



# Brent

## SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday 23 November 2020 at 6.00 pm**

This will be held as a virtual online meeting

The link to view this online meeting live is available [HERE](#)

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.

CAROLYN DOWNS  
Chief Executive

Dated: 13 November 2020

**For further information contact:** James Kinsella, Governance Manager  
Tel: 020 8937 2063; Email: [james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk](mailto:james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk)

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:  
[democracy.brent.gov.uk](http://democracy.brent.gov.uk)

**The press and public are welcome to attend this as an online virtual meeting. The link to attend and view the meeting live is available:**  
[HERE](#)

## **Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:**

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest\*\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest (i.e. it affects a financial position or relates to determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission, or registration) then (unless an exception at 14(2) of the Members Code applies), after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

### **\*Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

### **\*\*Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:
  - To which you are appointed by the council;
  - which exercises functions of a public nature;
  - which is directed is to charitable purposes;
  - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).
- (b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward affected by the decision, the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who employs or has appointed any of these or in whom they have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000, or any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are a director
- any body of a type described in (a) above

# Agenda

Apologies for absence.

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

## **2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the following Council meetings:

2.1 Annual Council Meeting held on Monday 14 September 2020 1 - 8

2.2 Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Friday 16 October 2020 9 - 24

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary or personal interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.

## **4 Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)**

To receive any announcements from the Mayor.

## **5 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs (if any) 25 - 26**

To agree any appointments to Committees, Joint Committees, Forums, Panels and Outside Bodies along with the appointments of Chairs/Vice Chairs (if any) in accordance with Standing Order 30(g).

NB: Meeting agenda republished on 23 November 2020 to include list of appointments.

## **6 Deputations (if any)**

To hear any deputations for which requests have been approved in accordance with Standing Order 32.

## **7 Questions from Members of the Public & Brent Youth Parliament 27 - 30**

7.1 To receive questions submitted by the public to Cabinet Members, in accordance with Standing Order 33.

Members are asked to note that no public questions have been received for response at this meeting.

7.2 To receive questions submitted from Brent Youth Parliament to Cabinet Members, in accordance with Standing Order 33 (c).

Two questions have been received under this item, which have been attached along with the written responses provided.

## **8 Petitions (if any)**

For Members to consider any petitions with more than 200 signatures on which a debate has been requested, in accordance with the Council's Petition Rules and Standing Order 66.

## **9 Annual Report from the Leader of the Council**

To receive an annual report on the work of the Council from the Leader of the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 38.

## **10 Reports from the Leader and Cabinet**

To receive a verbal report from the Leader of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 31 providing an update on any key or significant issues arising from any matter within the responsibility of the Cabinet.

## **11 Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members** 31 - 40

For questions to be put to members of the Cabinet by opposition and non-Cabinet Members in accordance with Standing Order 35.

Members are asked to note that four advance notice questions have been received under this item, which have been attached along with the written responses provided.

## **12 Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees**

To receive reports from the Chairs of the Council's Scrutiny Committees in accordance with Standing Order 36. The reports have been attached as follows:

12.1 Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 41 - 50

12.2 Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 51 - 66

## **13 Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee** 67 - 70

To receive a report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory

Committee in accordance with Standing Order 37.

#### **14 Non Cabinet Members' Debate**

71 - 72

To enable non Cabinet Members to raise an issue of relevance to Brent for debate, on which notice has been provided in accordance with Standing Order 34 and to receive any reports from Cabinet Members, as required, on issues previously raised.

Members are asked to note that the subject identified for debate is as follows:

##### **Forward Together: Brent's commitment to tackle racial inequalities**

The motion put forward as the basis of this debate has been attached.

#### **15 A Fairer Future Ending Poverty in Brent - Delivery Plans**

73 - 126

To receive the report from the Assistant Chief Executive presenting the delivery plans which have been developed to take forward implementation of the Brent Poverty Commission recommendations.

Members are asked to note that the Poverty Commission's final report and recommendations was presented to Cabinet on 7 September 2020, with the delivery plans due to be submitted to Cabinet for formal approval on 7 December 2020.

**Ward Affected:**  
All Wards

**Contact Officer:** Jacqueline Barry-Purssell,  
Senior Policy & Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 020 8937 1958  
[jacqueline.barry-purssell@brent.gov.uk](mailto:jacqueline.barry-purssell@brent.gov.uk)

#### **16 Treasury Management 2019/20 Outturn Report**

127 - 144

The report updates members on Treasury Management activity and confirms that the Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2019/20.

Members are asked to note that this report was received and noted by the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 29 July 2020 and Cabinet on 7 September 2020. It has been forwarded to Council in compliance with CIPFAs Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

**Ward Affected:**  
All Wards

**Contact Officer:** Amanda Healy, Senior Finance Analyst  
Tel: 020 8937 5912  
[amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk)

## **17 Motions**

145 - 158

To debate the motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 41.

Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 41(c), the motions submitted have now been attached as part of the agenda along with any amendments for which notice has been received.

NB: Meeting agenda republished on 23 November 2020 to include notice of amendments.

## **18 Urgent Business**

At the discretion of the Mayor to consider any urgent business, in accordance with Standing Order 30(s).



## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held as an online meeting on  
Monday 14 September 2020 at 6.00 pm

### PRESENT (in remote attendance):

**The Worshipful the Mayor**  
Councillor Ernest Ezeajughi

**The Deputy Mayor**  
Councillor Lia Colacicco

### COUNCILLORS:

Abdi	Aden
Afzal	Ahmed
Akram	M Butt
S Butt	Chan
Chappell	Chohan
S Choudhary	A Choudry
Colwill	Conneely
Crane	Daly
Dar	Denselow
Dixon	Ethapemi
Farah	Gbajumo
Georgiou	Hassan
Hector	Hirani
Hylton	Johnson
Kabir	Kansagra
Kelcher	Kennelly
Knight	Lloyd
Lo	Long
Mahmood	Mashari
Maurice	McLeish
McLennan	Miller
Murray	Mitchell Murray
Naheerathan	Nerva
M Patel	RS Patel
Perrin	Sangani
Shah	Shahzad
Ketan Sheth	Krupa Sheth
Southwood	Stephens
Tatler	Thakkar

## 1. **Opening the Meeting**

Before formally opening the meeting, the Mayor took the opportunity to welcome everyone to the online Annual Council meeting and invited Carolyn Downs (as Chief Executive) to outline the programme for the evening and run through the guidance issued in relation to the conduct of the meeting. Having noted the outline provided, the Mayor then moved on to the formal agenda.

## 2. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor advised that direct apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Agha and Donnelly-Jackson.

## 3. **To elect the Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2020/2021**

Prior to handing over to the Chief Executive for the conduct of the election process, Councillor Ezeajughi began by asking Members for nominations to the Office of Mayor of the London Borough of Brent for the Municipal Year 2020/2021.

Councillor Muhammed Butt (Leader of the Council) proceeded to nominate Councillor Ernest Ezeajughi. In moving the nomination, he highlighted the challenging nature of the year to date given the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the effect this had had on the civic year and activities of the Mayor. In view of the impact on his time in office, the Leader felt it was therefore only fair to nominate Councillor Ezeajughi to continue as Mayor through to the end of the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

Councillor McLennan (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded Councillor Muhammed Butt's nomination for Councillor Ezeajughi to continue as Mayor through to May 2021 recognising his dedication and efforts as Mayor to date.

There were no other nominations and it was therefore **RESOLVED** that Councillor Ernest Ezeajughi be re-elected Mayor of the London Borough of Brent for the 2020/2021 municipal year.

*Councillor Ezeajughi proceeded to sign the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor.*

## 4. **To appoint a Councillor of the Borough to be Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Ezeajughi, as Mayor, thanked Members for his nomination and re-appointment as Mayor. He then announced that he had re-appointed Councillor Lia Colacicco as Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the 2020/2021 municipal year.

Councillor Ezeajughi, as Mayor, then formally returned thanks for his re-appointment and in so doing, began by highlighting how fast his initial year in office had passed by.

Commenting on the huge honour and privilege in being nominated and re-appointed to continue serving as Mayor he recognised how difficult a year it had been for everyone as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic along with the impact this had also had on his civic year and fundraising activities. In terms of his ongoing

fundraising, the Mayor confirmed that he would be continuing to support his two chosen charities the Sickle Cell Society and Jason Roberts Foundation as well as continuing to raise awareness and support families and communities affected by the pandemic.

The Mayor also took the opportunity to thank everyone for their support and kindness over the previous year and to advise that he looked forward to continue working with everyone again over the course of the remainder of the current Municipal Year.

Reflecting briefly on his time as Mayor, to date, Councillor Ezeajughi outlined a number of highlights from his work engaging with residents as well as representing the borough both nationally and internationally. Prior to the lockdown restrictions coming into effect he informed members that he had been proud to attend 350 engagements with some notable events including:

- Being a part of the Rise event, as the spectacular opening to Brent's year as the London Borough of Culture;
- Winning first prize at the London New Year's Day parade and receiving £10,000 for his Mayoral charities;
- The visit of Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall to the Granville Centre in Kilburn;
- The Pride of Brent Awards;
- The Wembley Stadium Football tournament with the FA;
- Cutting the ribbon for the first rainbow crossing outside the Civic Centre;
- The opening of a new Brent Hub in Kilburn;
- Hosting the first Windrush celebration in Brent;
- The grand opening of the West London Vascular and Interventional Centre at Northwick Park Hospital;
- An awards ceremony hosted for NHS staff at Wembley Park Stadium;
- Visiting Yibin in China as a guest of the Mayor of Yibin;
- Visiting his home state as a guest of Governor His Excellency, Chief Willie Obiano and Her Excellency Ebelechukwu Obiano of Anambra state at the Caring Family Enhancement Initiative (CAFÉ) charity in Nigeria with whom he was collaborating on Sickle Cell Disease awareness.

In addition, the Mayor advised that within the rules during lockdown he had visited some of the mutual aid organisations that had been working hard to distribute food to many people in the borough, including the main Brent food hub. He had also been delighted to open London's first local Covid-19 test centre in Harlesden as well as being able (as the restrictions were changed) to once again start hosting citizenship ceremonies welcoming residents to the UK and to Brent.

During the lockdown, Councillor Ezeajughi advised members that he had also been delighted, as Mayor of Brent, to join in the weekly clapping in recognition of the work being undertaken by carers and key workers. These included many Council staff working in key front line roles who he also took the opportunity to pay tribute to for their efforts.

Highlighting the uncertain times in which everyone was now living and how much had changed since March 2020, the Mayor also took the time to express his

condolences to all those who had lost friends and family as a result of the pandemic and to pass on his thoughts and prayers to all those affected.

Reflecting on the way the Borough had managed the pandemic, the Mayor felt this was something the Council's officers and councillors could be proud of along with local communities across the borough, many of whom had been amongst the hardest hit by the disease and its economic impact. Referring to the support shown across different communities, he felt it was times like these, which highlighted what an amazing borough Brent remained, especially in times of adversity.

Whilst noting the challenges still to be faced over the coming weeks and months he highlighted the importance in everyone continuing to stand together in order to support each other during such uncertain times. He ended by urging everyone to ensure they continued to follow the current restrictions in relation to social gatherings and to stay safe.

## **5. Vote of Thanks**

The Mayor then invited Councillor McLennan to propose a vote of thanks to all co-opted and other Members serving on the Council's Committees.

Councillor McLennan began by thanking Councillor Ezeajughi for the example he had set in undertaking his civic duties during such a challenging time as Mayor, and wished him well in continuing these along with his fundraising activities during the remainder of the year. As this was the Annual Meeting of the Council, she also advised it was an ideal opportunity to again highlight the valued work of the Council's co-opted and independent committee members, given the core role they played as critical friends in the Council's democratic process. She advised that their independence and objectivity were highly valued and integral to the role of the bodies on which they served including Scrutiny, Audit & Standards and the various health and education bodies and concluded by thanking all of the co-opted Members for their work in supporting the Council's drive towards continuous improvement.

Councillor Kansagra advised that he would like to second the vote of thanks moved by the Deputy Leader and in so doing also took the opportunity to congratulate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their re-appointment (making them the longest serving Mayor and Deputy Mayor). He thanked them for the way they had not only conducted themselves during such challenging times but had also chaired the Council meetings.

The Mayor once again thanked all Members and advised that as the ceremonial part of the meeting had now concluded he would move on to deal with the remainder of the agenda.

## **6. Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared by Members.

## **7. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Monday 13 July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

## 8. **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

### (i) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ day

The Mayor advised that he, along with the Mayoress and Leader of the Council had been honoured to attend a wreath laying Ceremony on Saturday 15 August in order to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Victory over Japan Day. The ceremony, which had been held as a short socially distanced event at the memorial site in Barham Park had been organised by the British Legion and Mei Sim Lai as Deputy Lieutenant.

### (ii) Former Councillor Tom McNicholas

The Mayor announced that it was with regret he had to advise members of the death of former Councillor Tom McNicholas, who had passed away during the lockdown period just before his 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday. He had served as a member of the Council in the 1970's and 1980's, with sincere condolences passed on to his family on behalf of Brent Council.

The Mayor then invited everyone to observe a minute's silence in tribute and memory to former Councillor Tom McNicholas.

*The online meeting was then paused to observe a minute's silence*

### (iii) 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

On a happier note, the Mayor then moved on to congratulate Mrs Hilda Tichauer whom, he had been informed, had celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

The Mayor advised that Mrs Tichauer and her sister (who had also lived to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday) had first come to England in February 1939 as refugees from Berlin and had lived in Kenton for over 61 years.

### (iv) Face Mask social media campaign

In concluding his announcements, the Mayor advised that he had recently filmed a short video organised by the Council's communications team, highlighting the importance of wearing a face covering which had been used to reinforce the message on social media outlets.

## 9. **Representation of Political Groups on Committees**

The Mayor then moved on to invite the Leader of the Council (Councillor Muhammed Butt) to introduce the report from the Chief Executive, which Councillor

Butt advised fulfilled the Council's duty to review and determine the representation of different political groups on certain Committees at its annual meeting.

The Mayor then invited any other members to speak on the report, with the following contributions made at the meeting.

Councillor Georgiou, highlighting his role as the sole representative of the Liberal Democrats on the Council, felt there was a need to recognise (given the large majority of the current Administration) the importance in ensuring in-depth, progressive, unfiltered and independent scrutiny of the Council. He felt this was important not only in terms of pursuing the best possible outcomes for the boroughs residents but also given the decisions needing to be made in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and in addressing the inequalities this had identified across the borough. A request was therefore made for consideration to be given to his membership on the Council's scrutiny function in order to ensure he was able, on behalf of the residents he represented in Alperton and across the borough as a whole, to contribute towards the decision making process and in holding the Administration to account.

Whilst understanding the frustrations expressed, Councillor Kansagra highlighted the need to recognise that the requirements in relation to political representation on each committee reflected the current statutory regulations. He pointed out, however, that this would not prevent Councillor Georgiou being able to attend meetings as an observer and requesting to speak, where appropriate.

The opportunity to engage with the scrutiny function was also highlighted as an opportunity by Councillor Mashari, as newly appointed chair of the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee who pointed out he would be welcome to attend and request to speak, time permitting, at scrutiny meetings.

As no other members indicated they wished to speak, Councillor Muhammed Butt, in exercising his right of reply, highlighted the democratic mandate provided for the Labour Administration and their focus in ensuring the voice of all residents across the borough was heard. He therefore commended the outcome of the review to all members, highlighting the recommendations were in accordance with the necessary statutory requirements regarding political proportionality.

The Mayor thanked all members for their contributions and then put the recommendations to the vote and they were declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) that the size of each Committee be agreed, as detailed within the report;
- (2) that the allocation of seats on Committees to each of the Council's political groups (where the rules of political balance apply) be agreed as set out in the report with the Council making appointments to those committees in order to give effect to the wishes of the political groups allocated the seats;
- (3) to note that the political balance on their Sub-Committees would be reviewed at the first meetings of the General Purposes Committee and Licensing Committees scheduled following the Annual Council Meeting.

10. **Appointment to Committees and Outside Bodies & Appointment of Chairs & Vice-Chairs**

The Mayor then moved on to invite the Leader to introduce the report from the Chief Executive, which Councillor Muhammed Butt advised set out the nominations for appointments to Committees, Joint Committees, Forums, Panels, Outside Bodies and nomination for Chairs and Vice Chairs, where necessary, for the 2020-2021 municipal year.

In introducing the report Councillor Muhammed Butt drew members' attention to a change in membership on the Audit & Standards Advisory and main Committee, with Councillor Mitchell Murray replacing Councillor Donnelly-Jackson as a full member on the Committee and Councillor Donnelly-Jackson becoming an alternate member.

Having invited contributions from any other members who wished to speak, the Mayor noted the comments from Councillor Mitchell-Murray thanking the Leader and officers for confirming the change in membership on the Audit & Standards Advisory and main Committee.

As no other Members indicated that they wished to speak and the Leader advised he did not wish to exercise his right of reply, the Mayor put the recommendations in the report to a vote and they were declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) The proposed appointments of members, co-opted members and substitutes to Council Committees and Outside Bodies for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report, subject to the following change:
  - (a) Councillor Mitchell-Murray to replace Councillor Donnelly-Jackson as a full member of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee & Audit and Standards Committee with Councillor Donnelly-Jackson replacing Councillor Mitchell-Murray as a substitute member on both bodies.
- (2) The proposed appointments of Chairs and Vice Chairs to Council Committees for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report.
- (3) To approve the extension of the term of office for the Council's three Independent Persons and Independent co-opted member on the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee (following their terms of office having expired) to the Annual Council meeting in May 2021, for the reason detailed in section 3.4 of the report.
- (4) To note the appointments:
  - (a) of the Cabinet, Cabinet Committees and Joint Executive Committees and their respective Chairs and Vice Chairs for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

- (b) to be confirmed by the General Purposes Committee for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.
- (c) to be confirmed by Licensing Committee for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.

*(The full list of appointments can be found as part of the appendices to the supplementary papers which was circulated before the meeting).*

#### 11. **Calendar of Council Meetings for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year**

The Mayor then invited the Leader to introduce the report from the Chief Executive, which Councillor Muhammed Butt advised presented the final calendar of meeting dates for Full Council and other meetings during the remainder of the 2020-2021 municipal year.

As no Members indicated that they wished to speak the recommendations in the report were t put straight to the vote by the Mayor and declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) To confirm the dates for Full Council and other meetings to take place up to the next Annual Council meeting in May 2021, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (2) That the Head of Executive & Member Services be authorised to make any alterations deemed necessary to the Municipal Calendar during the course of the year having consulted with the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition Group and Chair of the affected meeting

#### 12. **Urgent Business**

As there was no other urgent business to be transacted the Mayor declared the Annual Meeting closed and advised that he looked forward to seeing all members at the next virtual Council meeting on Monday 23 November 2020.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm

COUNCILLOR ERNEST EZEJUGHI  
Mayor



## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held as an online meeting on Friday 16 October 2020 at 3.30 pm

### PRESENT (in remote attendance):

**The Worshipful the Mayor**  
Councillor Ernest Ezeajughi

**The Deputy Mayor**  
Councillor Lia Colacicco

### COUNCILLORS:

Abdi	Aden
Afzal	Agha
Ahmed	Akram
M Butt	S Butt
Chan	Chappell
Chohan	S Choudhary
A Choudry	Colwill
Crane	Daly
Dar	Denselow
Dixon	Donnelly-Jackson
Ethapemi	Farah
Gbajumo	Georgiou
Gill	Hassan
Hirani	Hylton
Johnson	Kabir
Kansagra	Kelcher
Kennelly	Knight
Lloyd	Lo
Long	Mahmood
Mashari	Maurice
McLeish	McLennan
Miller	Murray
Naheerathan	Nerva
M Patel	Perrin
Sangani	Shah
Shahzad	Ketan Sheth
Krupa Sheth	Southwood
Stephens	Tatler
Thakkar	

## 1. **Welcoming Statement**

Prior to its formal opening, the Mayor welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and invited the Chief Executive to outline the guidance relating to conduct of the meeting.

The Mayor also advised he was delighted to announce that Councillor Liz Dixon had been awarded an MBE in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. The award was in recognition of her outstanding work in restorative justice and her efforts in rehabilitating offenders over the last three decades. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor congratulated Councillor Dixon on her award.

The Mayor then moved on to the formal agenda for the meeting.

## 2. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor advised that direct apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Conneely. Apologies for lateness were also received from Councillors Ethapemi and Hirani.

It was also noted that Councillor Mitchell-Murray and Ramesh Patel were unable to attend due to technical issues in being able to join the meeting remotely.

## 3. **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

## 4. **Deputations**

The Mayor advised that he had accepted requests for three deputations to be presented at the meeting on the subject of Healthy Neighbourhoods.

The first of these had been from Joel Davidson on behalf of the Brondesbury Park Residents Association. The second from Mark Falcon, speaking on behalf of Brent Clean Air Campaign and the third from Charlie Fernandes, speaking on behalf of the Brent Cycling Campaign.

The Mayor advised that unless otherwise indicated by Members, he intended to allow each of the nominated speakers up to five minutes to present their deputations. He would then allow Councillor Tatler, as Lead Member for Regeneration, Property and Planning up to five minutes to respond on the deputations received.

As no issues were raised on the approach outlined, the Mayor moved on to welcome Joel Davidson to the meeting and invited him to present the first deputation on behalf of the Brondesbury Park Residents Association. The following issues were highlighted as part of the deputation:

- The Brondesbury Park Residents Association felt that the low traffic neighbourhood schemes were being pushed through undemocratically by the Council, with local people not having been consulted or engaged before

- implementation. The approach towards the concept of “retrospective consultation” was deemed unacceptable and unsatisfactory by local residents in the area;
- Concerns were also highlighted in relation to the design of the schemes based on what was felt to be “anecdotal data”, with schemes elsewhere across London also causing similar concern, for example in Ealing, Hackney and Islington. In Wandsworth and Redbridge, this had led to local authorities reversing decisions to implement the schemes;
  - It was also felt the schemes would make traffic, and therefore air pollution, along main roads in the Brondesbury Park area, such as Kilburn High Road, Salisbury Road and Chamberlain Road worse, with a number of local schools also likely to be adversely affected by the increase in traffic;
  - Highlighting that Brent had one of the largest percentage of daily trips by public transport and one of the lowest percentage of daily trips for motor vehicles in London, the Resident Association felt this weakened the case for introduction of low traffic neighbourhoods. Moreover, it was also felt there was a need to recognise that air pollution levels had reduced as a result of the pandemic. As such, the need for such measures was deemed questionable, especially as it was felt the use of road closures and barriers in local areas would not prompt residents to move to alternative modes of travel;
  - Low traffic neighbourhoods were also felt to discriminate against those with mobility issues, the elderly and tradespeople, all of whom struggled to travel without the use of motor vehicles;
  - Whilst highlighting that Resident Association remained keen to improve their local environment and were supportive of the efforts being made to encourage more active modes of transport such as walking and cycling, it was felt this could be achieved and coexist alongside motor vehicle use. The approach would, however, require a joined up approach and dialogue with local residents rather than schemes being pushed through without the necessary level of engagement. In concluding, the Council was asked to consider withdrawing the current proposals in order to properly engage with residents on how best to improve their local environment.

The Mayor thanked Joel Davidson for his deputation and then welcomed Mark Falcon, to the meeting who was invited to present the second deputation on behalf of the Brent Clean Air Campaign. The following issues were highlighted as part of the deputation:

- Outlining the role of Clean Air for Brent in campaigning to improve air quality and their work in supporting the Council’s Air Quality Scrutiny Inquiry, members’ attention was drawn to the impact which air pollution was having across the UK. Not only was it a major cause of deaths, estimated at over 40,000 per year, but it had also been estimated to cost the NHS 20% of its annual budget with its impact on health having a disproportionately worse impact on the vulnerable as well as being recognised as a “national health emergency”;
- In London, the biggest cause of air pollution had been traffic, with motorists themselves being amongst the worst affected by air pollution;
- In terms of healthy neighbourhoods, he felt it important to highlight that it was national government policy to promote active travel, which had in part been in response to the pandemic with local authorities expected, as a condition of the

- funding attached, to implement the necessary changes quickly and efficiently. This included the reallocation of road space to support walking and cycling, use of filters to restrict motor vehicle access, encouraging walking and cycling to school and reducing speed limits;
- There was strong evidence that the promotion of active travel could change travel habits with it estimated that 60% of all journeys could be undertaken via alternative means, with a focus on the school run a priority;
  - The wider public health benefits of healthy neighbourhoods were also highlighted, alongside the aim to tackle air pollution, respond to the pandemic and the climate emergency;
  - In summing up, members were advised that whilst wanting to avoid increasing traffic on main roads or making it more difficult for those vulnerable members of society who depended on their cars, the Brent Clean Air Campaign were supportive of the principles and objectives behind Brent's Active Travel Programme. Evidence from existing low traffic neighbourhood schemes had shown they were effective in changing behaviours but this would require effective local engagement, supported by the necessary evidence and ongoing monitoring and evaluation throughout the consultation trial period.

The Mayor thanked Mark Falcon for his deputation and then welcomed Charlie Fernandes, who was invited to present the third and final deputation on behalf of the Brent Cycling Campaign. The following issues were highlighted as part of the deputation:

- Outlining the role of Brent Cycling Campaign in support of the active travel programme, members were advised that the campaign group had been approached by many local residents who were in support of healthy Low Traffic Neighbourhoods having witnessed the benefits of less cars being on the road during the lockdown phase of the pandemic. The view expressed was that residents were keen to see these schemes becoming fully operational, with the Council thanked for their efforts in introducing them during such challenging times;
- Whilst recognising and supporting concerns about the lack of prior public consultation, it was felt that consultations generally had low engagement with only those against tending to make themselves heard. Trialling schemes was a more natural way to experiment, providing residents with the opportunity to experience the benefits or to suggest adjustments as the trials progressed;
- It was also pointed out that a majority of Brent residents were highly dependent on public transport, prior to the national lockdown. With the current advice being to avoid public transport, where possible, it was felt the scheme had a real opportunity to promote and encourage alternative travel options for those with and without access to cars;
- Recognising the comments made during the previous deputation, members were once again reminded that Brent suffered from one of the worst levels of air pollution in London, and had some of the highest levels of health inequality. It was felt healthy neighbourhoods would go some way to alleviating these concerns. In restricting rat running, the schemes could also result in quieter, safer and more inclusive neighbourhoods as community spaces for all;
- Whilst supporting the need for progressive and urgent action, the campaign were also keen to ensure the use of low traffic neighbourhoods were only seen as part of an overall solution. In their view, the provision of protected

cycle paths also remained a key priority on main roads in order to provide the necessary connections between low traffic neighbourhoods and low traffic town centres and other destinations and in enabling active travel and enhancing the quality of life for local residents.

The Mayor thanked Charlie Fernades for concluding the deputations and then moved on to invite Councillor Tatler, as Lead Member for Regeneration Property and Planning to respond to the comments raised.

Councillor Tatler thanked all three of the deputations and advised the Mayor that rather than address the issues raised at this stage she intended to provide a more comprehensive response once the petitions due to be presented under the next item had also been considered. Before moving on, however, she also took the opportunity to thank all officers involved for their efforts in arranging the Extraordinary Council meeting at short notice and in the midst of an ongoing public health crisis.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Tatler for her initial response and advised that as there were no further speakers he would move on to the next item.

## 5. **Petitions**

In addition to the deputations received, the Mayor advised that he had also agreed to accept three petitions at the meeting again relating to Healthy Neighbourhood proposals.

The first of these related to the Active Travel Programme within Preston ward with Yogi Patel as lead petitioner. The second related to proposed road closures in the Kensal, Brondesbury & Queens Park area, with Alexandra Kelly as lead petitioner. The third and final petition was from the Kilburn Village Residents Associated and related to proposed road closures in their area with Christopher Mahon as lead petitioner.

The Mayor advised that unless otherwise indicated by Members, he intended to allow each of the nominated speakers up to five minutes to address the meeting in order to present their petitions. As with the previous item, he would then provide Councillor Tatler, as Lead Member for Regeneration, Property and Planning with an opportunity to respond to the issues raised, for which she would also be allowed up to five minutes.

As no issues were raised in terms of the approach outlined, the Mayor welcomed Yogi Patel to the meeting and invited him to present the first petition, with the following issues highlighted:

- Speaking on behalf of local residents from Thirlmere Gardens and other local roads in the area, Yogi Patel advised that whilst those who had signed the petition were supportive of the healthy neighbourhood concept and promotion of active travel in the area they were opposed to the blocking of roads, which were felt to create unnecessary boundaries between neighbourhoods;
- Concerns were also highlighted in relation to the evidence around air quality, congestion and road safety used as the basis for designing the scheme

- implemented in their area and at the lack of prior consultation or engagement with local residents;
- The practical difficulties created for local residents following implementation of the scheme were also highlighted, which included lack of what was felt to be adequate or accurate signage, limited turning space for vehicles, additional congestion, inconsiderate driving and vehicles not able to use the blocked roads having to make longer journeys, which in turn led to higher emissions. This was seen as dangerous for local residents and properties;
  - Concerns were also raised in relation to the timing and execution of the works, taking account of other building and utilities works in the area which had led to some temporary barriers being moved to provide access;
  - As an alternative to the measures introduced, local residents had advised they would be supportive of one-way systems and increased signage to support the existing 20mph zone and to encourage traffic to use alternative routes without the need for planters or barriers. In summing up, members were asked to recognise the impact in terms of congestion and parking which further development would have in an already densely populated area and the concerns raised in relation to consultation and the evidence provided to support the design of the scheme. Those who had signed the petition were instead keen to focus on other types of environmental improvement, which it was felt would achieve a better impact locally.

The Mayor thanked Yogi Patel for presenting the petition and then welcomed Alexandra Kelly to present the second petition, on which the following issues were highlighted:

- Members were advised that the petition being presented was seeking to oppose the proposals in relation to Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme covering the Kensal, Brondesbury & Queens Park area (LTN 19). With over 2,300 signatures, those who had signed the petition were objecting to the proposed scheme being implemented without prior public consultation and the provision of supporting baseline data. Concerns were also raised in relation to what appeared to be the prioritisation of a neighbourhood with access to significant green space and limited congestion at the expense of other parts of the borough. It was felt the introduction of any scheme that would have a material impact on residents, should involve prior engagement with those affected residents;
- The petitioners were also keen to highlight the impact that would be created by the displacement of traffic from low traffic neighbourhood areas on to surrounding main routes. This would not only increase congestion, emissions and pollution but it was felt would also disadvantage those relying on the main routes for their business or as a means of travelling to and from work or school, thus discriminating against those residents with no alternative means of travel;
- Concerns were also expressed in relation to the lack of planning or engagement and the impact that the proposals would have on local residents wellbeing, with what appeared to be no measurable criteria against which to assess each scheme. The petition also recognised the level of opposition to low traffic neighbourhoods across London, which had been subject to widespread protests and campaigns for their withdrawal;

- With residents currently being encouraged to avoid public transport where possible, it was increasingly difficult for those with mobility issues, the elderly and tradespeople to travel and it was felt low traffic neighbourhoods would escalate these difficulties;
- In summary, the petitioners were requesting that the Council reconsider their plans and meaningfully engage with local residents before any schemes were implemented. This would enable account to be taken of local expertise and knowledge in the design of any measures that would assist in reducing pollution and improving the area for the benefit of all residents.

The Mayor thanked Alexandra Kelly for presenting her petition. He then welcomed Christopher Mahon, to the meeting and invited him to present the third and final petition, on which the following issues were highlighted:

- Speaking on behalf of the Kilburn Village Residents Association, members were advised that the petition being presented contained 363 signatures requesting the Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme in the Kilburn area (LTN 20) be suspended to enable detailed consultation and engagement with the local community. The lack of prior public consultation had caused concern in the Kilburn area with residents also having raised fears around the safety of active travel schemes for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians resulting from the measures that had already been introduced;
- The petitioners had also queried the rationale and evidence to support the introduction and design of the proposals in their area given the limited congestion and traffic issues currently being experienced. Key concerns included the potential displacement of traffic to other routes with high volumes of traffic; the impact any diversion of traffic to more congested routes would have in increasing journey times leading to higher emissions and more pollution; the overall impact on the local area and in terms of road safety;
- It was also pointed out that residents were concerned about how the Council planned to assess and measure the outcome of each scheme with the need for a robust methodology and comprehensive data gathering identified as essential in advance of any scheme being implemented;
- Whilst recognising the nature of the climate emergency, the petitioners were keen to avoid schemes being introduced that would make the challenges to be addressed any worse and as such were seeking further clarity on the rationale for the proposals. The need was also identified to ensure that knowledge and expertise available locally was utilised to assist in providing feedback on the design of any measures in an open and transparent way.

The Mayor thanked Christopher Mahon for presenting his petition and then moved on to invite Councillor Tatler, as Lead Member for Regeneration Property and Planning to respond to the comments raised under both this item and the deputations.

Having thanked the petitioners for their contributions, Councillor Tatler began her response by pointing out that there would never be a perfect solution to the climate emergency. The need to tackle the damage already done would not be convenient, quick, or pain-free given the changes that would be required to everyone's way of life in order to enable sustainable change.

Focussing on the implementation of active travel schemes, these were felt to represent one of the first opportunities locally to make a tangible difference in reducing the impact on the natural environment, providing a chance to think about changing the way things were done out of habit rather than necessity. The way the schemes were being designed would also, she pointed out, provide the chance to test a range of measures to encourage people out of their cars and onto more locally suitable modes of travel as well as providing an opportunity for residents to experiment with the types of interventions needed to tackle pollution, improve air quality and reduce the harm done to the environment.

In terms of the concerns raised, Councillor Tatler also felt it important to recognise that the schemes being implemented would not necessarily be permanent solutions. They were being implemented on an experimental and trial basis. If they succeeded, then further consideration would need to be given as to how best they could be incorporated into future public realm improvements. If they did not work, the Council would look at alternative measures in order to mitigate any negative impacts or unintended consequences with the only immovable part of the programme being the Council's pressing and real commitment to deliver on its climate emergency obligations.

The concerns raised in terms of engagement and consultation had been understood by the Council but, at the same time, Councillor Tatler felt there was also a need to understand that in order to tackle climate change everyone would have to make and accept substantial changes to their way of lives. Whilst aware of the feeling and fear that these changes were being imposed rather than undertaken in consultation, it was also recognised that the Council needed to get better in ensuring that what it said and intended cut through to the people most affected and were not picked up through other sources.

Commending officers for their support and efforts to date, Councillor Tatler felt that the Council had looked to address the concerns raised in relation to engagement and consultation with over 30 public meetings now undertaken and more being scheduled moving forward.

An assurance was provided that the Council would therefore, be looking to take the issues and concerns raised on board, with Councillor Tatler again thanking the deputations and petitioners for taking the time to participate in the meeting in order to share their different perspectives. The Council, she pointed out, would only be able to succeed in the face of the climate emergency if they were willing to try initiatives such as healthy neighbourhoods, but recognised these would need to be implemented and assessed as cooperative and collaborative ventures, which had also been a condition of the fast-tracked government funding. She also felt it was important to note that it had been the government, as part of their funding requirements, who had stipulated the unorthodox process of consultation and engagement being part of the active trials rather than as a precursor to them.

In summing up, Councillor Tatler was keen to once again highlight the need for everyone to be actively involved in addressing the challenges faced and hoped that it would now be possible for everyone to focus their energies on moving forward together and in forging new and lasting partnerships that would ensure it was possible to leave future generations with the proud legacy of a better Brent.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Tatler for her response and advised that as this concluded the item he would move on to deal with the motion submitted as the basis for the Extraordinary Council meeting.

## **6. Motions - Healthy Neighbourhoods Schemes**

Before moving on to consider the motion listed on the summons, the Mayor reminded members that, in accordance with Standing Orders, a total of 30 minutes had been set aside for consideration of the motion submitted for debate.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Gill to move the motion submitted by the members who had requisitioned the Extraordinary Council meeting.

In moving the motion Councillor Gill outlined why the members who had requisitioned the meeting had felt it necessary to do so, highlighting the strong and extensive level of representations received from members of the public and important issues being raised as a result. Many of the concerns raised had been in relation to the lack of prior public consultation, although it was recognised that the process of engagement and consultation had been a result of the way in which central government had sought to introduce active trials. Whilst those members who had submitted the motion retained faith in officers and the Lead Member in being able to justify the schemes, the need had been identified to ensure the background to their introduction was clearly explained and was seen more clearly in the context of the global climate emergency and concerns regarding air quality and pollution within Brent. The difficulty in making meaningful changes to the environment in order to address the climate emergency and air pollution had been recognised, along with residents' desire to see change which, in summing up, he felt highlighted the need to ensure the background, aims and flexibility behind the plans were fully explained along with the relevant outcomes and review process. This had been what the motion sought to achieve.

Following the original motion being moved, the Mayor advised Members of an amendment submitted by Councillor Donnelly-Jackson, the details of which had been included with the supplementary agenda published in advance of the meeting and were set out below. Councillor Donnelly-Jackson formally moved the amendment, highlighting what she felt was the need for the Council to continue taking a proactive and courageous approach in the face of the climate emergency. Highlighting the Council's commitment to being carbon-neutral by 2030, she felt it important to recognise the impact of pollution and poor air quality as a well-known cause of health issues, particularly within Brent.

Focussing on the pandemic, she felt this provided a unique opportunity to reimagine and adapt the borough's streets, taking account of the financial support being provided by central government, which would provide more space for both pedestrians and cyclists. Recognising that the Low Traffic & Healthy Neighbourhood proposals were experimental, Councillor Donnelly-Jackson pointed out there was much evidence at home and abroad that these schemes could have the desired effect with the amendment to the motion also accepting the importance and welcoming active scrutiny of the proposals as they continued to be developed.

The amendment moved was as follows:

“Title: Healthy Neighbourhoods Scheme (add) and their part in addressing air quality and climate change

TO ADD AT THE START:

That this Council:

- embraces its obligations to ensure that every possible intervention against climate change is considered and explored;
- recognises that air quality in this borough falls well below the standards that should be expected, not least in relation its impact on the physical health and wellbeing of its residents;
- endorses the intention underpinning Brent’s experimental ‘Healthy Neighbourhoods’;
- acknowledges the unorthodox conditions attached to conditional government funding necessitating public consultation and engagement within the six-month period of these low traffic trials and not prior to them as might more commonly be expected;
- welcomes the many lessons that have been, are being, and will continue to be learned throughout this programme with regards to the initiative itself and the manner in which the organisation interacts with the communities it serves;
- highlights the progress already made through planned and promoted public meetings, thanks each and every participant for their invaluable contributions thus far;
- thanks those responsible within the organisation for their efforts to date, and commits itself – in light of the importance of these measures as a first tangible foray against climate change set in the context of the new behaviours and habits that they are designed to encourage – to continue providing comprehensive updates to the appropriate forums and committees, this one included, at the earliest opportunity, covering, but not limited to, the following:

*TO THEN AMEND THE WORDING OF THE ORIGINAL MOTION AS FOLLOWS:*

*Replace:*

~~To instruct the Lead Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning to provide a comprehensive rationale for the introduction of the temporary Healthy Neighbourhoods in the various areas.~~

*With:*

- Clarity of the rationale for the introduction of these temporary measures in the various areas;

*Breakdown and replace the remaining list as follows:*

~~This to provide details about how these areas have been chosen;~~

- Details about how these areas are chosen;

~~how it impact targets; mitigations, if any; viability of the monitoring of the scheme;~~

- How we anticipate that they will impact on the council's active travel, clean air, and climate change targets;

~~what prior public and stakeholder engagement has taken place;~~

- What stakeholder engagement is involved;

~~the equity of the trade-off between loser residential streets and gainers;~~

- Comment on how the relative real or perceived pros and cons of these schemes will be weighted and proposed mitigations for addressing concerns of those residents that might feel that others' 'gains' are their 'losses';

~~the risk of increased congestion on certain residential roads and implications on emissions;~~

- Consideration of the risk that some measures may increase congestion elsewhere and the implications that may have on emissions;

~~the methodology to be used to evaluate the outcome, notably the goal of lower overall traffic volumes; and the measurements in place to secure adequate baseline data for ALL streets affected (including the connector roads).~~

- An explanation of overall methodology —including ensuring an adequate baseline for evaluating outcomes, including the goal of lower overall traffic how these schemes will be monitored, and how their viability will be assessed”

The Mayor then invited other Members to speak on both the original motion and amendment, which had been moved, with the following contributions received.

Councillor Dar opened the debate by praising the intentions of those in support of healthy low traffic neighbourhoods, and those members and officers involved in their implementation. The schemes were, however, deemed unsuitable for Cricklewood given its location within the borough and important access links to important routes in surrounding areas.

Councillor Shahzad sympathised with cyclists and pedestrians and the impact that motor vehicle use had on air pollution levels, yet was not convinced that low traffic neighbourhoods were on their own the best way to reduce air pollution in the borough. It was suggested that the schemes would displace and encourage more traffic on main routes and therefore increase air pollution levels around them, with the need for more emphasis on encouraging the use of e-cars and prior consultation with affected stakeholders.

Councillor Kennelly, whilst recognising and supporting the public health benefits of the healthy neighbourhood proposals felt it was also important to focus on the concerns raised in relation to the level of public engagement and consultation prior to their implementation, as the cornerstone of local democracy. The limited engagement of local residents to date had created concern given the material impact of the measures locally. Speaking in support of the petition presented by Yogi Patel earlier in the meeting, he also questioned the suitability of the measures in Preston ward, which according to the Council's own standards had lower levels of emissions and congestion, narrower roads and more green space than many other areas within the borough. Concerns had also been raised about the design of the scheme, specifically given its impact on accessibility for more vulnerable local residents with the Lead Member urged to think again in terms of implementation to ensure a more targeted approach and to achieve the benefits being sought across the borough as a whole.

Councillor Kansagra began by thanking all local residents and stakeholders who had spoken earlier during the meeting for their contributions and supported the concerns raised about the low traffic neighbourhoods proposals appearing to have had been rushed through by the Council with little regard for the interests of local residents. Whilst supportive of the need to tackle climate and air quality concerns he felt, if properly consulted, local residents would have been able to suggest alternative proposals more suited to their local areas. The Council was therefore encouraged to avoid rushing implementation and instead to work with local residents in implementing the schemes moving forward in order to avoid further local opposition and ensure the necessary level of engagement and consultation.

Councillor Nerva emphasised the need to encourage less traffic on the borough's roads, pointing to the increase in traffic on residential roads in the past decade and the high proportion of journeys being undertaken that were under 2km or between 2km-5km and impact on air quality. He felt this supported the need to encourage more active modes of travel, with specific examples provided within Queens Park ward. Whilst the concern over the limited amount of prior public consultation was understood, he felt there was also a need to recognise that the requirement to implement low traffic neighbourhoods before public consultation had resulted from the way funding had been allocated for the schemes by central government. In terms of further assurance, he also highlighted the need to recognise the experimental nature of the measures being introduced which would be subject to further consultation moving forward as the measures were developed.

Councillor Kelcher, taking the opportunity to address residents direct, also highlighted the air quality crisis faced within the borough, with Brent being one of the worst affected of all London boroughs in terms of air pollution. Speaking in support of the amended motion, he felt the impact this created in terms of public health and in addressing the climate emergency needed to be fully recognised. In this respect, low traffic neighbourhoods were seen as a proportional measure in an attempt to reduce pollution levels and improve air quality and would assist in creating a culture in which active travel was seen as the norm rather than car use for many short distance journeys. In terms of the comments highlighted, whilst recognising the issues raised he felt that a majority of local residents understood the issues faced and would be supportive of the approach and measures being taken by the Council to tackle the climate emergency and encourage walking,

cycling and the use of public transport as alternative modes of travel across borough.

Councillor Hassan encouraged the Council to ensure that there was appropriate consultation going forward to ensure that the measures remained in the public interest. Highlighting her support for the proposed amendment and work of the Lead Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning in response to the concerns raised, she felt it was also important to recognise the outcome of the research undertaken in relation to the implementation of low traffic neighbourhoods, and the positive impact these schemes had achieved elsewhere. Councillor Hasan was therefore keen to support the Council in taking any steps it could to change behaviour and reduce car usage in order to ensure the climate emergency was addressed.

Councillor Georgiou advised that he was also supportive of the need to address the climate emergency, including action to encourage residents to change their travel habits, the promotion of active travel as well as the provision of more affordable access to public transport. He did feel, however, that the issues raised in relation to public consultation and engagement to date were of concern alongside the overall level of communication with local ward councillors as key stakeholders. Given these concerns, Councillor Georgiou took the opportunity to propose that the Council set up a cross-party task group to further scrutinise the schemes and ensure the necessary outreach with local stakeholders.

Councillor Maurice then spoke to highlight what he felt was the anti-motorist nature of low traffic neighbourhoods, which he believed had been imposed on residents without the necessary public consultation. Whilst supporting the need to tackle concerns relating to air quality he suggested that there were more significant causes of air pollution than neighbourhood traffic, such as overpopulation and the increase in delivered goods. As a result, he felt the measures were likely to have the opposite effect to those intended by increasing air pollution on main roads creating additional congestion and the associated danger for pedestrians and cyclists. Pointing out that similar concerns had also been raised in other parts of London leading in some case to schemes being removed, he encouraged the Council to consider taking the same action and postponing the implementation of any further schemes until they had been subject to due consideration and the necessary level of consultation and engagement with key stakeholders.

Councillor Long highlighted the benefits of low traffic neighbourhoods and the issue of tackling rat running in the borough, given the costs of installing the necessary traffic calming measures. She therefore felt there was a need for the Council to continue being brave in tackling climate issues and in demonstrating the benefits of the experimental measures as a means of focussing public consultation.

Councillor Dixon, also speaking in support of the proposed amendment expressed her pride in the Council's response and approach towards tackling the climate emergency, which she felt also honoured the wishes of younger generations across the borough. With regard to public engagement, it was felt that retrospective consultation could be effective with the experimental nature of the trials identified as a means of the Council seeking to identify what would or would not work for residents in each area. She also praised the work of the Lead Member for

Regeneration, Property & Planning in terms of the efforts being made to engage with local residents and other key stakeholders in taking the proposals forward.

As the final speaker in the debate, Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, felt it was important for members to recognise the financial constraints and pressures under which the Council was continuing to operate following a decade of austerity and underfunding by central Government. Thanking those members of the public and other stakeholders for their contributions at the meeting and recognising the efforts of the Lead Member in response to the issues identified, he pointed out that the introduction low traffic neighbourhoods had been designed to reflect Central Government requirements in terms of the process for their implementation and funding being allocated. Despite the pressures and challenges identified, he took the opportunity to highlight how the Council was continuing to deliver to meet the needs and improve the quality of life for local residents of which healthy neighbourhoods were seen as one such example. This was alongside other achievements such as being nominated as Council of the Year and delivering the Borough of Culture. He therefore ended by urging all members to support the proposed amendment to the motion.

As the time available for the debate on the motion had expired, the Mayor thanked all members for their contributions and then moved on to invite Councillors Gill (as mover of the original motion) and Councillor Donnelly-Jackson (as mover of the amendment) to exercise their rights of reply.

As Councillor Gill had no additional comments to make, the Mayor moved straight on to Councillor Donnelly-Jackson who in summing up highlighted what she felt to be the Council's duty to improve the quality of the lives for the residents it served. Commenting on how proud she was of the Council's approach in reacting to the climate emergency, she urged members to support the measures being trialled through healthy neighbourhoods as part of a smart approach to cut air pollution levels in the borough. In recognising the importance of public engagement in this process, she ended by welcoming the ongoing efforts being made by the Lead Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning in this respect and reiterated the need for the measures to be seen as part of an overall approach towards improving the environment for all residents across the borough.

Having thanked Councillor Donnelly-Jackson for her closing remarks, the Mayor advised that he intended to move straight to the vote on the motion starting with the amendment, which had been moved. The amendment, as set out above, was then put to the vote and this was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillors Kansagra, Colwill and Maurice abstained from the above decision advising they were in favour of the original motion.

Following its amendment, the Mayor then moved on to put the substantive motion to the vote and this was declared **CARRIED** as follows.

"That this Council:

- embraces its obligations to ensure that every possible intervention against climate change is considered and explored;

- recognises that air quality in this borough falls well below the standards that should be expected, not least in relation its impact on the physical health and wellbeing of its residents;
- endorses the intention underpinning Brent’s experimental ‘Healthy Neighbourhoods’;
- acknowledges the unorthodox conditions attached to conditional government funding necessitating public consultation and engagement within the six-month period of these low traffic trials and not prior to them as might more commonly be expected;
- welcomes the many lessons that have been, are being, and will continue to be learned throughout this programme with regards to the initiative itself and the manner in which the organisation interacts with the communities it serves;
- highlights the progress already made through planned and promoted public meetings, thanks each and every participant for their invaluable contributions thus far;
- thanks those responsible within the organisation for their efforts to date, and commits itself – in light of the importance of these measures as a first tangible foray against climate change set in the context of the new behaviours and habits that they are designed to encourage – to continue providing comprehensive updates to the appropriate forums and committees, this one included, at the earliest opportunity, covering, but not limited to, the following:
  - Clarity of the rationale for the introduction of these temporary measures in the various areas;
  - Details about how these areas are chosen;
  - How we anticipate that they will impact on the council’s active travel, clean air, and climate change targets;
  - What stakeholder engagement is involved;
  - Comment on how the relative real or perceived pros and cons of these schemes will be weighted and proposed mitigations for addressing concerns of those residents that might feel that others’ ‘gains’ are their ‘losses’;
  - Consideration of the risk that some measures may increase congestion elsewhere and the implications that may have on emissions;
  - An explanation of overall methodology—including ensuring an adequate baseline for evaluating outcomes, including the goal of lower overall traffic how these schemes will be monitored, and how their viability will be assessed”

Once again, Councillors Kansagra, Colwill and Maurice again abstained from the above decision advising they were in support of the original motion.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm

COUNCILLOR ERNEST EZEJUGHI  
Mayor

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**FULL COUNCIL – 23 NOVEMBER 2020**

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS (IF ANY)**

Standing Order 30(g) states that, if necessary, Full Council is required to agree appointments to committees and outside bodies and to agree the appointment or replacement of Chairs and or Vice-Chairs of committees.

Such appointments are set out below:

1. Councillor Mahmood to be replaced as a full member of the Planning Committee by Councillor Kennelly.
2. Councillor Kennelly to be replaced by a vacancy as substitute member of the Planning Committee.
3. Councillor Denselow to be replaced by Councillor Saqib Butt as the Council's nominated representative on the i4B & First Wave Housing Ltd Boards
4. Councillor Lloyd to be replaced by a vacancy as the Council's nominated representative on Chalkhill Community Centre

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## Item 7.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament

### Full Council – 23 November 2020

1. **Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Tom Stephens, Lead Member for Schools, Employment & Skills**

As part of the Council's Stronger Communities strategy, particularly its focus on 'active citizenship and participation,' would the Council consider raising awareness for, and encouraging, secondary schools across the borough to implement student Associate Governor roles into their school governance bodies?

The average age of a school governor/trustee is 55 years old, and so supporting Brent schools to implement youth voice directly into a school governance body will arguably be extremely beneficial to not only the school itself, but also a participating student's skillset and employability.

#### **Response**

Thank you for this question and for the opportunity to restate Brent Council's full commitment to ensuring young people's voices are represented and heard. Brent Council's Constitution enshrines the right of young people to have a voice in the Council's business, as the questions you are asking today demonstrate. The long standing and successful Brent Youth Parliament which you represent is a further articulation of this commitment to youth voice, with Brent being one of the founders of the Youth Parliament movement.

As Cabinet member, I will write to Brent secondary schools to encourage their consideration of student associate member roles into their school governance bodies. As almost all Brent secondary schools are academies, this change would need to be incorporated into the Articles of Association for their Trust. Regulations state all Governors, including Associate Governors, are required to be at least 18 years old. An associate member role has previously been in place in some Brent schools. An associate member brings specific expertise and knowledge to a governing board, and whilst they don't have full governor status with voting rights at full governing board meetings, associate members can participate in board meetings and can be permitted to vote at committee level.

As you rightly recognise in how you have phrased your question, this would be a decision for each individual Trust rather than the council. However as stated above, I would encourage all schools to adopt them, as I recognise the considerable value the role could bring to enriching Brent schools.

**2. Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Eleanor Southwood, Lead Member for Housing & Welfare Reform**

Following Brent Council Cabinet accepting the recommendations of the Brent Poverty Commissions report in September, and the steps outlined within the report for their implementation, can the Lead Member provide an update on what the Council is doing to address the rising poverty rates in Brent and to provide families with support at this difficult time.

**Response:**

I would like to thank the Youth Parliament for raising this issue and giving me the opportunity to explain what the Council is doing to implement the recommendations that the Brent Independent Poverty Commission published in August. As I said at the time, the pandemic has highlighted the impact poverty has in blighting lives and wasting potential and resources, making people more vulnerable to illness. It has also shown how easy it is for events to tip people into poverty. The reality is that ten years of cuts to local services have also left many people struggling to get the support they need. The Commission started work before the pandemic and the issues raised and recommendations made would be urgent at any time, but as the question rightly points out, recent events mean these issues have never been more immediately pressing.

These recent events have underlined how essential local leadership is in facing crises on this scale. The immediate and longer-term impacts of the pandemic and future challenges to the national and local economies just reinforce the importance of the council prioritising actions and resources on those areas that are most important for the people of Brent. Both in meeting the current situation and ensuring the recovery does not leave anyone behind, tackling Poverty is a key priority for the council.

The Independent Poverty Commission based its findings on a comprehensive review of why so many people in Brent live in poverty and what this means to peoples' everyday lives. But it also explained what is being done to tackle the issue and how this can be taken further. What the report said about the often life-changing potential of the things already being done to help people in poverty proved that there are things we can do about it. We particularly asked the Commission to look at what works, what doesn't – and what could be done better, providing us with clear and evidence-based ways forward to improve things.

The Poverty Commission report sets out future actions the Council and its partners can take to make a real difference to peoples' lives, help realise their potential and make Brent an even better place to live. We have taken the report's recommendations to develop the four delivery plans that will be discussed tonight at Full Council. These cover:

- **Housing**
- **Economy and Jobs**
- **Financial Inclusion and Welfare**
- **Overview Recommendations**

We are not starting from scratch; work is already underway in many of these areas. But we also want to plan for future activity, building on progress so far to drive wider and more lasting change. We will use every opportunity to tackle poverty, working with partners across sectors, different teams across the council and our residents, including Brent's young people. Our work will be evidence-based both to guarantee resources are used to maximum effectiveness, and so we can see what works – and stop doing anything that works less well.

But we know the Council can't solve the problem by itself - if the causes of poverty in Brent, its neighbourhoods and communities are to be tackled, we must draw on the knowledge, perspectives, resources and experience of all the individuals and organisations working on these issues (as set out in recommendation F – overview recommendations). To help with this we have brought together a consultative group with representation from councillors and local, regional and community organisations to encourage joint working and help us all learn from each other, making the best use of the links different organisations have with local communities and agreeing practical steps that should be taken to address poverty in Brent. This group will advise on progress, promote joint work and support the council in the successful delivery of the Commission's recommendations. I would welcome the chance to have a conversation with you about how BYP might be involved in this work.

The key actions we will be taking across the other action plans include:

### **Housing**

The Commission identified rocketing housing costs as one of the key factors behind poverty in Brent. To tackle this:

- We are continuing to deliver one of the biggest house building programmes in London.
- The current and draft Local Plan already have a strategic target to secure 50% of new homes as affordable over the plan period.
- We will undertake a review of the Private Rented Sector.
- We are adopting a housing led approach, to tackle single homelessness.

### **Economy and Jobs**

The Commission found that precarious and low-paying jobs meant that too many who are in work are still poor. To tackle this:

- A year-long campaign "Keep Brent Working" has been launched to support residents facing job losses throughout the pandemic.
- Brent Works is also working with employers to recruit 16-24 year olds on Universal Credit on six-month job placements.
- Our Work and Health programme focuses on those who are long term unemployed, creating a support framework to enable them to gain employment.
- A Digital Inclusion package, which includes support for developing digital skills, is in place as part of the Residents' Support Fund.

- Work is currently underway to roll out full fibre connectivity across the council's housing stock and key community spaces.

### **Financial Inclusion and Welfare**

The Commission found that the welfare system too often operates in ways that do not give people a way out of poverty. To tackle this:

- The council introduced a resident support scheme in July 2020 and we recently doubled the amount of money available. Residents can apply for a grant or interest free loan. Applications went live in August 2020 and the scheme will finish by April 2021. The council has received over 2,000 applications.
- The council has funded 2 posts (to 31 March 2021) at Brent Citizens Advice to support action in this area. It has also commissioned Hillingdon Credit Union to deliver the interest free loan element.
- The resident support scheme and the Hubs advisory service ensure that support is targeted where it is needed most. This includes referral to charities and community organisations.
- We are continuing to work with health partners in mitigating the impact of the pandemic including targeted communication working with local community leaders.
- Work is underway in developing a Youth and Community Strategy for Young People.
- Tackling fuel poverty is a key element of our Climate Emergency Strategy.

This is only the start. Poverty is not a new problem for Brent and it is not one we can solve overnight. To make a difference everyone with our Borough's future wellbeing at heart will have to work together, come up with ideas, share resources and learn from one another. The Commission's report shows this can make a real difference and the Council is committed to doing its part.



## Questions from the Opposition and Other Non-Cabinet Members

### Full Council – 23 November 2020

**1. Question from Councillor Trupti Sangani to Councillor Tom Stephens, Lead Member for Schools, Employment & Skills:**

There are over 1.4 million children in England who benefit from a free school meal while in educational settings – over the summer, the Government yielded to pressure from Marcus Rashford, the Labour Party and other campaigners and committed to provide meals over the August break.

Since August, the Government has announced no new actions to eliminate holiday hunger and while the material circumstances haven't changed since summer, the Prime Minister has opted not to support free school meals over the October half-term, nor any forthcoming holiday.

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care outline the extraordinary actions taken by Brent Council to help ensure that no child went hungry over the October half-term, and, to additionally write to the Secretary of State for Education to call upon the Government to take action in advance of avoidable holiday hunger over the Christmas period?

**Response:**

Officers from across the Council worked in a very short time frame to distribute supermarket vouchers to Brent families whose children are eligible for free school meals, to ensure that Brent children had a meal every day throughout the half term. Brent Council acted to put this support in place because schools are not funded to continue to provide meals for eligible children over the half term holiday and this left vulnerable children without a guaranteed meal each day.

Voucher collection was arranged from two sites in Brent: Brent Civic Centre and the Library at Willesden Green. I am grateful to Brent schools for sharing this scheme with eligible parents and I would particularly like to thank officers from Brent Customer Services and Brent School Admissions teams who worked for three days to distribute the vouchers and also 500 lunch packs a day, provided by the Football Association.

Over three days in half term Brent Council distributed 2,531 vouchers and 1500 lunch packs to families.

Following the national campaign by Marcus Rashford, I note the announcements from HM Government last week regarding a new £170m Covid Winter Grant Scheme.

The Winter Grant Scheme is intended to enable LAs to provide support for food and bills to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic. Brent Council is reviewing the announcements to determine the local arrangements. The scheme will cover the period to the end of March 2021, with Local Authorities receiving the funding in December 2020.

**2. Question from Councillor Faduma Hassan to Councillor Eleanor Southwood, Lead Member for Housing & Welfare Reform:**

Since the loss of 72 lives in Grenfell Tower, 176 private blocks with dangerous ACM cladding have been discovered, but only 10 have seen the necessary safety work completed. Through no fault of their own many leaseholders are facing bills of up to £70,000 to pay for the necessary remediation work – and years of disruption.

The scale of this crisis demands a national response, but more than three years on since the fire at Grenfell Tower, thousands of Londoners, including residents in Brent; continue to live in unsafe accommodation.

Will the Cabinet Member for Housing Welfare and Reform lend their support to the ‘End Our Cladding Scandal’ 10-step plan below and highlight the work undertaken by Brent Council to enhance fire safety protections within council homes?

**10 steps to End Our Cladding Scandal;**

1. The government must lead an urgent national effort to remove all dangerous cladding from buildings by June 2022.
2. The Building Safety Fund must cover all buildings, regardless of height, and a range of internal and external fire safety defects, not just cladding.
3. The government should provide the money up front and then seek to recover it from any responsible parties or via a temporary levy on development.
4. Social housing providers must have full and equal access to the fund.
5. The government must compel building owners or managers to be honest with residents about fire safety defects.
6. The government should cover the cost of interim safety measures.
7. The government should act as an insurer of last resort and underwrite insurance where premiums have soared.
8. A fairer, faster process is needed to replace the EWS form and funding is necessary to ensure all buildings requiring a form are surveyed within 12 months.
9. Mental health support must be offered to affected residents.
10. Protecting residents from historic and future costs must be a key commitment of new building safety legislation.

**Response:**

Leaseholders across Brent are being put in an unacceptable position: being expected to foot the bill for hugely expensive fire-related safety works and/or not being clear on how safe their building is and if/when something will be done about it.

In the meantime, many people are unable to sell or remortgage their homes. Earlier this year, the Government extended the use of External Wall Survey Review (EWS1) to buildings of any height, rather than only high-rise blocks. The

forms are required by most mortgage lenders. To make matters worse, there is a shortage of fire engineers to do the surveys and complete the forms, leading to delays and increased uncertainty for leaseholders.

The stress and anxiety that Government failure to take proper action on this cannot be underestimated. I support the 10 steps identified in the 'End Our Cladding Scandal' campaign.

As a landlord, the council takes its responsibility to be open with residents about safety issues seriously and we are continuing to implement works and improvement as quickly and effectively as possible.

We have carried out external wall insulation surveys of 40 Council high-rise blocks that are over 18m high. Issues needing remediation have either been programmed for works or are being investigated further. We have identified potential problems with the external fabric of four First Wave Housing blocks and will carry out intrusive investigations. However our initial findings indicate that remedial action may be necessary and a waking-watch arrangement has been put in place.

With regards to low-rise properties, we are nearing completion of comprehensively upgrading the fire safety of the communal areas of 1100 blocks including the provision of fire doors to resident flat front entrances. The programme will be complete by March 2021.

We have also carried out external wall insulation surveys of 86 privately owned blocks. From the findings it is clear some privately owned blocks are likely to require remediation work and their building owners have been notified of the problems we found. We have also reported our findings to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

**3. Question from Councillor Janice Long to Councillor Shama Tatler, Lead Member for Regeneration, Property and Planning:**

In May 2020 the Government published statutory guidance in response to the Covid-19 pandemic stressing the urgent need to reallocate road space to facilitate safe social distancing and embolden residents to walk and cycle during and after the pandemic.

Similar schemes across London have decreased levels of air pollution and increased the life expectancy of their residents; taking inspiration from these, Brent Council is delivering on its plans to create more Healthy Neighbourhood schemes, to reduce traffic on residential streets and encourage sustainable modes of transport to address our climate change commitments.

In light of a new national lockdown, will the Lead Member for Regeneration, Property and Planning provide an update on the roll-out of the Healthy Neighbourhood's scheme and apprise full Council of the work undertaken to facilitate feedback from residents; bolster communications; and engage local people on the future benefit of these schemes in their areas?

**Response:**

As members will be aware, we have implemented (5) Healthy Neighbourhoods schemes using Experimental Traffic Orders with notification letters sent to residents explaining the aims of the schemes and encouraging the community to provide their comments during the trial period as well as informing that the schemes would be evaluated after six months of implementation. This was necessary to meet TfL and DfT requirements to deliver these schemes quickly and a similar approach has been taken by many other London boroughs.

This is a significant variation of the usual process used by the Council for highway improvement schemes, and unfortunately, while it has always been our intention to engage with the local community, this resulted in some misconceptions that schemes would be made permanent without taking fully into consideration their views. Due to the number of objections that we were receiving, and as we were awaiting guidance from TfL on access for the emergency services, schemes were paused in September.

Further to the Extraordinary meeting of the Full Council on 16<sup>th</sup> October to discuss Healthy Neighbourhood schemes, we have focussed on improving communications and engagement with our communities and a collaborative approach.

A community engagement plan has been drafted which sets out our approach to providing information and regular updates to residents and stakeholders, and listening to their feedback.

The plan includes;

**Web pages** – We have reviewed and will bolster information on the Brent Council website; [www.brent.gov.uk/activetravel](http://www.brent.gov.uk/activetravel) which will be used as a hub for providing up to date information to residents and stakeholder groups. This will be regularly refreshed with new meeting dates, monitoring data and materials.

**Resident updates** - In addition to the formal consultations, hosted on Brent's consultation hub, residents in affected areas will also receive information letters / questionnaires 2, 4, and 6 months after the new measures go in, as well as on their introduction. A Cabinet Member covering letter will also be provided explaining the reasons for the introduction of these schemes, how they support the strategic objectives to respond to climate change, improve air quality and public health. This will allow us to track whether and how resident's views change as the trial progresses, as these schemes often take time to become fully effective (as travel habits adapt).

We will also hold monthly meetings with ward councillors and residents for each area where a scheme has been implemented, throughout the six-month trial period. This shall include socially distanced walkabouts where needed to discuss the scheme operation and suggested improvements. We are also looking at the option of procuring community engagement specialists to support these sessions and to ensure they are useful for residents.

**Information leaflets** - We have produced an information leaflet to be included in the documents sent to residents, which provides further information on the aim of these schemes, how they are beneficial and information on traffic congestion and emergency service access to address concerns.

**Improved signage** - We will improve signage around the closures, including advanced warnings of the closures on approach to the road to reduce the amount of traffic driving up to the barriers and turning, as well as temporary explainer signs to explain the new measures and signposting people to the consultation using a QR code and green 'active travel welcome here' signs on planters.

Officers have recently received feedback from the London Ambulance Service and made amendments to remove lockable bollard closures to two of the schemes:

- (i) PM 26 - Dollis Hill Area; Oxgate Gardens, concerns raised as route used by ambulances travelling to Health Centre – The closures to be implemented without lockable bollards only plastic barriers to be used, CCTV at a later date.
- (ii) PM 32 - South of Princes Avenue Area; Berkley Road and Brampton Road Kingsbury, concerns raised about potential traffic on Kingsbury Road. The closures to be implemented without lockable bollards, when CCTV cameras can be installed.

Officers continue to liaise regularly with the London Ambulance Service, with fortnightly meetings arranged as well as the MPS and Fire Services during the experimental period.

The Healthy Neighbourhoods programme will now resume in two phases:

- (i) For the 5 Healthy Neighbourhoods schemes that have already been implemented, but are not fully operational, we are aiming to send out residents update letters and information leaflets the week commencing the 16<sup>th</sup> November with additional bollards and signs installed the week commencing the 23<sup>rd</sup> November.
- (ii) For the remaining Healthy Neighbourhoods schemes, notification letters and information leaflets are planned for the week commencing the 23<sup>rd</sup> November with implementation the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> December.

It is therefore envisaged that all schemes will be fully operational by Mid-December.

**4. Question from Councillor Michael Maurice to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment:**

Residents of Kingsbury & Queensbury have queried if Brent Council is facing the prospect of having to replace the newly laid slabs on Kingsbury Road, which were laid only just over a year ago, given it appears that the Council will be incurring thousands of pounds costs to repair them. Some have said that the footpaths do not look structurally right and consider that the standard of work carried out by Brent Council's contractor is of a very poor standard.

Residents have also said that the footfall in Kingsbury Road has been considerably reduced over the last 9 months as a result of the lockdowns and residents are not venturing out as much as they would normally have done.

Can the Lead Member for Environment please advise:

1. Why the Council allowed slabs to be replaced with a different grey colour by the bus stop near Roe green?
2. Was the ground properly surveyed before the work was carried out and, if not, why not?
3. Why, just over a year after they were laid, there are hairline cracks already in the new pavements evident on all almost the whole of Kingsbury Road and, if this is as a result of substandard work, whether the contractors will be asked to rectify the base and replace the cracked tiles?
4. If any work required to be carried out will be under warranty and at no cost whatsoever to the Council and, if not, why given the cost to Council Tax payers?

**Response:**

We are aware sections of the paving along Kingsbury High Road have suffered from premature cracking. Initial investigations have indicated the underlying problem to be a number of flawed pallets of paving and the method of construction. The issue only came to light upon substantial completion and we were able to amend the design specification for the last phase of the scheme, which has not suffered defects.

We have engaged specialists to test the material and discussions are ongoing with our contractor and paving manufacturer. We will be pursuing compensation from the paving manufacturer and remedial works to install expansion joints will be required at a number of locations. A trial area has been agreed and work will commence within the next month. The hairline cracks do not at the present time give rise to safety concerns.

With regards to the grey paving slabs by Roe Green, this was gas utility works and a Defect Notice has been issued to replace the standard paving with a material that matches the original.

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 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 23 November 2020
	<b>Report from the Assistant Chief Executive</b>
<b>Chair's Report: Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key Decision
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1: Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Plan
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Strategy and Partnerships 020 8937 1068 james.diamond@brent.gov.uk  Pascoe Sawyers, Head of Strategy and Partnerships, 020 8937 1045 pascoe.sawyers@brent.gov.uk

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To present the 2020/2021 work plan of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to Council and update members on recent meetings and activities.

**2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 To note the report, including the committee's work plan in Appendix 1.

**3.0 Detail**

3.1 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee leads member oversight of Cabinet decision-making, policy development and delivery of strategic priorities across a wide range of corporate services including adult social care, children's

services, education services, housing, culture, and public health. To focus the work of the committee effectively it develops an annual work plan. The work plan, set out in Appendix 1, was developed using a prioritisation process as the statutory guidance for overview and scrutiny advises. As a result, items selected for the new work plan have a focus on strategic priorities set out in the Borough Plan 2019-2023, and the council's Policy Framework.

- 3.2 The annual work plan is also based on the scrutiny committee's role, according to the Council's constitution, of maintaining effective and rigorous examination of Cabinet decisions and proposals and of holding the Cabinet to account. The work plan for the 2020/2021 municipal year has a focus on post-decision scrutiny, or a review of the delivery of outcomes, actions or intended improvements after a decision or new strategy has been agreed. Examples of post-decision scrutiny in the new work plan include the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025, and New Council Homes Development programme, which will be discussed by the scrutiny committee on 19 January 2021.
- 3.3 As part of its remit, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can scrutinise, and make recommendations, to NHS organisations and can review the provision and operation of health services in the borough. At the scrutiny committee meeting on 15 September members reviewed items on the disproportionate impact of Covid 19 on Brent's Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, the response and recovery to the Covid 19 pandemic by the local NHS, and proposals for a single clinical commissioning group for north-west London. The chair of the scrutiny committee was particularly pleased that they were joined by Professor Mala Rao, from Imperial College London, for the discussion on BAME communities and the impact of Covid 19 in Brent. Appendix 1 shows there are other health items scheduled for the work plan such as reports on A&E performance and the quality of primary care on 24 March 2021.
- 3.4 The scrutiny committee was due to hold an additional meeting on 2 November 2020 to establish a task group to review access to primary care and general practice; however, this meeting was postponed after the announcement by the Government of a second lockdown and the task group has been postponed.
- 3.5 The review of specialist services at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre has now restarted. The review of the centre, which is based in the London Borough of Hillingdon, started in 2019 but was paused because of the NHS response to Covid 19. In recent weeks there have been workshops organised for patients and members of the public. Patients are mainly from north-west London, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire, and around four per cent of patients using the centre are from the London Borough of Brent. Councillor Ketan Sheth has met recently with the Head of Engagement and Partnerships at NHS East of England to discuss the review and patient engagement so far. Options setting out proposals for the centre are expected to be published next year.
- 3.6 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is also keeping a watching brief on the proposals for palliative care which will affect residents in Brent, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster. These were reviewed by a special meeting of the scrutiny committee on 3 March. The CCGs published a report

in August setting out the results of its engagement, including workshops with patients and the public and responses by stakeholders. However, the review is now paused because inpatient beds at the Pembridge Unit are being used as part of the local NHS response to Covid 19.

- 3.7 The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for which Councillor Ketan Sheth is Brent's representative, discussed NHS proposals to merge the eight clinical commissioning groups in North West London on 7 September. The CCGs are still expected to merge in April 2021. The next meeting of the joint health scrutiny committee was scheduled for October but was cancelled with the agreement of the chair, who is a member from the London Borough of Hounslow, because of the start of a second wave of Covid 19.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications.

#### **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

- 7.1 Ward members are involved in the scrutiny committee through its meetings and discussion of reports.

**Report sign off:**

**SHAZIA HUSSAIN**  
Assistant Chief Executive

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**APPENDIX 1**

**Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2020-2021**

**21 July 2020**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/Director of Public Health</b>	<b>NHS Organisations</b>	<b>NHS Directors</b>
1. Brent Council and Covid 19: Service Response and Recovery	Council Leader Cllr Muhammed Butt	Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive		

15 September 2020

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Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	NHS Organisations	NHS Directors
1. Covid 19 and Brent NHS Service Response and Recovery**	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adults	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing	Brent Clinical Commissioning Group  London North West Healthcare NHS Trust  Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	Dr MC Patel, Chair Brent CCG Sheik Auladin, Managing Director Brent CCG  Simon Crawford, Deputy Chief Executive  Clare Hook, Director of Operational Performance
2. Covid 19 and Brent's Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Communities**	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health, Culture and Leisure	Dr Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health	Brent Clinical Commissioning Group	Dr MC Patel, Chair Brent CCG Sheik Auladin, Managing Director Brent CCG
3. North West London Single CCG, and Integrated Care System**	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adults	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing	North West London Collaboration of Clinical Commissioning Groups	Lesley Watts, Senior Responsible Officer

\*\* Delegated health scrutiny under part 4 of the Local Authority Regulations 2013

**24 November 2020**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet - Members/Non-executive Member</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health</b>	<b>NHS Organisations</b>	<b>NHS Directors</b>
1. Brent Council's Management of the Impact of Covid 19 on Education and Children's Services	Cllr Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People		
2. Update on Schools and Education, including Action Plan for Raising Achievement of Boys of Black Caribbean Heritage	Cllr Tom Stephens, Lead Member for Schools, Employment and Skills	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People		
3. Brent Youth Offending Service Post Inspection Action Plan Implementation	Cllr Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People		
4. Contextual Safeguarding Update	Cllr Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People		

19 January 2021

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members/Non-Executive Member</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health</b>	<b>NHS Organisations*</b>	<b>NHS Directors*</b>
1. Brent New Council Homes Development Programme	Cllr Eleanor Southwood, Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing		
2. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025	Cllr Eleanor Southwood, Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing		
3. Delivery of Affordable Housing by i4B	Cllr Margaret McLennan, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources	Peter Gadsdon, Strategic Director of Customer and Digital Services		

24 March 2021

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	NHS Organisations	NHS Directors
1. A&E Performance at Northwick Park Hospital and St Mary's Hospital**	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adults	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing	London North West Healthcare NHS Trust  Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	Simon Crawford, Deputy Chief Executive  Clare Hook, Director of Operational Performance
2. Primary Care and GP Services and Care Quality Commission Ratings**	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adults	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing	Brent Clinical Commissioning Group	Dr MC Patel, Chair Brent CCG Sheik Auladin, Managing Director Brent CCG

\*\* Delegated health scrutiny under part 4 of the Local Authority Regulations 2013

**29 April 2021**

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	NHS Organisations	NHS Directors
1. Update on New Accommodation for Independent Living (NAIL)	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adults	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing		
2. Recommendations from Safeguarding Adult Review Adult E	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adults	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing		
3. Verbal update on day care centres	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adults	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing		

	<p align="center"><b>Full Council</b> 23 November 2020</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Report from the Assistant Chief Executive</b></p>
<p><b>Chair's Report: Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee</b></p>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b>	Open
<b>Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1: Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Annual Work Programme 2020-2021
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Michael Carr - Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer Tel: 020 8937 2855 Email: <a href="mailto:michael.carr@brent.gov.uk">michael.carr@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At each meeting of Council, the Chairs of Scrutiny Committees may submit written reports on any matter in respect of which the committees have been consulted or which it has been reviewing and to speak to highlight significant issues to Council, in accordance with Part 2, paragraph 36 of the Brent Council Constitution.
- 1.2 This report provides a brief complementary summary of the activities of Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

## 2 Recommendation

That the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee be noted.

### 3 Detail

- 3.1. Brent Council has two scrutiny committees; the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The Council is also a party to the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2. Brent Council Standing Orders allow for the chairs of the scrutiny committees to report to ordinary council meetings on the activities of their committees<sup>1</sup>.

#### The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

- 3.3. The remit of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny committees. The remit of the committee is:

*Corporate policy, partnerships and resources; Budget; customer services; commercial services; planning policy; environmental policy; public realm; employment and skills; IT; recycling; regeneration; transport and highways; community safety; property; emergency planning and business continuity.*

- 3.4. The committee is also the Council's statutory Crime and Disorder Committee and as such may review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Safer Brent Partnership.
- 3.5. The committee has continued to meet since March in a virtual online setting during 2020, with meetings on Tuesday 14 July 2020, Wednesday 23 September 2020 and Thursday 1 October 2020. The committee also received informal briefings on the financial impact of the COVID19 epidemic and an informal Joint Scrutiny Briefing Meeting on 18 August 2020 on the report of the Poverty Commission.
- 3.6. At its meeting on Tuesday 14 July 2020 the committee considered items on the Public Realm in Brent, the Brent Economy and Social Welfare in Brent in the light of the COVID19 epidemic, including, specifically, the proposals to introduce the two new support funds using the surplus money from the Council Tax: COVID-19 Hardship Fund 2020-21.
- 3.7. The committee heard evidence from Councillor Shama Tatler – Lead Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning and the Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment on the Public Realm and the Brent Economy and from Councillor Eleanor Southwood - Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform, the Strategic Director Customer and Digital Services and the Head of Customer Access on Social Welfare.
- 3.8. In its consideration of *The Public Realm in Brent*, the committee received a detailed report and oral evidence from Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment and Councillor Shama Tatler – Lead Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning and lead officers within the Environment Services, Regeneration and Environment department.

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<sup>1</sup> Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.

<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s98196/part%20%20May%202020%20Procedural%20Rules.pdf>

3.9. At the end of its consideration of this issue, the committee made five recommendations to Cabinet, set out at paragraph 5.3 of the officer report, all of these on Brent's transport strategy. These are:

1. *That the new parking strategy ensure that it is always cheaper to park a bike than park a car in Brent, and ensure that the cheapest resident parking permit is more expensive than using a bike hangar.*
2. *That 20mph be adopted as the default speed on Brent roads, subject to an environmental audit, and that a timetable be drawn up for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit across the borough.*
3. *That unspent balances in the capital budget be reinvested in active travel.*
4. *That any future transport strategies and plans include clear measurements and modelling for active transport and the impact on air quality.*
5. *That low traffic streets be rebranded in a way that is clearer for the public, for example 'Healthy Streets' or 'Peaceful Streets'.*

3.10. At its meeting on 12 October 2020 Cabinet agreed that consideration be given to raising the lowest parking permit price to the equivalent of the starting price for using a cycle hanger and to introducing 20mph as the default speed on Brent roads to an extent that reasonably accounts for the feasibility, the cost, the value, the actual impact on traffic and speeding at any given location, and the capacity of the department to deliver this policy. Also, to give consideration, when reviewing and updating the Long Term and to brand the Council's low traffic streets policy 'Healthy Neighbourhoods'. The committee's recommendation that unspent balances in the capital budget be reinvested in active travel was however rejected as it was not envisaged that there will be any unspent capital budgets available.

3.11. In its consideration of *The Local Economy*, the committee received a detailed report and oral evidence from Councillor Shama Tatler - Lead Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning and lead officers within the Regeneration and Environment department.

3.12. At the end of the consideration of the issue, the committee recommend to Cabinet:

*That the Lead Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning work with the West London Prosperity Board to set up a jobs summit with large local employers (regardless of sector) to look at ways the public and private sectors can work together to support local employment.*

At its meeting on 12 October 2020 Cabinet agreed this recommendation.

3.13. The committee's consideration of the social welfare implications of the public health crisis, included;- Council Tax collection and recovery of Council Tax debt, access to housing benefit and Universal Credit, debt collection, enforcement action and deferred payment agreements during the COVID-19 period, the Council Tax Support scheme, signing people to third party support and Government Support Schemes. The committee considered two specific proposals- a proposed grant fund to be administered by the Council; and a proposed interest free loan to be administered by a Credit Union.

- 3.14. At the end its consideration of this issue, the committee fully supported the use of the funds to support these programmes and made the following recommendations to Cabinet:
1. That the COVID-19 Interest Free Loans Eligibility Criteria to include debt as part of the criteria.
  2. That the department organise a member development session to brief elected members of the Council on the new support funds and when it may be appropriate to refer people to them.
  3. That the department use the information it has available on vulnerable local people to proactively contact them to advise of the support on offer, and accompany this with a media campaign through social media and traditional media.
  4. That the department conduct a review of its debt collection processes in the light of the COVID-19 crisis, to ensure that the circumstances of vulnerable people adversely affected by the epidemic will be taken into account.
- 3.15. At its meeting on 20 July 2020, the Cabinet agreed to support and approve the recommendations made as part of the development and implementation of the new support funds:
- 3.16. On 17 August 2020 Cabinet resolved to approve the Executive Response to the recommendations made by the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee on 12 March 2020 relating to the Council's Parks Strategy, but noted that consideration of the provision to allow use of BBQs in designated areas would require further review, in terms of the options available to manage any change as part of the ongoing development of the strategy.
- 3.17. On 18 August 2020, there was an Informal Joint Scrutiny Briefing Meeting on the Brent Poverty Commission report and recommendations, ahead of it being received by Cabinet. Cabinet received comments of the Joint Scrutiny Briefing on 7 September 2020.
- 3.18. On Wednesday 23 September 2020 the committee was convened to consider an executive key decision that had been called in for review by the scrutiny committee, which was a decision made by the Operational Director – Property & Assets on behalf of the Strategic Director – Regeneration & Environment in respect of the award of a contract for enabling works at Stonebridge Annexe.
- 3.19. The committee heard evidence from the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader, the Lead Member for Schools, Employment and Skills, the Lead Member for Regeneration, Property and Planning, the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment and the Operational Director Property and Assets. The committee also heard from members of the Council who had called in the decision and members of the public that had requested to speak.
- 3.20. The committee heard that the Council was required to carry out bats surveys on the site before budding works could begin, it also heard, however, that the award of the contract would not go ahead until the necessary planning processes had been completed and that the bats survey was entirely a matter related to Moorland Gardens

planning decision and that the timing of the survey had, in fact, no bearing to the decision to let the contract.

- 3.21. Given the assurances that the committee had received that the appropriate required bats surveys would be carried out on the site and that the necessary directions under the Moorlands Garden planning decision were being sought from the Mayor of London (GLA); and that the alternative course of action was agreed, it was agreed that the committee did not wish to refer the matter back to the decision maker, so that the decision could be deemed to be confirmed and take effect immediately.
- 3.22. At its meeting on Thursday 1 October 2020 the committee reviewed the delivery of Brent Council Priorities and Council Strategies, the Brent Council Procurement Strategy, reviewed Brent Council budget performance and financial position and agreed a scrutiny report on Violence Against Women.
- 3.23. The review of delivery of Brent Council Priorities and Council Strategies included an overview of the Brent Council policies and strategies, a review of the implementation of the Borough Plan (at year one), and a performance summary report, with oral evidence from Councillor Muhammed Butt- Leader of the Council, Councillor Margaret McLennan – Lead Member for Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council, the Head of Strategy & Partnerships and Corporate Performance Team Leader.
- 3.24. The review of the Brent Council Procurement Strategy considered the Council's Procurement Strategy 2020-2023, including consideration of its alignment with the remaining term of the Borough Plan 2019 – 2023, as well as with recent significant events relating to the impact of COVID19 on the local economy and supplier base and the Black Lives Matter movement and how the Council should support these, alongside the Council's key priorities. The committee received a detailed officer report and oral evidence from Councillor Margaret McLennan – Lead Member for Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council, the Strategic Director Customer and Digital Services and the Head of Procurement.
- 3.25. The committee gave specific consideration in questioning and debate to the issue of the Council's Modern Slavery and Fair the Trade policies and how these are taken into account through procurement strategies and practices. It also considered how the procurement strategy affects on the local economy and upon the opportunities for smaller business providers.
- 3.26. At the end of the consideration of this issue, the committee recommended to Cabinet:
  - i). That the Council policy on Modern Slavery be published on the Council website.
  - ii). That the Brent Council Procurement Strategy include how fair trade is to be delivered.
  - iii). To consider how Council contracts may be made available to smaller company providers.
- 3.27. Cabinet on 12 October 2020 noted the intention to incorporate the recommendations made by the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee when considering the strategy.

- 3.28. The committee's review of Brent Council budget performance and budget position included a report from the Director of Finance setting out the financial position of the Council, financial forecasts for the following year and the possible expenditure priorities of the executive, financial overrun performance, and other key financial data, as well as a review of the implementation of the 2020 Budget Scrutiny recommendations, as agreed by the Cabinet in 2020. The committee received oral evidence from Councillor Margaret McLennan – Lead Member for Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance.
- 3.29. The committee also agreed a Violence Against Women Scrutiny report and recommendations, following an in-depth scrutiny task group inquiry. The scrutiny report and recommendations will be considered by the Cabinet on 7 December 2020, when it is anticipated that the Cabinet will agree an Executive Response and make decisions in respect of the scrutiny recommendations.
- 3.30. The next meeting of the committee is on Tuesday 1 December 2020, when it is anticipated that the committee will consider proposals for the climate emergency, including the draft Climate Emergency Plan, the impact of COVID19 on employment in Brent, the Brent Poverty Commission Delivery Plan and appoint a Budget Scrutiny Task Group to consider the Draft Budget proposals for 2020/21 – 2022/23.

#### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications.

#### **7 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

- 7.1 The Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee has been consulted. Councillors will also discuss this report at the Council meeting.

**Report sign off:**

**SHAZIA HUSSAIN**  
Assistant Chief Executive

## Appendix 1 - Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2020-2021

Tuesday 14 July 2020

Report	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External Participants
Public Realm – changes to highways etc	Cllr Shama Tatler - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning	Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment	
Brent Economy – Business support, high streets, employment .	Cllr Shama Tatler - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning	Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment	
Social Welfare – universal credit, council tax support and benefits	Cllr Eleanor Southwood - Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare reform	Peter Gadsdon – Strategic Director of Customer and Digital Services	

**18 August 2020 (Informal Joint Scrutiny Briefing Meeting)**

<b>Report</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/s</b>	<b>Strategic Director/s</b>	<b>External Participants</b>
The Poverty Commission Report	Cllr Eleanor Southwood, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform		Lord Richard Best – Chair of the Brent' Poverty Commission

Thursday 1 October 2020

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Report	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External
<p><b>Building a Better Brent (Part 1)</b> A review of delivery of Brent Council Priorities and Council Strategies.</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent Council polices and strategies – information report</li> <li>• Borough Plan - Review of year one</li> <li>• Borough plan delivery plan – July 2020 (Building a Better Brent – Review of Year 1)</li> <li>• Brent 2020 and Borough Plan Performance Summary – each quarter, Quarters 1/2/3/4</li> <li>• Q4 Performance Report 2019/20.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt- Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Shazia Hussain – Assistant Chief Executive</p>	
<p><b>Brent Council Procurement Strategy</b> A review of the Brent Council Procurement Strategy</p>	<p>Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Peter Gadsdon - Strategic Director Customer and Digital Services</p>	
<p><b>Budget Scrutiny (Part 1)</b> To review Brent Council budget performance and draft budget proposals.</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report from the Director of Finance setting out the financial position of the Council, financial forecasts for the following year and the possible expenditure priorities of the executive.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Minesh Patel – Director of Finance</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarter 1 Financial Report 2020/21 - A report to set out the current forecast of income and expenditure against the revenue budget for 2020/21 and other key financial data.</li> <li>• A review of the implementation of the 2020 Budget Scrutiny recommendations (as agreed by the Council/Executive).</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Violence Against Women Scrutiny (Task Group) Report</b> To agree a report for referral to Cabinet on Violence Against Women.</p>	<p>Cllr Promise Knight – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement</p>	<p>Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration &amp; Environment</p>	

Tuesday 1 December 2020

Report	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External
<p><b>The Climate Emergency</b> To review the proposals for the climate emergency, including the draft Climate Emergency Plan.</p>	<p>Cllr Krupa Sheth - Cabinet Member for Environment</p>	<p>Shazia Hussain – Assistant Chief Executive</p> <p>Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration &amp; Environment</p>	
<p><b>Employment and COVID19 Epidemic in Brent</b> To consider the impact of the COVID19 on employment in Brent, including the furlough scheme, unemployment benefits and the support for the self employed and small businesses and recovery programme..</p>	<p>Cllr Shama Tatler - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property &amp; Planning</p>	<p>Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration &amp; Environment</p>	
<p><b>Stonebridge Annexe Refurbishment</b> An information report on the proposals to delegate authority to award a contract for the Stonebridge Annexe Refurbishment.</p>	<p>Cllr Shama Tatler - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property &amp; Planning</p>	<p>Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration &amp; Environment</p>	
<p><b>The Brent Poverty Commission Delivery Plan</b> To review the Brent Poverty Commission Delivery Plan.</p>	<p>Cllr Mclennan - Deputy Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Shazia Hussain – Assistant Chief Executive</p>	
<p><b>Budget Scrutiny (Part 2)</b> To review Brent Council budget performance and draft budget proposals – to appoint a Budget Scrutiny Task Group</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p>	<p>Cllr Mclennan - Deputy Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Minesh Patel – Director of Finance</p>	

Draft Budget 2020/21 – 2022/23 and medium term financial outlook.			
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Wednesday 27 January 2021

Report	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External
<p><b>Budget Scrutiny (Part 3)</b> To review Brent Council budget performance and draft budget proposals.</p> <p>To agree a Budget Scrutiny Report (findings of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group).</p>	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt- Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Mclennan - Deputy Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Minesh Patel - Director of Finance</p>	
<p><b>Customer Services and Complaints</b></p> <p><i>Including:</i> <b>Complaints:- Annual Report 2019 – 2020</b> A review of the Council's Annual Complaints Report.</p> <p><b>Digital Customer Services</b> A review of digital online customer services in consideration of the Covid 19 epidemic.</p>	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt- Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Mclennan - Deputy Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Peter Gadsdon - Strategic Director Customer and Digital Services.</p>	
<p><b>Fly Tipping in Brent</b> To agree the membership and terms of reference for a scrutiny task group to consider the issue of Fly tipping and the associated Veolia contract.</p>			

Wednesday 14 April 2021

Report	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External
<p><b>Building a Better Brent (Part 2)</b> A review of delivery of Brent Council Priorities and Council Strategies.</p> <p><i>Including:</i> <b>The Borough Plan</b> <b>Q1 Performance Report 2020/21</b> <b>Brent Transport Strategy</b> <i>A review of Brent Transportation Strategy including Active Travel and a review of transport and highways contracts, (as part of a pre-scrutiny item).</i> <b>Brent Council Social Value Policy</b> <i>A review of the Brent Council Social Value Policy.</i></p>	<p>Cllr Mclennan - Deputy Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property &amp; Planning</p>	<p>Shazia Hussain – Assistant Chief Executive</p> <p>Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration &amp; Environment</p>	<p>Representative of Transport for London</p>
<p><b>Review of the implementation of the Air Quality Scrutiny Report and recommendations.</b></p>	<p>Cllr Krupa Sheth - Cabinet Member for Environment to respond</p>	<p>Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration &amp; Environment</p>	<p>Representative of Clean Air for Brent Representative of Transport for London</p>

Monday 10 May 2021

Report	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External
<p><b>Brent Community and Voluntary Sector</b> A review of Brent Council's Brent Community and Voluntary Sector partnerships.</p> <p><i>Including:</i> Neighbourhoods and communities, (including the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Fund).</p> <p>Brent Stronger Communities Strategy 2019-2023</p>	<p>Cllr Promise Knight – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement</p>	<p>Shazia Hussain – Assistant Chief Executive</p> <p>Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration &amp; Environment</p>	<p>{representatives of community organisations}</p>
<p><b>Black Community Action Plan</b> To review the progress across themes 1-10 in the Brent Black Community Action Plan (BCAP).</p>	<p>Cllr Mclennan - Deputy Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Promise Knight – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement</p>	<p>Shazia Hussain – Assistant Chief Executive</p> <p>Pascoe Sawyers - Head of Strategy &amp; Partnerships</p>	<p>{representatives of community organisations}</p>
<p><b>The Safer Brent Partnership</b> A review of the Safer Brent Partnership priorities, performance and Strategic Assessment.</p> <p>Community and policing relationships, including BAME communities</p>	<p>Cllr Promise Knight – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement</p>	<p>Carolyn Downs - Chief Executive Brent Council – Chair of the Safer Brent Partnership</p> <p>Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration &amp; Environment</p> <p>Colin Wilderspin – Community Safety Manager</p>	<p>{representatives of community organisations MET Police}</p>

<p><b>Review of the implementation of the Knife Crime Scrutiny Report and recommendations</b></p>	<p>Cllr Promise Knight – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement</p>	<p>Carolyn Downs - Chief Executive Brent Council – Chair of the Safer Brent Partnership</p> <p>Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration &amp; Environment</p> <p>Colin Wilderspin – Community Safety Manager</p>	<p>{representatives of community organisations MET Police}</p>
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 <p><b>Brent</b></p>	<p><b>Full Council</b> 23 November 2020</p> <hr/> <p><b>Report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit &amp; Investigations</b></p>
<p><b>Update Report from the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee</b></p>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Debra Norman, Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations Tel:020 8937 1578 Email: <a href="mailto:debra.norman@brent.gov.uk">debra.norman@brent.gov.uk</a>

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Council’s Audit and Standards Advisory Committee (ASAC) since the last update provided on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The ASAC is responsible for considering and advising the relevant council bodies on various governance matters relating to audit activity, the council’s regulatory framework, and members’ standards of conduct.
  
- 1.2 The report also summarises the activities of the Audit and Standards Committee which is responsible for various governance matters including reviewing and approving the Annual Statement of Accounts, adopting the council’s Annual Governance Statement and promoting high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 Council is asked to note the contents of the report.

**3. Detail**

- 3.1 The ASAC has met twice in this period

## **Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – 29 July 2020**

### **3.2 Complaints (Members Code of Conduct and Complaints)**

This report informed Members of (a) recent complaints concerning breaches of the Member's Code of Conduct and in particular, the complaint upheld against Councillor Aslam Choudry; and (b) an update on the LGA draft Model Code of Conduct.

### **3.3 Lessons Learnt from COVID19 Response**

This report brought to the attention of the Committee the response activity undertaken by the Council during the response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as some of the lessons and learning as a consequence.

### **3.4 Emergency Planning Response to COVID19**

This report provided an update on the urgent decisions made since the last meeting.

### **3.5 Update on Final Statement of Accounts**

This report provided an update on the progress made to date on the audit of the Council's 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.

### **3.6 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019/20**

This report updated members on Treasury Management activity and confirmed that the Council had complied with its Prudential Indicators.

### **3.7 Internal Audit Annual Report**

This report included an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal controls and presents a summary of the Internal Audit work undertaken during the year.

### **3.8 Counter Fraud Annual Report**

The report set out a summary of the counter fraud activity for 2019/20 and the impact that COVID-19 arrangements have had on the service.

### **3.9 External Audit Progress Report and Sector Update**

The Committee received an update from the External Auditors on progress in delivering their responsibilities to the Council along with a summary of emerging national issues and developments.

## **Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – 8 September 2020**

### **3.10 Complaints and Code of Conduct**

The report provided an annual review of the Members' Code of Conduct Complaints procedure and an update on the Local Government Association (LGA) draft Member Code of Conduct consultation.

3.11 Standards Report (including gifts and hospitality)

This report provided an update on gifts and hospitality registered by members, and the attendance record for members in relation to mandatory training sessions.

3.12 I4B and Firstwave Housing Accounts and Audit Report

This report detailed the i4B and Firstwave Housing accounts and audits.

3.13 Statement of Accounts 2019/20 and External Auditors Report

This report sought approval to the Council's annual statement of accounts, as well as highlighted the key issues raised by the Council's external auditors.

3.14 External Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

The Committee received an update from the External Auditors on progress in delivering their responsibilities to the Council along with a summary of emerging national issues and developments.

**Forward Plan Items**

3.15 Listed below are the reports that are due to be presented to the next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020:

1. Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Reports;
2. External Audit progress report;
3. External Auditor Annual Audit Letter;
4. Treasury Management Mid-term Report;
5. To review performance and management of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd;
6. Strategic Risk Register Update;
7. Review of the Committee's Forward Plan; and
8. Standards Report (including gifts & hospitality).

**Report sign off:**

**DEBRA NORMAN**

Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations

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**Full Council – 23 November 2020**

**Motion for Non Cabinet Member debate**

**Forward Together: Brent's commitment to tackle racial inequalities**

**The Council Notes:**

- 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.
- Brent has the seventh highest Black community in London by numbers; with generations of unique stories of trial and unsung achievements.
- 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.
- 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, campaigning for change – are being killed by security forces.
- 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.
- 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.
- The welcome commitment to embed equality and diversity in all the activities the council undertakes through the ten point Brent Black Community Action Plan.

**This Council believes:**

- That Black Lives Matter.
- That George Floyd's murder must be a catalyst for permanent change both at home and overseas.
- That no institution can absolve itself of the responsibility to do more to tackle racial inequalities.
- That there is no place for racism, anti-Semitism, islamophobia or any form of xenophobia or bigotry anywhere in our democracy.
- That language is a powerful tool for inspiration and change, as well as oppression and ignorance and must be used wisely and respectfully.
- 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.

**This Council Resolves:**

- To show continued leadership in the campaign to rid our city and world of racism.

- To continue working to achieve the ten point Brent Black Community Action Plan, 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.
- 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.
- To continually seek the views of our diverse communities across Brent on the issues arising from the Black Lives Matter protests.
- 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:
  - (i) Public Health England report into the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on our BAME communities;
  - (ii) The Lammy report
  - (iii) The Angiolini review
  - (iv) The Home Office Windrush review
  - (v) McGregor-Smith review

Councillor Ahmad Shahzad OBE  
Mapesbury Ward

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 23 November 2020
	<b>Report from the Assistant Chief Executive</b>
<b>A Fairer Future Ending Poverty in Brent - Delivery Plans</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Four Appendix 1: Delivery Plan Workstream One – Housing Appendix 2: Delivery Plan Workstream Two – Economy and Jobs Appendix 3: Delivery Plan Workstream Three – Financial Inclusion and Welfare Appendix : Delivery Plan Workstream Four – Overview Recommendations
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Shazia Hussain – Assistant Chief Executive 07436 702383 <a href="mailto:Shazia.hussain@brent.gov.uk">Shazia.hussain@brent.gov.uk</a>  Jackie Barry-Purssell – Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer 020 8937 1958 <a href="mailto:Jacqueline.barry-purssell@brent.gov.uk">Jacqueline.barry-purssell@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Brent’s Poverty Commission’s final report was presented to Cabinet on 7 September. This report presents to Full Council the delivery plans to take forward implementation of the Poverty Commission recommendations.

## 2.0 Recommendations

Council is asked:

- 2.1 To note and endorse the delivery plans attached as Appendices 1-4.
- 2.2 To refer the delivery plans to Cabinet for approval.

### 3.0 Detail

3.1 Brent's Poverty Commission was established in January 2020. The Poverty Commission was commissioned by the Council's Cabinet member for Housing and Welfare Reform, Cllr Eleanor Southwood. It was independently chaired by Lord Best OBE.

3.2 The Commission included local, regional and national stakeholders and experts in their fields. Although established by the Council, the Commission itself was fully independent and non-party political. The work of the Chair and Commissioners focused on four work streams, tackling financial exclusion, housing, economy and jobs and local welfare. The Commission found that these issues are frequently inter-related and that those in poverty often face challenges across these areas.

3.3 The report and recommendations were presented to Cabinet on 7 September where all of the recommendations were accepted. Cabinet also agreed development of delivery plans for implementation of the recommendations.

3.4 The delivery plans are set out under four workstreams:

- **Workstream One** – Housing (9 Recommendations)
- **Workstream Two** - Economy and Jobs (15 Recommendations)
- **Workstream Three** - Financial Inclusion and Local Welfare (12 Recommendations)
- **Workstream Four** - Overview Recommendations (6 Recommendations)

Each delivery plan details the financial implications, update and key milestones as well as lead directorate for implementation of the recommendations. These have been developed with colleagues across the council. The update/key milestones section outlines progress to date on each recommendation as well as future plans for delivery including timescales.

3.5 As part of the delivery plan process and in response to recommendation F of workstream four (overview recommendations) a consultative group has been brought together with elected members, and both local and regional representatives from community organisations. The composition of the group is:

- Councillor Kabir
- Chris Murray – Young Brent Foundation
- Jacqueline Carr – Citizens Advice Brent
- Atara Fridler – Crisis
- Theresa McGrady – Step Up Hub
- Claudia Sumner – Child Poverty Action Group
- Paul Hunter – Smith Institute
- Greg Beales – Shelter

The consultative group members represent housing, economy and jobs, financial inclusion and welfare – the workstreams of the Commission. It will be essential to confirm the baseline for the key activities and what success looks

like. The consultative group will play a key role in advising on outcome measures in conjunction with the specific service areas.

3.6 If the issues of key importance to addressing poverty in Brent, its neighbourhoods and communities are to be tackled, it will be vital to draw on the knowledge, perspectives, resources and experience of the range of individuals and organisations active in the field to:

- Provide advice in ways that can make a real contribution to addressing poverty.
- Help ensure the voices of those experiencing poverty are heard – in particular, helping the Council use its engagement channels to gain the perspectives of those in poverty or using relevant council services.
- Advise on areas related to the Commission’s findings which are not a specific recommendation such as period poverty.
- Ensure the Council is informed of the latest research and thinking in the field at local, regional and national levels, sharing best practice and commissioning research into issues relevant to poverty in Brent.
- Provide a forum to discuss issues of common concern and a means of raising these with decision-makers in the council and beyond.
- Advise on delivery and progress in delivering the Poverty Commission’s recommendations
- Support the Council’s longer-term commitment to tackling poverty by keeping the Commission’s recommendations under review and adapting or supplementing them in the light of experience.

3.7 The Consultative group seeks to address all of the above (identified in para 3.6) and will meet three times a year, advising on progress, promoting collaboration and supporting the council in the successful delivery of the recommendations. It will oversee all of the workstreams and will provide an update from its meetings to the Chief Executive and Lead Member on a regular basis.

### 3.8 **Working principles for the Group**

It will:

- Encourage joint working across sectoral, organisational and service boundaries to tackle the complex, multi-faceted and inter-related issues in tackling poverty.
- Draw on group members’ engagement channels to supplement the Council’s own outreach by sharing feedback on the “lived experience” of poverty, identify approaches that users find particularly effective (and the opposite) and to identify and illustrate positive changes have been made based on the delivery plan.
- Enable mutual learning, based on effective evaluation.
- Emphasise practical steps that should be taken to address poverty in Brent.

3.9 Following Full Council's endorsement, it is proposed that the plans are referred to Cabinet for approval and monitoring of their implementation by receiving regular updates. The actual implementation of the delivery plans will be undertaken by council officers.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 The financial implications for each of the recommendations is contained within the delivery plan. The majority of actions are able to be contained within current resources. Where additional financial implications are identified, further work will need to be done to consider how to fund these activities.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report at this stage, however, legal advice will be sought in respect of each recommendation contained within the delivery plans.

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

6.1 Brent is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion; the council is determined to be an exemplar of good practice in equality, diversity and human rights and it is our policy to treat everyone fairly and with respect. We aim to ensure that all our current and future residents, staff and stakeholders are treated fairly and receive appropriate, accessible services, and fair and equal opportunities.

6.2 This commitment requires that equality considerations play a key role in our decision-making processes and that our policies are fully compliant with the duties placed on us as a public sector body by the Equality Act 2010. Our Equality Analyses (EAs) ensure that we follow through on our commitment to equality and they provide a method for clearly demonstrating the necessary legal compliance.

6.3 The Equality Act 2010 replaced the pre-existing anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. The legislation covers the exercise of public functions, employment and work, goods and services, premises, associations, transport and education. The act prohibits victimisation and harassment, and all of the following forms of discrimination: direct; indirect; by association; by perception; or discrimination arising from disability. When considering the Public Sector Equality Duty pursuant to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,

6.4 The Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The purpose of the duty is to enquire into whether a proposed

decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision. Due regard is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances.

6.5 The report and delivery plans will support Brent Council to continue to meet its public sector equality duties. Equality Impact Assessments will be completed as projects are progressed. Those already completed will be reviewed as projects move through the implementation stage.

**7.0 Any Other Implications (HR, Property etc. - if necessary)**

7.1 There are no other implications.

**8.0 Proposed Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

8.1 The Lead Member commissioned the work of the Poverty Commission and has been consulted throughout the process including in the development of the delivery plan. Ward Members were part of the Commission and feedback from stakeholders form part of the Commission's findings. Ward Members will be represented on the consultative group (recommendation F – workstream four overview recommendations).

**Report sign off:**

**SHAZIA HUSSAIN**  
Assistant Chief Executive

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Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<p><b>April 2022 (latest)</b> - 1,000 new homes build starts. Examples include in Church End where 99 homes are being built for rent.</p>	
<p>3</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 80</p>	<p>We note that Brent has undertaken a land and asset review to identify opportunities for the council or its social sector partners to provide additional social housing or to use for community or economic betterment. We recommend Brent's land and asset review is used to develop a strategy and plan to allocate and ensure these assets are utilised to assist those in greatest need, e.g. using land currently occupied by redundant garages to build age-friendly homes that will release much needed family accommodation.</p>	<p>As above, new housebuilding opportunities will be factored into the capital programme as the strategy is developed.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> - Already part of the council's approach and proposals. Some redundant garage sites have already been used to develop new homes and others are in the pipeline.</p> <p><b>Position as at October 2020:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On site – former garage/parking spaces – 62.</li> <li>• Feasibility – To be submitted for planning – 493.</li> <li>• With Planning – 21.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Wellbeing</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
4	<p><b>We recommend that in pursuing its strategic target to secure 50% of new homes as affordable, Brent gives special consideration to achieving more social rented homes and considers, when making planning decisions, how new developments can help reduce poverty (including by forging close links for housing with health, education and economic development).</b></p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> - The current and draft Local Plan already have a strategic target to secure 50% of new homes as affordable over the plan period. This part of the recommendation is already in place therefore. Achievement of this target however is dependent on the viability of schemes, as per national planning policy.</p> <p>Creating a Borough with improved health and education for residents is embedded in the draft Local Plan, and economic development outcomes are also considered in planning policy and applications e.g. .securing affordable workspace and employment opportunities secured via S106 obligations.</p> <p>The government has also trialled a series of significant planning reforms including increased freedoms for properties to change uses, particularly to residential. Although the detail has yet to be</p>	<p><b>Regeneration and Environment</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<p>announced, it is likely that reforms will reduce the council's ability to secure affordable housing and other benefits to mitigate the impacts of development or secure other objectives.</p>	
<p>5</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 82</p>	<p>We recommend that Brent uses its company, i4B, to purchase (as well as long term leasing) PRS property on the market, including ex-Right to Buy properties, to replace the requirement for expensive temporary accommodation and to acquire shops suitable for conversion into housing to regenerate high streets.</p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> - The primary purpose of i4B is to deliver the housing options defined in the Temporary Accommodation reform plan. The core business of the company is as a private Sector Landlord accepting homeless nominations from the council. Properties are let with the intention that the tenancy will be the foundation on which customers can improve their quality of life. The aim is that customers enjoy secure, affordable, and well maintained accommodation.</p> <p>The company has also secured 153 homes for key workers, which is an identified gap in the borough.</p> <p>The company has conducted initial appraisals on two regeneration opportunities and provided the</p>	<p><b>Customer Services and Digital</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<p>council with a view of how the Company could help. Opportunities explored include new homes in the Wembley Housing Zone and how Brent High Streets could be strengthened through the provision of new homes.</p> <p><b>November 2020 – March 2021</b> - The company could work with a smaller Registered Provider or developer to capture opportunities to strengthen the Borough’s high streets through selective housing interventions. i4B has contributed to a planning led paper on opportunities to strengthen high streets. Acquiring shops could be an option but needs to be financially viable.</p>	
6	<p><b>We recommend that the council conducts a whole market review of the Private Rented Sector – its scale, quality, rent levels, interactions with the benefits system and partner agencies –</b></p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this project will take 4-6 months overall. Indicative timings are as follows:</p> <p><b>October 2020</b> - Scope discussed and agreed.</p> <p><b>October 2020 – January 2021</b> – Research commissioned and undertaken to focus on key</p>	<p><b>Community Wellbeing</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 84	<p><b>with a focus on tenants' perspectives.</b></p>		<p>areas such as overcrowding as well as highlighting where the council could intervene to drive improvement.</p> <p><b>January – March 2021</b> – Revised approach implemented. The aim is to become more private rented sector “user focused” – looking at the household as a whole.</p> <p>In addition, the council is exploring options for a tenant focused enforcement/support service for private renters.</p>	
7	<p><b>We recommend that, following a PRS review, Brent Council creates and publicises a comprehensive enforcement strategy to raise standards, including for energy efficiency (which addresses fuel poverty) over the years ahead, guided by the recommendations from the</b></p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>March 2021</b> - This work will commence after the PRS review.</p>	<p><b>Community Wellbeing</b></p>



Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 86	<p>We recommend that the actions proposed in the council's review of housing adaptations be implemented as speedily as possible, with particular regard to those with disabilities living in the private rented sector.</p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>June 2018</b> – The review report (Private Housing Assistance Policy) was agreed at Cabinet in June 2018. It focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling people to live healthier lives and reducing health inequalities.</li> <li>• Supporting vulnerable people and families when they need it.</li> </ul> <p><b>June 2018 – present</b> - Policy updated and all recommendations have been implemented.</p>	<p><b>Community Wellbeing</b></p>
<p>10</p>	<p><b>We recommend that the council adopt a housing-led approach to all those presenting as homeless (single homeless people and families experiencing homelessness), including with a Housing First offer where</b></p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p>The council agrees in principle that it should be adopting a housing led approach, to tackle single homelessness, and should be moving away from the large hostel type provision currently being used, toward smaller schemes. However, this will take some time to achieve.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> - In the short term the council has already developed a Housing First Model using Rough</p>	<p><b>Community Wellbeing</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
	<p><b>appropriate as the default response.</b></p>		<p>Sleeper Initiative (RSI) grant to fund a high level of support in 6 council studio flats which, have been ring-fenced for entrenched rough sleepers. The capacity of this scheme is being doubled to 12 units in 2020/21 using RSI year 3 grant.</p> <p><b>August 2020</b> - An application for additional funding, to provide support in a further 6 units (making 18 in total) was included in the councils bid to MHCLG under the Next Steps Accommodation Programme.</p> <p><b>August 2020 onwards</b> - In the medium-term the council is looking into the possibility of buying Livingstone House (one of the 2 large supported housing hostel in Brent) from the owners, Riverside, with a view to decanting the hostel and developing the site for general needs housing. If this happens the current cohort of single homeless people will be moved on into self-contained accommodation, and appropriate support will be provided in their home.</p>	

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Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			which was presented to Cabinet on 12 October 2020. Work in this area is ongoing and reducing poverty will form a key part of implementation of current and future economic development strategies.	
12 Page 90	We are pleased that the council is introducing participatory budgeting and recommend that, with proper representation from those experiencing poverty, this should be treated as a key element of engagement and ownership of decisions at the neighbourhood level.	Within existing resources.	<p><b>November – December 2020</b> – Promotion and piloting of participatory budgeting.</p> <p><b>January – March 2021</b> - Participatory budgeting is formally rolled out.</p>	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>
13	<b>With the likely further decline in retail post-Covid, we recommend the council work with the GLA and central government to regenerate its high streets, support job creation and create affordable workspace,</b>	Initially within the existing budget. Financial implications of any actions would be assessed as plans are developed.	<b>Ongoing</b> – The Affordable Workspace Strategy & Action Plan (AWS) were agreed at Cabinet on 7 September 2020 and are now at implementation stage. The AWS aligns with Inclusive Growth policies	<b>Regeneration and Environment</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 91	<p><b>and places for community hubs, while enhancing the local environment.</b></p>		<p>to develop and support businesses, curate a strategic vision for workspaces and diversify town centres and focuses on 8 key actions for future activity. The council is participating in the High Streets recovery taskforce.</p> <p>Action 3 of the strategy – encourages meanwhile uses to strengthen town centres and high streets. Meanwhile uses can occupy harder to let and vacant units, with lower rents for small businesses, reduced costs for landlords, and day and night time activities to boost local footfall and spend. Examples include Cottrell House and Hackspace in the borough.</p>	

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 92			<p><b>September 2020</b> - The council has also acquired the Picture Palace in Harlesden and the procurement was issued on the 21 September 2020 to find a suitable operator. This was a long standing vacancy in the town centre and can be utilised as an asset to support delivery of social and economic benefits locally. Also in Harlesden, NCIL and Historic England Funding as part of the Harlesden Heritage Impact Zone has been secured to bring a long vacant Bank back into use for the Refugee Support Network.</p>	
14	<p>We recommend the council uses its influence to maximise the help provided by careers services for those moving from school to work, and where</p>	<p>Within the existing budget, with external funding secured where possible.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> - The council provides targeted support for NEET young people 14-19 (school age) and those 'at risk of NEET', delivered by</p>	<p><b>Regeneration and Environment / CYP</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 93	<p>appropriate, the council encourages take up of the government’s “Kickstart Scheme”.</p>		<p>Prospects. Schools also can commission Prospects to deliver a Connexions careers advice and guidance offer to their young people in school.</p> <p>The council uses the National Careers Service (NCS) to support those moving from school to work – this is a universal service but light touch. Brent Works provides 121 support to young people to access jobs and apprenticeships across a number of sectors.</p> <p><b>November – December 2020</b> – new Brent Works website due to be launched which clearly sets out the support available for those moving from school to work alongside its</p>	

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 94			<p>other services. This will include the new Government Kickstart scheme.</p> <p>A year-long campaign “Keep Brent Working” has been launched to support residents facing job losses throughout the pandemic. It includes raising awareness from residents and businesses of the support available through Brent’s council-run and free-to-use job brokerage service Brent Works.</p> <p>The council has adapted its packages of professional support to businesses and offers regular one to one sessions with workers and job seekers in need of support.</p> <p>Brent Works is also working with employers to recruit 16-24 year olds</p>	

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<p>on Universal Credit on six-month job placements.</p> <p>The campaign also highlights the training and support on offer through adult education from Brent Start.</p>	
<p>15</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 95</p>	<p><b>We recommend that the council extends the use of its procurement powers to secure more good quality apprenticeships and social value from council contracts (using the Social Value Act and, where applicable, section 106 agreements), including by making contracts conditional on payment of the London Living Wage (e.g. through the West London Alliance partnership with neighbouring boroughs).</b></p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>October 2020</b> – the council’s procurement strategy (2020-2023) was presented to Cabinet. This includes detailed actions and KPIs. The focus is on securing more good quality apprenticeships and social value.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> - For all contract tenders applicants are asked if they pay the LLW and this is taken into account when reviewing tenders. The council is keen to encourage local and small employers e.g. the homecare</p>	<p><b>Customer and Digital Services</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<p>contract now consists of 5 contracts locally commissioned and delivered.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> - Going forward the council will continue to work with the West London Alliance in procuring services.</p>	
16 Page 96	<p>We strongly support the Brent Black Community Action Plan and we recommend strengthening of the links with CVS and the Young Brent Foundation and others in the voluntary and community sector.</p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>September 2020</b> - The workstreams and actions for the Black Community Action Plan were agreed at Cabinet on 7 September to be delivered over the next 6 months. A project co-ordinator has been recruited. Working with the VCS is a fundamental element of this activity.</p> <p><b>November 2020</b> - A Black Community Action Plan Summit is due to take place in November 2020.</p>	<p><b>Assistant Chief Executive</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
17	<b>We recommend that the council extends its offer, to support those with disabilities into employment and gives more publicity to the work it is doing.</b>	Within the existing Regeneration and Environment budget.	<p><b>From July 2020</b> - The council has achieved level 2 Disability Confident accreditation. As part of this process, an action plan has been developed with a particular focus on supporting those with disabilities into employment. The Employment, Skills and Enterprise team is working with HR to ensure implementation of actions.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> - The Work and Health programme focuses on those who are long term unemployed, which can include residents with learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities, creating a support framework to enable them to gain employment. The West London Alliance has commissioned the Sure Trust to undertake this work working</p>	<b>Regeneration and Environment</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
18 Page 98			<p>alongside Health bodies and the council.</p> <p><b>November 2020 – March 2021 –</b> Working with communications over the next six months the Employment, Skills and Enterprise Team will raise the profile of this work including how to access this offer.</p>	
	<p>We recommend that the delays caused by Covid-19 to Brent's imaginative programme as the London Borough of Culture be used to give extra focus to the opportunities for engaging young people, particularly those from BAME communities, in activities that raise aspirations and improve employment prospects.</p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> - A pioneering online programme has been taking place since lockdown restrictions were introduced in March with events for the community and young people across the borough, including video series, podcasts and a cultural leadership programme.</p> <p>Projects focused on engaging young people include:</p>	<p><b>Community and Wellbeing</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 99			<p><b>The Blueprint Collective.</b> A cultural leadership scheme developed by and with the young people of Brent. The Collective is giving the opportunity for young people to help deliver Brent 2020 and contribute to their community. The work has included Seen and Heard – a campaign created with the London School of Economics, asking for better public spaces for young people in London.</p> <p><b>The VICE Partnership.</b> Across 55 weekly episodes and 3 documentary series, these podcasts are created by and with young people as part of the largest and most ambitious platform for engagement with young people ever undertaken by a London Borough. The podcasts have given a</p>	

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 100			<p>platform for young people to debate the issues that really concern them relating to health, creativity, discrimination, racism, empowerment of women.</p> <p><b>Brent Locked In.</b> A video series made during lockdown, hosted by members of the Blueprint Collective, exploring how Brent heroes and legends had been shaped by the borough and how they are coping in lockdown.</p>	
19	We recommend that the council sets out clearly how it intends to work with the community and voluntary sector in tackling digital exclusion, and how it intends to ensure residents can operate online, including using digital hotspots	Within existing Digital Strategy budget.	<b>Ongoing</b> - Brent's digital strategy 2019-23 sets out the council's ambition to make Brent a digital place through building a borough-wide digital infrastructure providing instantaneous connectivity and developing a training and education	<b>Customer and Digital Services</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 101	created on estates and local safe spaces.		<p>framework that nurtures digital skills and expertise, with clear pathways into high-value contemporary employment. This work is being supported by new initiatives, which respond to the increase need for digital inclusivity in the context of the Pandemic.</p> <p>Work is currently underway to roll out full fibre connectivity across the council's housing stock and key community spaces. Work in this area continues with the VCS, for example – Community Fibre is currently working up digital skills pilots based around the Hubs at South Kilburn and Willesden and the council has secured a full fibre broadband connection for the SUFRA foodbank. The council has also connected other</p>	

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<p>community spaces, such as some tenant meeting rooms on estates.</p> <p><b>May-July 2020</b> - The council has supported the VCS in the provision of laptops during Covid-19. The council's localities work and local data approach will include close working with the VCS.</p> <p><b>September - December 2020</b> - The Digital Transformation team, working with Citizens Online, will be hosting an online event with VCS organisations and Registered Providers to map out current provision across the borough. This will help inform a jointly owned action plan which will strengthen and improve the overall offer. The council will also be piloting digital</p>	

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			champions, first using Brent staff, to receive access to structured training content to enable them to better support residents to do more online.	
20  Page 103	We recommend that Brent goes further in its efforts to encourage fair remuneration for employees by: insisting on contractors requiring their sub-contractors to pay the London Living Wage; for private sector residential and care homes to pay the LLW where the council is paying residents' fees; by considering the designation of specific locations as "Living Wage Places"; and by persuading accredited employers to address the need for flexibility in employment with contracts that guarantee minimum hours.	The budget to fund this commitment has been embedded in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.	<p><b>April 2020</b> - The council's social value and ethical policy agreed in April 2020 sets out standards of integrity and professionalism expected from the council's suppliers in their dealings and practices.</p> <p><b>January – March 2021</b> - Progress will be reported annually to Cabinet in March with an interim report to the Lead Member in January.</p> <p><b>November – January 2021</b> - For "Living Wage Places" – work in this area will need to be progressed using existing business engagement mechanisms. Scoping and terms of</p>	<b>Customer and Digital Services/Assistant Chief Executive /Regeneration and Environment</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
21 Page 104			reference work is planned to be undertaken between now and January 2021. The aim is to set an ambition to be a Living Wage Place, the council can consider how it encourages and/or incentivises (such as the existing Business Rates incentive scheme) organisations paying the living wage.	
	We recommend that Brent Council signs up to the Good Work Standard and uses its convening power to bring together anchor employers to address low paid, low hours employment contracts in Brent and to guarantee improved terms (e.g. a minimum of sixteen hours a week and the right to notice periods of at least four weeks for shifts).	Within existing resources.	<p><b>November 2020</b> – paper completed by officers setting out approach and key milestones.</p> <p><b>December 2020</b> – Implementation timetable agreed.</p>	<b>Regeneration and Environment</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
22	We recommend that the council expands its employment support packages to help tackle low wages and insecure work conditions.	Yes - This will have financial implications and further financial analysis would need to be undertaken. Opportunities to avail of grant funding can also be explored.	<p><b>Ongoing</b> – The Brent Works service is seeking additional investment, including funding via the Youth Futures Foundation to deliver additional support to young people who are disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 economic impacts. Investment in Brent Works is also from Section 106 planning obligations, however, the impacts of the Government’s proposed planning policy reform may impact on this.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> - The West London Alliance are lobbying for additional investment in the Skills Escalator to improve progression in-work for local residents. This is set-out in the WLA Build and Recover Plan 2020.</p>	<b>Regeneration and Environment</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
23 Page 106			<p><b>Ongoing</b> - The council will also continue business development activity to support the sustainability and upscaling of the Moving on Up programme for black young men (funded by Trust for London, City Bridge Trust and NCIL), and the Forward Trust's work with ex-offenders (funded by DWP grant).</p>	
	<p>We recommend that the council explores the opportunities for action to support affordable childcare provision, considering loans or grants to both providers and parents that would enable moves into employment in the aftermath of Covid-19.</p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> - The council is committed to supporting recovery of the early years sector and work is underway in a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Finance to widen the eligibility criteria so that more early years providers could apply for the LA discretionary grant. As a</li> </ul>	<p><b>CYP</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 107			<p>result 60 childcare providers successfully applied for this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring payments to providers of their termly free early education funding has been made in a timely manner, moving payments forward to help with provider cash flow issues. This has already enabled a number of providers to remain sustainable.</li> <li>• Developing and implementing a real time tracking system for monitoring sustainability and sufficiency of childcare provision in the borough to have an overview at ward level and enable early</li> </ul>	

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 108			<p>identification of emerging issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing tailored and bespoke support to early years providers based on individual responses to a provider survey carried out in June/July 2020.</li> <li>• Working with the DfE, LGA, GLA and London Councils through membership of working groups and networks, increasing their understanding of the impact of Covid-19 on Brent early years providers and seeking to ensure that appropriate support is provided for the sector to remain sustainable.</li> </ul>	

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24	We recommend that the council develops a bespoke digital offer and support for those with disabilities so that they can easily access services remotely and gain confidence in areas such as cashless payments, recognising that this could lower spending, enable access to benefits, and applications for support.	Within existing Digital Strategy budget.	<p>A Digital Inclusion package, which includes support for developing digital skills, is in place as part of the Residents' Support Fund.</p> <p><b>October – December 2020</b> - The council has commissioned a report by Citizens Online to provide analysis of the digital inclusion challenges within Brent, in particular the digital skills gap. The review already identified the 'top 3' wards with the highest risk of digital exclusion as being Harlesden, Stonebridge and Dollis Hill. It has also highlighted particular groups of residents who are more likely to be digitally excluded and require tailored support. This report once finalised will be used to scope work on a bespoke digital offer for those</p>	<b>Customer and Digital Services</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			with disabilities. This will feature in the action plan to be developed with VCS organisations.	
25	We recommend that the council uses its influence to encourage businesses to follow the lead of the council and become Disability Confident Employers.	Within existing resources.	This forms part of the action plan for gaining disability confident level 2.  <b>See Rec 17.</b>	<b>Regeneration and Environment</b>



Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<p><b>October – December 2020</b> - The council is reviewing the capacity of the Hubs in light of advice needs.</p>	
<p>27</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 112</p>	<p><b>We recommend that the council clarifies its local welfare assistance scheme with a designated budget, topped up with government funding including from the new hardship fund; providing support in cash rather than in kind; and relaxing the qualifying criteria of the scheme to reach those most affected by coronavirus.</b></p>	<p>Within the existing LWA budget. This has been agreed as part of the Financial Inclusion project.</p>	<p><b>October 2020</b> - The council will start the review of its Local Welfare Assistance scheme.</p> <p><b>February 2021</b>- This review will include the long term plan for the council with the recommendation as part of the budget setting process in February 2021. The recommendations will include new eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Wherever possible payments will be made directly into the relevant accounts where the debt occurred e.g. rent arrears will be paid directly into bank accounts.</p>	<p><b>Customer and Digital Services</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
28	We recommend that the council works with credit unions to provide low-cost loans to cut down dependence on loan sharks and other unscrupulous lenders	Within existing resources. This has been agreed as part of the Financial Inclusion project.	<b>Ongoing</b> – see rec 26	<b>Customer and Digital Services</b>
29	We recommend that programmes such as the Community Money Mentors are rolled out across the Borough.	Yes – funding sources would need to be identified.	Advice4Renters have historically delivered this programme at a cost of £3,000 for a 6 week (virtual) course with 10 participants on each course.  <b>December – January 2021</b> - Work will be undertaken to scope options for future delivery.	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>
30	<b>Although the Commission noted the review of the Council Tax Support scheme 18 months ago, we are concerned a) at the possibility of the arrangements leading to increased arrears as a result of Covid-19 and recommend special consideration be given to improving the</b>	Within existing resources.	<b>Annually</b> - A statutory annual review of the Council Tax Support Scheme will be undertaken.  <b>December 2020</b> – Report to scrutiny on the Council Tax Support Scheme - support, spend and full resident analysis	<b>Customer and Digital Services</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
Page 114	<p><b>treatment of non-dependants; and b) that the council reviews its approach to the outsourced enforcement service for Council Tax debts, and carefully monitors its use of enforcement agents, as well as issuing sanctions if agents do not operate fairly.</b></p>		<p><i>(including the data for non-deps)</i>. Part of this will include the additional £150 given to working age residents who did not receive full council tax support. In some instances this could be because of non-dependent deductions. Like most areas, residents impacted by Covid have a special recovery code in Housing Benefit overpayments and council tax accounts to ensure residents are protected. The council also operates a 13A Council Tax Hardship payment scheme, which residents can apply for through the Resident Support fund.</p> <p><b>Autumn 2020</b> – the council is reviewing contracts with existing enforcement agents and contracting with Newham’s oneSource. Over the next 12 months</p>	

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			respective performance will be closely monitored.	
31	We recommend that the council should also consider whether court orders/liability orders are necessary in all cases of Council Tax arrears and, wherever possible, should exercise greater flexibility regarding payment plans and offers of repayment wherever possible, while discontinuing the practice of requiring immediate payment of a year's Council Tax immediately when arrears are encountered.	Within existing resources – see note above.	<p><b>Ongoing</b> – existing policies are being reviewed ensuring that ethical, supportive collection is front and centre of policy and practice.</p> <p><b>March 2021</b> – Revised policies to Cabinet.</p> <p>Existing council practice is to seek agreement to pay with the customer. The council does not seek a liability order in all cases of council tax arrears, but only for debtors who do not make contact or refuse to agree a payment plan.</p>	<b>Customer and Digital Services</b>
32	We recommend that the council explores a further extension of the Hub model so that advice services are available at venues such as GP surgeries, and family wellbeing centres in order for people to have	Within existing resources. Funding for the Hub model is contained	<b>Ongoing</b> - There are 28 VCS organisations actively working through Hubs. Hubs were already operational in Foodbanks offering advice services (pre-	<b>Customer and Digital Services</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
	<p>their issues addressed in places that they already visit and trust.</p>	<p>within the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p>	<p>Covid) and this will resume. The Hubs are the key contact within the council for referrals to foodbanks as well as providing a holistic assessment.</p> <p>The council is also working with GP Link Workers, for example supporting those with MH problems to tackle debt. The council has developed referral process for Link Workers to refer into Brent Community Hubs.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved pathways for residents between health and council services.</li> <li>• Social prescribing capacity provided to residents accessing community and family hubs.</li> </ul>	

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring opportunities for community led social prescribing in Church End and Alperton.</li> </ul> <p><b>September – December 2020</b> - A review of the Hubs offer is undertaken to consider the future balance of face-to-face and phone services.</p>	
33 Page 117	We commend the work being undertaken by Brent to work with its health partners in mitigating the impact of the current pandemic and recommend continuing partnership in tailoring localised health support to those areas most impacted.	Within existing resources.	<p><b>June 2020 and Ongoing</b> – Early identification and self-isolation of cases of COVID is an important tool in reducing community transmission. The council has negotiated with the Department of Health and Social Care the introduction of local test centres. From 11 November a local test and trace was launched.</p> <p><b>July 2020</b> - The council has developed targeted communications including working with local community leaders to reinforce individual and household risk</p>	<b>Community Wellbeing</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<p>reduction strategies and to reinforce messages on early identification, testing and diagnosis.</p> <p><b>July 2020</b> - An Inequalities Working Subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board and a Strategic Oversight Group has been formed to drive work to reduce health inequalities in the short, medium and long-term.</p> <p><b>September 2020</b> – Initial meetings took place with communities in Alperton and Church End on 8 and 9 September. This engagement continues.</p> <p><b>October – November 2020</b> - Co-ordinators will be recruited to act as a focal point across partners and communities in Church End and Alperton.</p>	

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<p><b>October – March 2021</b> – Regular community meetings.</p> <p><b>October – March 2021</b> – Multidisciplinary health team introduced to “take primary care to the people”.</p>	
<p>34</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 119</p>	<p><b>To help bring together the many strands of council activity concerned with child poverty, we recommend the council considers an overarching strategic objective to address child poverty with measurable outcomes that are regularly monitored, perhaps with a reporting line to Full Council.</b></p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p>All CYP activity works towards improving outcomes including tackling child poverty.</p> <p><b>January 2021</b> - An overarching strategic objective will be considered as part of the borough plan refresh process.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> – Tackling child poverty will also continue to be included in the rolling programmes of strategy refreshes with a requirement to make it explicit.</p>	<p><b>CYP</b></p>
<p>35</p>	<p><b>We recommend that the council brings together a statutory-led “Youth and</b></p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>October – December 2020</b> – Stakeholder engagement workshops.</p>	<p><b>CYP</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
	<p><b>Community Strategy for Young People” in Brent and develops an outreach model with the voluntary and community sector to engage with young people in addressing the impacts of poverty and social exclusion.</b></p>		<p><b>January- March 2021</b> – Development phase.</p> <p><b>March 2021</b> – Strategy agreed by council and community partners. Outreach model to support this in place.</p>	
<p>36</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 120</p>	<p><b>We recommend that the council, as a priority, works with partners to tackle fuel poverty in the Borough, alerting private landlords letting the most energy inefficient homes to the requirement to improve energy standards, using enforcement powers and taking advantage of government vouchers toward the cost, thereby reducing excess winter deaths following Covid-19 and other respiratory illnesses.</b></p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>9 November 2020 – Draft Brent Climate Emergency Strategy 2021-2030 agreed by Cabinet for public consultation</b> - The Strategy recognises that tackling energy inefficiency in homes can also help to reduce fuel poverty and ensure some of our most vulnerable residents are living in warm and comfortable homes.</p> <p><b>Headline vision – Theme 3 – Homes and Buildings</b> – By 2030, as many homes and buildings in the borough as possible will be more energy efficient, be powered by renewable sources and be</p>	<p><b>Assistant Chief Executive/Community Wellbeing /Regeneration and Environment</b></p>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
			<p>resilient to future adverse weather events caused by climate change - and the council will do all in its gift to achieve an average rating of Energy Performance Certificate B in directly owned council stock.</p> <p><b>Warm homes:</b> Ensuring that measures to reduce carbon emissions are affordable for vulnerable and low-income households is a key theme within the “working together” section of the strategy.</p> <p><b>October – March 2021</b> – Tackling fuel poverty will also be taken into account in the review of the Private Rented Sector (see housing workstream).</p>	
37	We recommend that the council supports the future sustainability of food aid agencies in the	Yes - This will have financial implications	<b>January 2021</b> – A paper will be presented to CMT outlining specific	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
	borough including by further developing community garden schemes and working with food banks, mutual aid groups and residents' associations.		proposals, including assessment of the financial implications.	

## Appendix Four - Brent Poverty Commission – Delivery Plan

### Workstream Four – Overview Recommendations

Ref	Recommendation (in bold = priority)	Financial Implications	Update and Key Milestones	Lead Directorate/s
<b>A:</b>  Page 123	<b>The Commission recommends that central government gives renewed consideration to the devolution of powers and resources to local government to support its multiplicity of duties highlighted by the demands – and magnificent response of councils – during and after the Covid -19 crisis.</b>	This applies to central government. However if successful it could involve additional funding for the council. There could be a need to ensure new responsibilities are properly funded.	N/A	N/A
<b>B:</b>	<b>We recommend government looks again at the distribution of resources reflected in its funding for local councils and accepts the need for change to MHCLG’s grant formula.</b>	This applies to central government. It is intended to ensure the council has the funding it needs to discharge its responsibilities given local needs and circumstances.	N/A	N/A

C:	<p><b>We recommend a substantial increase in investment in social housing as a central component for the economic recovery, and the reversal of social injustices, post-Covid.</b></p>	<p>This applies to central government. However if successful it could involve additional funding for the council.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 124</p>	<p><b>We recommend that, as the major employer and the source of so much of the Borough's spending, Brent Council extends its impressive efforts to secure more and better jobs, especially for its younger citizens.</b></p>	<p>Activities to deliver this recommendation are within the existing Regeneration &amp; Environment budget.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> - Work is underway in schools through NEETS provision.</p> <p>Brent Works also seeks to secure more and better jobs especially for young people and links this work with regeneration colleagues and apprenticeships schemes.</p> <p><b>November 2020</b> – The council has successfully applied to the Kickstart scheme to act as an intermediary. The council will work with the employer and employee to secure sustainable employment including for young people.</p>	<p><b>Regeneration and Environment</b></p>

<p><b>E:</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 125</p>	<p><b>We recommend that the council ensures welfare support reaches everyone who needs it by making “every contact count” and referring people to, and supporting the finances of, the charities and community organisations that provide much-needed, expert advice.</b></p>	<p>Activities to deliver this recommendation are within the existing Customer &amp; Digital Services budget.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b> - The resident support scheme and the Hubs advisory service ensure that support is targeted where it is needed most. This includes referral to charities and community organisations.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> - The council works collaboratively with the VCS at both a strategic and thematic group level. The council offers a range of grants to the VCS.</p>	<p><b>Customer and Digital Services /Assistant Chief Executive</b></p>
<p><b>F</b></p>	<p><b>We recommend that Brent Council establishes a consultative group that brings together elected members and officers with community organisations, service users and relevant bodies covering housing, health and education, and working collaboratively a) to agree measurable targets, reflecting the Commission’s conclusions, for reducing poverty over the years ahead; b) to explore and initiate collaborative working to deliver holistic, person-centred services which empower residents and</b></p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>	<p><b>October 2020</b> - Terms of Reference agreed with the Lead Member.</p> <p><b>November 2020</b> – first meeting of the consultative group. This group is advisory and will feed back to the council on a regular basis.</p>	<p><b>Assistant Chief Executive</b></p>

	<b>increase resilience; and c) to monitor progress, reporting back to the council on a periodic basis.</b>			
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 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 23 November 2020
	<b>Report from the Director of Finance</b>
<b>2019/20 Treasury Management Outturn Report</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Open or part/fully exempt:</b>	Open
<b>Appendices:</b>	Three Appendix 1: Debt and Investment Portfolio Appendix 2: Prudential Indicators Appendix 3: Internal Investments: Average Rate vs Credit Risk
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Amanda Healy Senior Finance Analyst <a href="mailto:amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk">amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk</a> Tel: 020 8937 5912

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report updates members on Treasury Management activity and confirms that the Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2019/20.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to note, following its consideration by Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 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).
- 2.2 Council is asked to note that for 2019/20 the Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators which were approved by Full Council on 25 February 2019 as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Capital Strategy Statement.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's treasury management activity is underpinned by the CIPFA Code, which requires authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year.

- 3.2 This report also fulfils the Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the CLG Investment Guidance.
- 3.3 The Council has borrowed money over the long term to support investment in the Council's infrastructure and also invests cash balances held for short periods. It is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are central to the Council's treasury management strategy.

### **Economic Background**

- 3.4 The headline rate of UK Consumer Price Inflation fell to 1.7% y/y in February, below the Bank of England's target of 2%. Labour market data remained positive. The ILO unemployment rate was 3.9% in the three months to January 2020 while the employment rate hit a record high of 76.5%. The average annual growth rate for pay excluding bonuses was 3.1% in January 2020 and the same when bonuses were included, providing some evidence that a shortage of labour had been supporting wages.
- 3.5 GDP growth in Q4 2019 was reported as flat by the Office for National Statistics and service sector growth slowed and production and construction activity contracted on the back of what at the time were concerns over the impact of global trade tensions on economic activity. The annual rate of GDP growth remained below-trend at 1.1%.
- 3.6 COVID-19, which had first appeared in China in December 2019, started spreading across the globe causing plummeting sentiment and falls in financial markets not seen since the Global Financial Crisis as part of a shift to quality into sovereign debt and other perceived 'safe' assets. In response to the spread of the virus and sharp increase in those infected, the government enforced lockdowns, central banks and governments around the world cut interest rates and introduced massive stimulus packages in an attempt to reduce some of the negative economic impact to domestic and global growth.
- 3.7 The Bank of England, which had held policy rates steady at 0.75% through most of 2019/20, moved in March to cut rates to 0.25% from 0.75% and then swiftly thereafter brought them down further to the record low of 0.1%. In conjunction with these cuts, the UK government introduced a number of measures to help businesses and households impacted by a series of ever-tightening social restrictions, culminating in an entire lockdown of the UK.
- 3.8 Financial markets sold off sharply as the impact from the coronavirus worsened. After starting positively in 2020, the FTSE 100 fell over 30% at its worst point with stock markets in other countries seeing similar huge falls. In March sterling touched its lowest level against the dollar since 1985. The measures implemented by central banks and governments helped restore some confidence and financial markets have rebounded in recent weeks but remain extremely volatile. The flight to quality caused gilts yields to fall substantially. The 5-year benchmark falling from 0.75% in April 2019 to 0.26% on 31st March 20. The 10-year benchmark yield fell from 1% to 0.4%, the 20-year benchmark yield from 1.47% to 0.76% over the same period.

- 3.9 After escalating trade wars and a protracted standoff, the signing of Phase 1 of the trade agreement between the US and China in January was initially positive for both economies, but COVID-19 severely impacted production in both countries. Against a slowing economic outlook, the US Federal Reserve began cutting rates in August. Following a series of five cuts, the largest of which were in March 2020, the Fed Funds rate fell from of 2.5% to range of 0% - 0.25%. The US government also unleashed a raft of COVID-19 related measures and support for its economy including a \$2 trillion fiscal stimulus package. With interest rates already on (or below) the floor, the European Central Bank held its base rate at 0% and deposit rate at -0.5%.
- 3.10 In Q4 2019 Fitch affirmed the UK's AA sovereign rating, removed it from Rating Watch Negative (RWN) and assigned a negative outlook. Fitch then affirmed UK banks' long-term ratings, removed the RWN and assigned a stable outlook. Standard & Poor's also affirmed the UK sovereign AA rating and revised the outlook to stable from negative. The Bank of England announced its latest stress tests results for the main seven UK banking groups. All seven passed on both a common equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio and a leverage ratio basis. Under the test scenario the banks' aggregate level of CET1 capital would remain twice their level before the 2008 financial crisis.
- 3.11 Fitch downgraded the UK sovereign rating to AA- in March which was followed by a number of actions on UK and Non-UK banks. This included revising the outlook on all banks on the counterparty list to negative, with the exception of Barclays Bank, Rabobank, Handelsbanken and Nordea Bank which were placed on Rating Watch Negative, as well as cutting Close Brothers long-term rating to A-.

### Local Context

- 3.12 On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, the Authority had borrowing of £396.3m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The table below summarises the Council's borrowing activity during 2019/20. The Council's underlying need to borrow as measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) was £821.8m at 31/03/2020 and had net borrowing of £598.8m.

Table 1: CFR and Borrowing Summary

	Balance on 01/04/2019	Borrowing Repaid	New Borrowing	Balance on 31/03/2020	Average Rate	Average Life
	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	Years
CFR	<b>688.7</b>			<b>821.8</b>		
Short Term Borrowing	<b>0.0</b>	(15.0)	148.0	<b>133.0</b>	0.93%	0.34
Long Term Borrowing	<b>396.3</b>	(10.4)	80.0	<b>465.8</b>	4.34%	33.1
<b>TOTAL BORROWING</b>	<b>396.3</b>	<b>(25.4)</b>	<b>228.0</b>	<b>598.8</b>		

- 3.13 As demonstrated in the September 2019 Cabinet report "Brent Council Borrowing Strategy 2018/19 – 2020/21" the Council has a borrowing requirement during 2019/20. In recent years, the Council's strategy has been to maintain borrowing at

the lowest level possible unless interest rate prospectus presents a clear case for taking long-term borrowing ahead of immediate requirements. However the current interest rate forecasts along with the significant levels of planned and actual capital investment means that this approach was no longer suitable and new borrowing was required.

- 3.14 Throughout the year, the Council worked with specialist Treasury Advisors to find a funding solution in the Private Placement (PP) market to provide a greater diversification of funds and reduce the risk of reliance on the PWLB.
- 3.15 On 9th October 2019 the PWLB raised the cost of certainty rate borrowing by 1% to 1.8% above UK gilt yields as HM Treasury was concerned about the overall level of local authority debt. PWLB borrowing remained available but the margin of 180bp above gilt yields was expensive relative to other options at the time. This allowed institutional investors to be in a better place to provide funding and prevent the full impact of the 1% increase by the PWLB being passed onto Local Authorities.
- 3.16 With short-term interest rates remaining much lower than long-term rates, the Council considered it more cost effective in the near term to utilise short-term loans throughout the year to fund the borrowing requirement and whilst the private placement was arranged.
- 3.17 The Council successfully executed the debut private placement transaction in March 2020. Strong investor demand enabled the transaction size to be increased to £80m at a rate of 65bps below the equivalent loan obtained through the PWLB. The new borrowing was split into two maturity profiles, £40m with a weighted average life of 20 years and £40m with a weighted average life of 25 years. This maturity structure enables the Council to reduce the refinancing risk upon maturity. The Council was open to the opportunity to arrange forward starting loans, which secure the benefits of current low interest rate environment for drawdown at a point in the future however due to the successful progression of the Capital Programme during 2019/20, the Council opted for an immediate drawdown.
- 3.18 The detailed borrowing portfolio for the authority is shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Borrowing Position

	Balance on 01/04/2019	Net Movement	Balance on 31/03/2020	Average Rate	Average Life
	£m	£m	£m	%	(years)
Public Works Loan Board	310.8	(10.4)	300.3	4.89%	30.7
Banks (LOBO)	70.5	0.0	70.5	4.53%	45.7
Banks (fixed-term)	15.0	0.0	15.0	4.27%	38.1
Other (fixed-term)	0.0	80.0	80.0	2.01%	23.5
Local authorities (short-term)	0.0	133.0	133.0	0.93%	0.3
<b>TOTAL BORROWING</b>	<b>396.3</b>	<b>223.4</b>	<b>598.8</b>		

- 3.19 The Authority has £70.5m exposure to LOBO loans - Lender's Option Borrower's Option of which £41m of these can be "called" during 2020/21. Under the LOBO

arrangements lenders can exercise their rights at set times to amend the interest rate on the loan. At that point, the Borrower can accept the revised terms or reject them and repay the loan without penalty. LOBO loans present a potential refinancing risk to the Authority since the decision to call a LOBO is entirely at the lender's discretion. This risk is mitigated by the fact that the Council's current cash holdings mean that any repayment could be accommodated by reducing deposits. It is also unlikely that LOBO loans will be called at the present time due to low interest rates – although this may change in the future if rates rise.

- 3.20 The Chancellor's March 2020 Budget statement included significant proposed changes to Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) policy and launched a wide-ranging consultation on the PWLB's future direction. Announcements included a reduction in the margin on new HRA loans to 0.80% above equivalent gilt yields. As the Council has a HRA the value of this discount is 1% below the rate at which the authority usually borrows from the PWLB. This concession is available from 12th March 2020 along with £1.15bn of additional "infrastructure rate" funding at gilt yields plus 0.60% to support specific local authority infrastructure projects for England, Scotland and Wales for which there is a bidding process.
- 3.21 The consultation titled "Future Lending Terms" represents a frank, open and inclusive invitation, allowing key stakeholders to contribute to developing a system whereby PWLB loans can be made available at improved margins to support qualifying projects. It contains proposals on allowing authorities that are not involved in "debt for yield" activity to borrow at lower rates as well as stopping local authorities using PWLB loans to buy commercial assets primarily for yield without impeding their ability to pursue their core policy objectives of service delivery, housing, and regeneration. The consultation also broaches the possibility of slowing, or stopping, individual authorities from borrowing large sums in specific circumstances.
- 3.22 The consultation closes on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 with implementation of the new lending terms expected in the latter part of this calendar year or financial year beginning 2021/22.

### **Investment Activity**

- 3.23 The Council holds invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the year, the Authority's investment balances ranged between £20m and £130m due to timing differences between income and expenditure.
- 3.24 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. The table below summarizes investment activity during 2019/20.

	Balance on 01/4/2019	Investments made	Investments repaid	Balance on 31/03/2020	Average Rate	Average Life
	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	Days
Fixed term deposits	61.2	5.0	(66.0)	0.2	0.98%	132
Deposits with the DMADF	0.0	235.5	(130.8)	104.7	0.10%	2
Money Market Funds and notice deposits	42.0	764.3	(801.3)	5.0	0.69%	
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>1,004.8</b>	<b>(998.1)</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>0.77%</b>	<b>132</b>

3.25 Security of capital remained the Council's main investment objective. This was maintained by following the Council's counterparty policy as set out in its Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2019/20 which defined "high credit quality organisations" as those having a long-term credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or overseas where the sovereign rating is AA+ or higher.

#### **Credit developments and credit risk management**

3.26 In a relatively short period since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economic fallout was sharp and large. Market reaction was extreme with large falls in equities, corporate bond markets and, to some extent, real estate echoing lockdown-induced paralysis and the uncharted challenges for governments, businesses and individuals. Volatility measured by the VIX index was almost as high as during the global financial crisis of 2008/9 and evidenced in plummeting equity prices and the widening of corporate bond spreads, very close to rivalling those twelve years ago. Gilt yields fell but credit spreads widened markedly reflecting the sharp deterioration in economic and credit conditions associated with a sudden stagnation in economies.

3.27 March 2020 saw significant demand for cash as the coronavirus pandemic spread worldwide. Credit risk saw gilt yields fall as people looked for safe havens for their cash. Our Treasury Management Advisors undertook a stress testing exercise on UK banks and building societies to review the impact of a loss of the same magnitude as the global financial crisis of 2007-2009. This resulted in a reduction to the Council's approved counterparty list and bank deposits reduced to a maximum of 35 days.

3.28 The Council quickly reacted to the uncertainty of the global pandemic with a shift to deposits in the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) which has the lowest credit risk of any deposit. The Council is also holding a small amount of funds across a range of money market funds to maintain a diverse portfolio and ensure availability of cash for unexpected payments.

#### **Yield**

3.29 The Council's cash balances reduced throughout the year ahead of the new borrowing in March 2020. The average cash balance during 2019/20 was £85.2m and interest earned was £0.7m, an average return of 0.83% (2018/19 – average

cash balance of £121.8m and interest earned was £1.0m or 0.85%). The low rates of return on the Council's short-dated money market investments reflect prevailing market conditions and the Council's objective during 2019/20 of optimising returns commensurate with the principles of security and liquidity.

- 3.30 In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cut official interest rates to a new all-time low of 0.1% in March 2020. The market had seen a significant downward trend from February onwards, which affected the investment return obtained at the end of 2019/20 and is expected to continue throughout 2020/21.

### **Update on Investments with Icelandic Banks**

- 3.31 The Council has recovered 98% of its £10 million deposit with Heritable Bank. The administrators have not made any further estimate of final recoveries yet, however they expect to conclude this during 2020/21.

### **Compliance**

- 3.32 The Council confirms that it has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2019/20, which were approved by the Council on 25 February 2019 as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement.
- 3.33 In accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during 2019/20. None of the Prudential Indicators have been breached and a prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

Further information is set out in Appendix 1, 2 and 3.

### **Investment Training**

- 3.34 The needs of the Council's treasury management staff for training in investment management are kept under review and considered as part of the staff appraisal process, and additionally when the responsibilities of individual members of staff change.
- 3.35 During 2019/20 staff attended training courses, seminars and conferences provided by both Arlingclose and CIPFA.

## **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Already noted within the report as this is the Treasury Management Outturn Report.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 None identified.

## **6. Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 None identified.

## **7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None identified.

**Related Documents:**

Treasury Management Strategy Report to Council – 25 February 2019

**Report sign off:**

***MINESH PATEL***

Director of Finance

Appendix 1

**Debt and Investment Portfolio Position 31/03/2020**

	<b>Actual Portfolio as at 31/03/2020 £m</b>	<b>Average Rate as at 31/03/2020 %</b>
<b>External Borrowing:</b>		
PWLB - Maturity	282.0	5.0
PWLB - Equal Instalments	18.4	2.6
Fixed Rate Market Loans	95.0	2.4
LOBO Loans	70.5	4.6
Short-term Loans	133.0	0.9
<b>Total External Borrowing</b>	<b>598.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Other Long Term Liabilities:</b>		
PFI	24.7	9.5
Finance Lease	3.6	4.1
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>
<b>Total Gross External Debt</b>	<b>627.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>Investments:</b>		
Deposits	104.9	0.1
Money Market Funds	5.0	0.5
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Net Debt</b>	<b>517.2</b>	

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## Appendix 2

### Prudential Indicators

#### (a) Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

The Council's cumulative maximum external borrowing requirement for 2019/20 is shown in the table below:

Capital Financing Requirement	31/03/2020 Estimate £m	31/03/2020 Actual £m
General Fund	676.8	590.0
HRA	178.2	231.8
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>855.0</b>	<b>821.8</b>

#### (b) Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years. This is a key indicator of prudence.

Debt	31/03/2020 Estimate £m	31/03/2020 Actual £m
Borrowing	458.6	598.8
PFI Liabilities	24.7	24.7
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>483.3</b>	<b>623.6</b>
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>855.0</b>	<b>821.8</b>
<b>Borrowing in excess of CFR?</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

#### (c) Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt

The Operational Boundary for External Debt is based on the Council's estimate of most likely, i.e. prudent, but not worst case scenario for external debt. It links directly to the Council's estimates of capital expenditure, the capital financing requirement and cash flow requirements and is a key management tool for in-year monitoring. Other long-term liabilities comprise finance lease, Private Finance Initiative and other liabilities that are not borrowing but form part of the Council's debt.

The Authorised Limit for External Debt is the affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003. It is the maximum amount of debt that the Council can legally owe. The authorised limit provides headroom over and above the operational boundary for unusual cash movements.

	<b>Operational Boundary £m</b>	<b>Authorised Limit £m</b>	<b>Actual External Debt £m</b> <b>31/03/2020</b>
Borrowing	1,000.0	1,200.0	598.8
Other Long Term Liabilities			28.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000.0</b>	<b>1,200.0</b>	<b>627.1</b>

The Director of Finance confirms that there were no breaches to the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary during 2019/20.

#### **(d) Upper Limits on one-year revenue impact of a 1% movement in interest rates**

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investment will be replaced at current rates.

	<b>2019/20 Approved Limits £m</b>	<b>31/03/2020 Actual £m</b>
<b>Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates</b> Compliance with limits:	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.2</b> Yes
<b>Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates</b> Compliance with limits:	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.2</b> Yes

#### **(e) Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing**

This indicator is to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates. The Council uses the option date as the maturity date for its LOBO loans.

Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual Fixed Rate Borrowing at 31/03/2020	% of Fixed Rate Borrowing at 31/03/2020	Compliance with set limits?
	%	%	£m	%	Yes / No
Under 12 months	40%	0%	168	28%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	40%	0%	16	3%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%	33	5%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	60%	0%	5	1%	Yes
10 years and within 20 years	75%	0%	49	8%	Yes
20 years and within 30 years	75%	0%	110	18%	Yes
30 years and within 40 years	75%	0%	214	36%	Yes
40 years and within 50 years	75%	0%	5	1%	Yes
50 years and above	75%	0%	0	0%	Yes
			<b>598.8</b>	<b>100%</b>	

#### (f) Capital Expenditure

This indicator is set to ensure that the level of proposed capital expenditure remains within sustainable limits and, in particular, to consider the impact on Council tax and in the case of the HRA, housing rent levels.

Capital Expenditure	31/03/2020 Estimate £m	31/03/2020 Actual £m
General Fund	209.2	121.4
HRA	26.8	110.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>236.0</b>	<b>232.0</b>

#### (g) Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet financing costs, net of investment income.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net	31/03/2020	31/03/2020
---------------------------------	------------	------------

Revenue Stream	Estimate	Actual
Financing costs	14.9	14.4
Proportion of net revenue stream (%)	5.6%	5.6%

#### (h) Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code

This indicator demonstrates that the Council adopted the principles of best practice.

Statement: The Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 (2017 Edition).

#### (i) Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums Invested Over 364 Days

The purpose of this limit is to contain exposure to the possibility of loss that may arise as a result of the Council having to seek early repayment of the sums invested.

Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums Invested Over 364 Days	31/03/2020 Approved £m	31/03/2020 Actual £m
Limit on principal invested beyond a year	50	0

#### (j) Security

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Credit Risk Indicator	31/03/2020 Target	31/03/2020 Actual
Portfolio average credit rating	A	AA+

#### (k) Liquidity

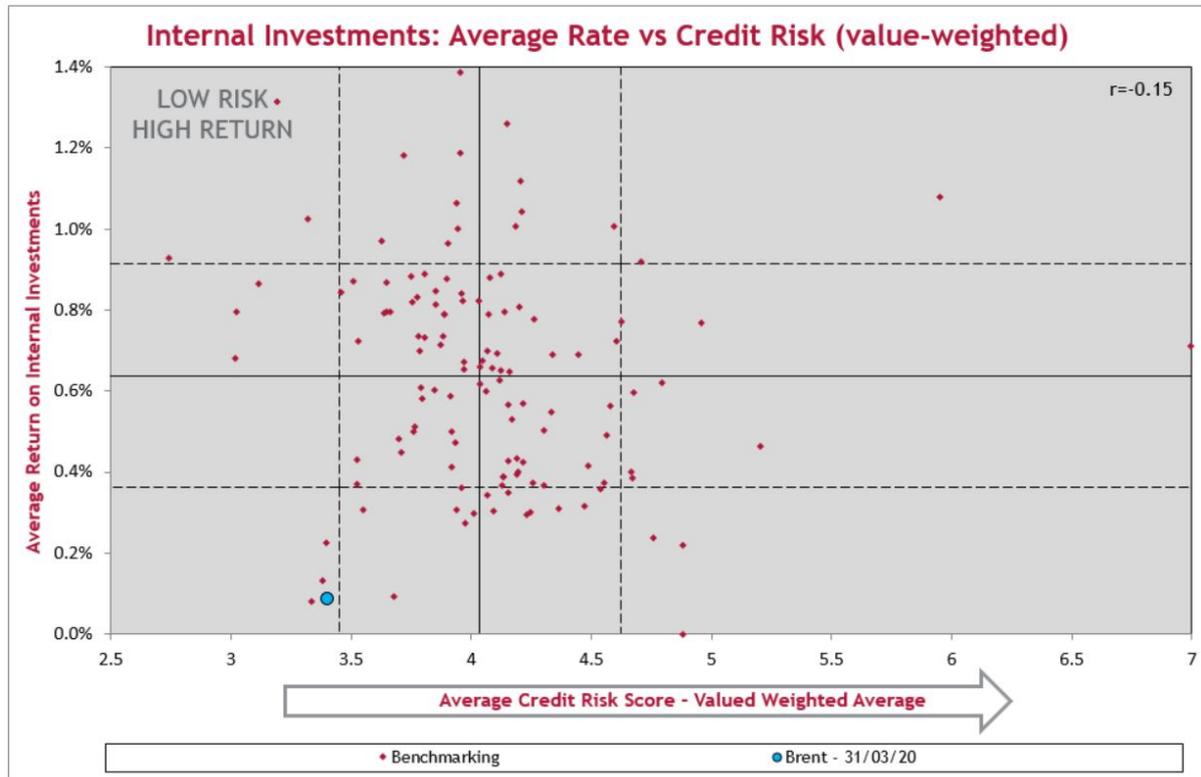
The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing.

<b>Liquidity Risk Indicator</b>	<b>31/03/2020 Target £m</b>	<b>31/03/2020 Actual £m</b>
Total cash available within 3 months	50.0	104.7

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Appendix 3

Internal Investments: Average Rate vs Credit Risk as at 31/03/2020



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### Full Council – 23 November 2020

#### Conservative Group Motion

##### Management of Transport for London (TfL) funding

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.

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.

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!

These include:

- £640m to subsidise tourist travel;
- £1.59Bn debt interest;
- £5.25Bn due to Crossrail delays;
- £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;
- £828m spent on pension overpayments;
- Over 100 extra staff being paid over £100,000 per annum.

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.

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.

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 **WILL** extend the Congestion Charge. He needs the money to fund his incompetence and his main source of income is milking the poor hapless motorist.

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.

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.

Councillor Michael Maurice  
Kenton Ward

**Full Council – 23 November 2020**

**1<sup>st</sup> Labour Group Motion**

**Green Economic Recovery**

**The Council Notes:**

- That in Brent we face a looming jobs and climate emergency.
- That unemployment in Brent has increased by at least 3,000 people in the period between June 2019 and 2020.
- 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.
- Earlier this year in Brent Central, nearly half of all our workers were furloughed – the highest proportion in the United Kingdom.
- That before the pandemic, the poverty rate in Brent was 33% higher than the average; with an unemployment rate 6% higher than the national average.
- 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.
- 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.

**The Council welcomes this Labour administration's continued commitment to:**

- Support our existing and new businesses to survive in the short term and adapt and thrive in the new post-Covid economy.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

**This Council believes in a Green economic recovery:**

- 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.
- The Government must provide support to Brent to help us rebuild our local economy and help tackle the climate emergency.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 need to reduce emissions by 94% and 93% respectively, by 2040.
- 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.
- With looming unemployment, the right thing to do for our economy is to invest in the jobs of the future now.

**This Council Resolves:**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- To request that the Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills write to Government to call for:

- 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.
- 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.

Councillor Elliot Chappell  
Willesden Green Ward

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**Council Meeting – 23 November 2020**

**Amendment submitted by the Conservative Group to the 1<sup>st</sup> Labour Group  
Motion**

*Proposed amendment - To add the wording underlined and delete the wording indicated*

**Green Economic Recovery**

**The Council Notes:**

- That in Brent we face a looming jobs and climate emergency.
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- 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.
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- 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.

**The Council welcomes [the Government's plan for a Green Industrial revolution together with this Labour administration's continued commitment to:](#)**

- Support our existing and new businesses to survive in the short term and adapt and thrive in the new post-Covid economy.
- 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.
- 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.

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Community Action Plan, the Climate Emergency strategy and the Keep Brent Working campaign.

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**Full Council – 23 November 2020**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Labour Group Motion**

**Thank you to our Keyworkers**

**This Council celebrates:**

- 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.
- 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’.
- The enormous and continuing contribution of our entire family of essential keyworkers either employed or residing in Brent.
- 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.
- 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.

**This Council believes:**

We join the Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer in his declaration that:

- We can see so clearly now who the key workers really are.
- 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.
- For too long they have been taken for granted and poorly paid. They were last and now they should be first.
- In their courage and their sacrifice and their bravery, we can see a better future.

**This Council resolves:**

- To convey this Chamber’s collective debt of gratitude to all of our keyworkers and recognise the personal sacrifices made in our borough of need.

- To do all we can to stand up and speak up for our key workers throughout the continuing pandemic.
- 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.
- 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.

Councillor Robert Johnson  
Northwick Park Ward

**Full Council – 23 November 2020**

**Amendment submitted by the Conservative Group to the 2nd Labour Group  
Motion**

*Proposed amendment - To delete the wording indicated*

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- 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’.
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- In their courage and their sacrifice and their bravery, we can see a better future.

**This Council resolves:**

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- 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.
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Councillor Robert Johnson  
Northwick Park Ward