (approved by Full Council on 25 February 2019) as part of the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Capital Strategy Statement.</p>
17.	Motions	<p>(1) The following motion submitted by the Conservative Group was rejected:</p> <p><b><u>Management of Transport for London (TfL) funding</u></b></p> <p>This Council is seriously concerned about the massive waste of Brent and Londoners’ hard earned money by TfL and Sadiq Khan and therefore calls for his resignation.</p> <p>Through mismanagement and incompetence, TfL is virtually bankrupt. Twice Sadiq Khan has gone to the Government cap in hand begging for bailouts, and the UK taxpayer has already given him £3.3bn in bailouts this year so far.</p> <p>Since Sadiq Khan won the Mayoralty in 2016, TfL’s debts have gone from bad to worse, rising to £11.7bn, and this was pre-covid!</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £640m to subsidise tourist travel;</li> <li>• £1.59Bn debt interest;</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £5.25Bn due to Crossrail delays;</li> <li>• £45m spent on service contracts including £24m to provide taxis for TFL staff. I thought the mayor was encouraging people to walk, cycle or take buses and trains;</li> <li>• £828m spent on pension overpayments;</li> <li>• Over 100 extra staff being paid over £100,000 per annum.</li> </ul> <p>In order to attempt to recoup this wasted money, Sadiq Khan has increased the Congestion Charge to £15 per day every day until 10pm, hitting thousands of people and businesses, including those in Brent, very hard.</p> <p>Sadiq Khan tells us that he’s managed to resist the Government’s demands to extend the Congestion Charge to the North and South Circular Roads, but fails to tell people that the Government never made those demands in the first place.</p> <p>Of course he does not want an extension to the Congestion Charge. There is an election next year. But make no mistake; if Sadiq Khan is re-elected, then it is very likely that he <b>WILL</b> extend the Congestion Charge. He needs the money to fund his incompetence and his main source of income is milking the poor hapless motorist.</p> <p>Sadiq Khan blames Covid for the loss of revenue but conveniently fails to inform people that the Government would cover that loss. What the Government will not cover is money lost through waste and incompetence.</p>

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		<p>This Council therefore believes that Sadiq Khan is not a fit and proper person to be in charge of London’s Transport network and calls on him not only to resign but also to stop using motorists, including those from within Brent, to fund TfL.</p> <p>Councillors Colwill, Kansagra and Maurice voted in favour of the above motion.</p> <p>Councillor Georgiou abstained and all other members present at the meeting voted against the above motion.</p> <p>(2) Having rejected an amendment moved by the Conservative Group at the meeting, the following Motion submitted by the Labour Group was approved:</p> <p><b><u>Green Economic Recovery</u></b></p> <p>The Council Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That in Brent we face a looming jobs and climate emergency.</li> <li>• That unemployment in Brent has increased by at least 3,000 people in the period between June 2019 and 2020.</li> <li>• Nationally there has been over a million jobs lost due to Covid-19; with the Bank of England estimating this will rise to 2.6 million people out of work.</li> <li>• Earlier this year in Brent Central, nearly half of all our workers were furloughed – the highest proportion in the United Kingdom.</li> <li>• That before the pandemic, the poverty rate in Brent was 33% higher than the</li> </ul>

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		<p>average; with an unemployment rate 6% higher than the national average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work of the Poverty Commission in Brent has highlighted that far too many of our constituents are reliant upon informal and unstable employment – compounded now by a looming jobs crisis.</li> <li>• The latest U-turn by the Government to extend the furlough scheme until March will come too little too late for many of our residents now out of work.</li> </ul> <p>The Council welcomes this Labour administration’s continued commitment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support our existing and new businesses to survive in the short term and adapt and thrive in the new post-Covid economy.</li> <li>• Support residents into employment pathways, through an award-winning council-run jobs brokerage service, Brent Works; aiding over 1,000 residents with employment advice, since lockdown began.</li> <li>• Enable our residents to unlock their potential through upskilling, reskilling, training provision and apprenticeships through our very own adult education college, Brent Start which regularly provides education and training to around 2,500 learners a year.</li> <li>• Create a skills system responsive to the needs of the future by expanding the range of courses offered by Brent Start, through a £43m investment at Morland Gardens to develop a state-of-the-art education centre, council homes and affordable workspace.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working in partnership with our anchor institutions and major employers to use our supply chains and spending power to unlock social value in our procurement processes.</li> <li>• End low pay - as a big local employer we've led by example and have been accredited as a London Living Wage Employer for seven years in a row since 2013.</li> </ul> <p>This Council believes in a Green economic recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent and its residents have powered London's success story as a global city for decades – our borough is home to people with aspiration, ambition and the ideal that if you work hard, your children will have a better future.</li> <li>• The Government must provide support to Brent to help us rebuild our local economy and help tackle the climate emergency.</li> <li>• An international comparison of green stimulus packages suggests that the UK has fallen behind many other advanced economies, which are taking the climate and ecological challenge more seriously.</li> <li>• The Government's own advisory body, the Committee on Climate Change, has made clear, we are not on track to meet our net zero 2050 target.</li> <li>• Many manufacturers and construction businesses have been at the forefront of the transition to the low-carbon, green economy of the future; and others are keen to engage in that transition, but currently lack the levers to do so. It has been estimated that to meet the net zero target, sectors such as steel and cement will</li> </ul>

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		<p>need to reduce emissions by 94% and 93% respectively, by 2040.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's time for a bold and ambitious plan to deliver thousands of jobs in Brent which can also tackle the climate crisis. We can harness the opportunities for green growth and the technologies of the future – but only if the Government makes the right decisions and works with Brent to recover jobs, retrain workers and rebuild businesses.</li> <li>• With looming unemployment, the right thing to do for our economy is to invest in the jobs of the future now.</li> </ul> <p>This Council Resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To call on the government to support a green economic recovery and with the help of British industry, accelerate energy retrofitting programmes - creating jobs, making homes warmer, reducing bills, and driving down emissions.</li> <li>• To call on the government to fund a green economic recovery that would leave no worker behind, supporting them to build on their skills through existing programmes like Brent Start and equip our workers with the skills for our future economy.</li> <li>• To reaffirm our commitment to the interlinked efforts of the council, aimed at improving the prosperity of our communities; from the work of Poverty Commission, the Brent Black Community Action Plan, the Climate Emergency strategy and the Keep Brent Working campaign.</li> <li>• To request that the Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills write</li> </ul>

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		<p>to Government to call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A commitment to a major investment package in employment and skills support alongside the furlough scheme; and raise the wage floor for furloughed workers so nobody is left facing poverty during this difficult period.</li> <li>➤ An urgent re-think on plans to withdraw the £20 per week boost to Universal Credit, which has been a lifeline to many Brent residents out of work during the pandemic.</li> </ul> <p>Councillors Colwill, Kansagra and Maurice abstained from voting on the above motion.</p> <p>(3) Having rejected an amendment moved by the Conservative Group at the meeting, the following Motion submitted by the Labour Group was approved:</p> <p><b><u>Thank you to our Keyworkers</u></b></p> <p>This Council celebrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The resilience and resourcefulness of Brent Council staff in responding to the challenges posed by a global pandemic, stepping in as the fourth emergency service to support the most vulnerable in our communities.</li> <li>• That testament to the tireless work of our staff both before and during this pandemic, the Local Government Chronicle awarded this organisation ‘Council of the Year for 2020 – highlighting the council’s ability to ‘convene communities’ as ‘an antidote to today’s fractured society’.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The enormous and continuing contribution of our entire family of essential keyworkers either employed or residing in Brent.</li> <li>• That keyworkers on the frontline – from NHS colleagues, our social care heroes, Transport for London staff, our school teams, council officers, contractors, emergency services, refuse collectors, parking officers, and our retail workers keeping essential services open – have all made personal sacrifices without parallel; for the betterment of our borough.</li> <li>• That communities across Brent have come together in a rousing display of solidarity to support their fellow residents. This network of mutual aid groups, our voluntary organisations, foodbanks, local businesses and faith groups – they have shown true leadership when it has been found wanting in the corridors of power.</li> </ul> <p>This Council believes:</p> <p>We join the Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer in his declaration that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We can see so clearly now who the key workers really are.</li> <li>• When we get through this it will be because of the hard work and bravery of every key worker as they took on this virus and kept our country going.</li> <li>• For too long they have been taken for granted and poorly paid. They were last and now they should be first.</li> <li>• In their courage and their sacrifice and their bravery, we can see a better future.</li> </ul>

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		<p>This Council resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To convey this Chamber’s collective debt of gratitude to all of our keyworkers and recognise the personal sacrifices made in our borough’s hour of need.</li> <li>• To do all we can to stand up and speak up for our key workers throughout the continuing pandemic.</li> <li>• To call on the Government to recognise this moment of opportunity to thank all workers across the public sector, in deeds and not just words – by committing to a sector wide pay rise, acknowledging the vital services that keyworkers sustain and accounting for the decade of real-terms pay cuts since austerity began in 2010.</li> <li>• To call on the Government to commit to giving the councils a funding package at the Spending Review that puts our essential services on long-term sustainable financial footing. This includes the urgent need for the Government to make good on the promise of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to fund the cost of ‘whatever it takes’ to tackle the pandemic.</li> </ul> <p>Councillors Colwill, Kansagra and Maurice abstained from voting on the above motion.</p>
18.	Urgent Business	None.