



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

Held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 13 September 2021 at 10.00 am

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Gail Tolley (Strategic Director Children & Young People) who was represented by Nigel Chapman.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous Cabinet meeting held on Monday 16 August 2021 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising (if any)

None.

5. Petitions (if any)

There were no petitions submitted for consideration at the meeting.

6. Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)

Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, introduced a report detailing the Executive response to a reference received from the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee held on 13 July 21 relating to the circumstances surrounding the UEFA European 2020 Championship final at Wembley Stadium.

In presenting the report, Councillor Butt highlighted the Council's participation in the independent review being led by Baroness Casey as the single overarching review process which all partners had agreed to support. As part of this, members noted that the Council had already committed to undertake its own assessment of activities relating to its responsibilities covering safety, licensing and enforcement around the stadium in the build up to the final in order to feed into the Baroness Casey review and to fully review and respond to any recommendations around the Council's role moving forward.

The Leader ended by once again thanking everyone involved in supporting delivery of the Championships at Wembley for their hard work and efforts and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Executive response to the recommendations made by the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee on 13 July 2021 regarding the UEFA European 2020 Championship Final hosted at Wembley Stadium, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report.

7. **Highways Capital Scheme Programme 2021-22**

Prior to consideration of this item Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, welcomed Mr Frank Treviss to the meeting who had requested to speak in support of a petition previously submitted seeking an upgrade of the footways in Logan Road. Highlighting what he felt were the dangerous condition of the pavements, in terms of trip and fall hazards for local residents, Mr Treviss also outlined the lack of any previous upgrade works and importance of the footway as a well-used route to the local school. He also reminded members that the road provided the main pedestrian and vehicle access to a bowling and social club, which was well used by a range of community organisations. He was therefore keen to ensure consideration was given to the necessary footway repairs and upgrade as part of the Council's ongoing major road and footway resurfacing programme.

In responding, Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Lead Member for Environment, began by thanking Mr Treviss for his presentation and recognising the impact that the quality of footways had on the local environment for residents. Whilst highlighting the improvement in the overall conditions of footways across the borough as a result of the £20m Highway and Footway Improvement programme over the last two years, she pointed out that this had still left a third of the borough's footways in need of significant maintenance. Whilst the footways in Logan Road had been surveyed (with 49% by length found to be in poor structural condition) this had unfortunately still not represented a high enough priority within the criteria to be considered for inclusion as part of the 2021/22 programme. Members noted that the footways included as part of the recommended programme had all been assessed with a minimum of 70% in poor condition. Mr Treviss was reassured, however, that Logan Road's future inclusion would continue be reviewed on a regular basis, with the next survey due later in 2021 and local residents encouraged to report any immediate safety concerns or defects. In the meantime it was also reported that the Lead Member for Environment and Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment had agreed to visit Logan Road in order to further examine the pavements and explore options for future improvement works.

Having noted the response provided, Councillor Muhammed Butt thanked Mr Treviss for his contribution at the meeting.

Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment, then moved on to introduce the report which set out the Council's Highways Maintenance Scheme Programme for 2021-22. In presenting the report, members noted the £3.5m base allocation for the programme funded through the Council's Capital budget along with the additional bid submitted for funding through Transport for London's (TfL) London wide Principal Road Network scheme, which totalled £1.371m. Details on the outcome of the TfL bid were still awaited, with Cabinet also noting the additional funding provided through the Council's own £20m footway improvement

programme, that was due to end in 2021-22. This would require the base capital funding available for the programme to revert to covering maintenance of both footways as well as carriageway and highway structures.

As a result, a prioritised programme of maintenance and improvement works had been developed based on Brent's Highway Asset Management Planning approach which, as detailed within section 3.3 of the report, sought to utilise improved asset condition surveys as a basis for the scheme prioritisation process.

Whilst recognising the challenging financial constraints under which the programme was operating, Cabinet were keen to recognise the impact of the additional investment made by the Council in terms of the footway improvement programme across the borough along with the improvements delivered to the condition of Brent's road and highway structures as a result of the maintenance programme delivered to date (as highlighted in Appendix A of the report). Members also noted that in developing the proposed maintenance programme moving forward, officers would continue to take account of the nominations received from ward councillors for works within their areas in order to consider how best these could be addressed within the overall resources available.

In concluding the discussions, Councillor Muhammed Butt felt it was important to recognise the positive impact achieved as a result of the maintenance programme delivered to date and additional investment provided by the Council, including the benefits provided through the use of injection patching and asphalt. He also took the opportunity to reaffirm the Council's commitment to continue improving the condition of Brent's roads and footways within the financial constraints identified, recognising their importance to local communities.

Having noted the comments made, Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To approve the proposed Highways Maintenance Scheme Programme 2021-22 as detailed in Appendix B of the report.
- (2) To note the receipt of a petition on 9th August 2020 for Logan Road with 52 signatures asking for the renovation and upgrading of the pavements in that road, and comments made in response at both the meeting and as detailed within section 3.4.2 d) - h) of the report.

8. **Parks Service Capital Funding**

Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment, introduced a report providing details of proposed capital investment within the Parks Service of £1.43m to allow for a programme of essential improvements across a number of sites.

In considering the report, members noted that the proposed investment had been designed to improve various areas of ageing infrastructure across the borough's parks and open spaces as a means of addressing ongoing maintenance issues and costs as well as improving the safety of pathways and playgrounds.

The investment programme, set out in section 3.4 of the report, had been developed on the basis of an analysis of issues raised and risk. Cabinet were supportive of the programme identified, highlighting the important role and value of

the borough's parks and open spaces for the local community. Specific initiatives highlighted by members as benefits included the work being undertaken to enhance biodiversity and CCTV coverage across parks, with the proposals also felt to demonstrate the Council's ongoing commitment towards improving services and the quality of life for residents across the borough.

As no further issues were raised Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve Council borrowing of £1.43m to allow the Parks Service to carry out a number of urgent infrastructure improvements required in a number of locations across the borough, as detailed within section 3.4 of the report.

9. **Brent Youth Strategy**

Councillor Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help & Social Care, introduced a report presenting the Brent Youth Strategy and Delivery Plan.

In considering the report members noted that development of the Strategy and associated Delivery Plan had been designed to fulfil the recommendation within the Independent Brent Poverty Commission to bring together a statutory-led "Youth and Community Strategy for Young People" in Brent. The Strategy and Delivery Plan had also been developed to ensure they were aligned with relevant planned and in-progress activity include the Black Community Action Plan, other recovery projects, connectivity to the new health Integrated Care Systems and further education settings as well as clarifying the funding position.

In expressing their support for the Strategy & Delivery Plan, Cabinet felt it important to recognise the level of engagement with young people in developing and shaping the Strategy and commitment it was felt this demonstrated to young people across the borough. Members thanked the Lead Member and officers involved in development of the strategy and noted the eight key themes which had emerged from the engagement process and around which the Strategy and Delivery Plan had been focussed as a means of driving positive change, with specific reference at the meeting to themes including skills and opportunities, safety and wellbeing & mental health.

In summing up, Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, highlighted the Council's commitment to continue ensuring the best outcomes for all young people across the borough and providing every opportunity for them succeed.

As a result Cabinet **RESOLVED** to note and endorse the Brent Youth Strategy and Delivery Plan, as detailed within Appendices A & B of the report.

10. **National Non-Domestic Rates – Applications for Discretionary Rate Relief**

Councillor McLennan, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources, introduced the report, which detailed new applications received for discretionary National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) relief since Cabinet had last considered applications in December 2020.

In presenting the report, Cabinet's attention was drawn to the criteria to be considered in dealing with applications for NNDR relief from charities and non-profit making organisations, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, along with the

applications which had been received for consideration, as detailed within Appendix 2 of the report. Members were also advised of the requirement to review all existing awards for discretionary relief to ensure they continued to meet the necessary criteria and were focussed on organisations providing a recognised service for residents within the borough. In view of the impact of the pandemic it had been proposed that this review should be moved back to October 2022, with organisations then being required to reapply for relief from April 2024.

Cabinet **RESOLVED**

- (1) To approve the applications for discretionary rate relief in respect of national non-domestic rate liability as set out and detailed within Appendix 2 of the report.
- (2) To note that the Council's National Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Relief awards would be reviewed in October 2022, for subsequent consideration by Cabinet in early 2023 instead of October 2021 as previously planned due to the effect of the pandemic.

11. **Brent Finance Transformation and Oracle Cloud Transformation Roadmap (Release 2) Capital Investment**

Councillor McLennan, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources, introduced a report seeking approval to further investment in the Oracle Cloud System and Transformation roadmap as a means of gaining further efficiencies and accessing additional transformational aspects offered within the system.

In considering the report members noted the progress being made with implementation of the Oracle Cloud Release 1 project along with the improvements these were expected to deliver in relation to current ways of working, including the use of real time data and other efficiencies in terms of systems and processes. Looking to build on the improvements identified through implementation of Release 1, a range of further benefits and additional functionality had subsequently been identified, which had formed the basis of the additional investment being sought for Release 2 under the Oracle Cloud Roadmap. These included projects related to Finance Accounting and Transactional Management performance, case and project management, governance and risk compliance, sourcing and contract management which would be expected to provide further enhancements and efficiencies in relation to the Finance, Procurement and HR systems, integration and control mechanisms.

Having noted the benefits identified, Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

- (1) To approve the investment of £2.5m for the Oracle Cloud Roadmap (Release 2).
- (2) To agree that each project identified with Release 2 of the Roadmap would be subject to regular review and monitoring by the Corporate Landlord Board and reported into the Capital Programme Board. This would be in consultation with the Deputy Leader, as Lead Member with responsibility for IT.

12. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

There were not items that required the exclusion of the press or public.

13. **Any other urgent business**

None.

The meeting ended at 10.25 am

COUNCILLOR MUHAMMED BUTT
Chair