

London Borough of Brent
Summary of the decisions taken by the Cabinet held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre at 10am on
Monday 7 February 2022

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Ketan Sheth (for Agenda Item 7) in remote attendance.

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence		None.
2.	Declarations of Interest		There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting		Cabinet RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 17 January 2022 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
4.	Matters Arising (if any)		None.
5.	Petitions (if any)		<p>5.1 Environmental and Public Realm improvements and enforcement Tokyngton Ward</p> <p>Cabinet NOTED the comments made by Sonia Francis, speaking on behalf of local residents living in the area surrounding Oakington Manor Drive, Grand Avenue, Vivian Avenue & Gardens and Neeld Parade within Tokyngton ward, highlighting concerns relating to the local street scene (public refuse and recycling bins, street lighting, anti-littering) and anti-social behaviour in the area. Members were advised that the request to speak and action being sought in response was supported by a petition, co-ordinated by Marion Barton (as a local resident), which contained 320 signatures.</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>In addressing Cabinet, Sonia Francis began by thanking those Lead Members and officers for the site visit held on 2 February 2022 and outlined the key concerns highlighted by local residents in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need identified for more substantial litter bins in the area that were regularly emptied, cleaned and maintained as opposed to provision of plastic refuse bags; • the need for additional anti-littering signage of the type approved by Keep Britain Tidy and wider promotion of anti-littering. Reference was made to the example of measures introduced by Quintain around Wembley Park with the suggested pilot of new bins in strategic areas across the ward; • the need for additional enforcement activity and action to address street drinking and associated anti-social behaviour with particular reference to the area surrounding Oakington Manor Drive and the junction with Harrow Road. Concerns were expressed at the impact this was having in terms of local residents feeling intimidated, threatened and unsafe with specific concerns raised about the safety of women and children living in the surrounding area and need to enforce the Public Space Protection Zone prohibiting such behaviour. • The need for more proactive street lighting audits to be undertaken in order to identify and enhance areas of substandard lighting, particularly as a way of assisting to design out crime and anti-social behaviour; • The need for paving in the area adjacent to the public toilets

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>located at the junction of Oakington Manor Drive and Harrow Road.</p> <p>Taken together local residents felt these initiatives and interventions would help to not only improve the street scene but also civic pride and safety along with the local communities health and wellbeing.</p> <p>In responding, Councillor Krupa Sheth (as Lead Member for Environment), began by thanking local residents for their comments and proactive engagement with the Council in order to address the issues recognised as needing to be tackled in the area. Whilst highlighting the need to work within the existing budgetary constraints on the service, work was being undertaken to develop an action plan aimed at improving the street scene, cleaning up and enhancing the level of local enforcement activity in the area. The commitment to tackle the issues raised and continue working and engaging with local residents was highlighted by both Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) and Councillor Krupa Sheth as part of the Council’s ongoing objective to making Brent a safer, cleaner and greener borough for all residents.</p> <p>5.2 Kilburn Village Residents Association – Kilburn Square Development</p> <p>Cabinet NOTED the comments made by Margaret Von Stroll (as an online participant) speaking on behalf of the Kilburn Village Residents Association to present a petition containing 900 signatures against the scale of proposals for the infill development</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>at Kilburn Square and expressing concern at the pre-consultation process undertaken to date.</p> <p>In addressing Cabinet, Margaret Von Stroll highlighted concerns that despite requests for a process of meaningful engagement, the Council had now informed residents of the intention to move forward on the basis of Approach A which it was felt had failed to address issues raised in relation to the loss of existing open space and overcrowding and would have a detrimental impact in terms of health, the environment, community engagement and scrutiny. Concerns were also raised in relation to the way in which the engagement process and design workshops had been undertaken along with how the outcome of the resident engagement survey had been presented and reported. Concerns were also expressed in relation to the extent it appeared the Council had involved Source Partnership in the process, who had been appointed to act as the independent advisor to local residents.</p> <p>Whilst noting that Councillor Southwood (as Lead Member for Housing) had acknowledged community concerns, it was not felt that the decision to proceed on the basis of Approach A had demonstrated a willingness to work collaboratively with local residents or to seek a balance in terms of housing targets against the health and wellbeing of existing estate residents given the level of overcrowding, loss of health and community facilities and open green space which it was felt this option would result in.</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>Although recognising the need to for social housing, the residents who had signed the petition felt the scale of proposals now being recommended would have a detrimental impact on amenity space in Kilburn Square, which was already low, as well as on an area already deprived of green space further impacting on local concerns relating to air quality and the climate emergency.</p> <p>Margaret Von Stoll concluded by highlighting previous assurances provided by officers at a Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny meeting in relation to the Council wanting to build and provide homes with the support and encouragement of local residents and ward councillors and therefore asked Cabinet to continue that philosophy in relation to Kilburn Square with a request for further genuine engagement with local residents in order to create a more sustainable solution.</p> <p>In responding, Councillor Southwood (as Lead Member for Housing & Welfare), began by thanking local residents for their involvement in the process to date and outlined the Council’s objective throughout the scheme in seeking to balance the need to increase the provision of family sized and genuinely affordable social housing with wider improvements driven through the development process to benefit those living in Kilburn Square. In recognising concerns initially raised by local residents living both on and off the estate in relation to height, density, overcrowding and the impact on open space the Council had extended the pre-consultation and engagement process in order to review and consider further options</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>in response to these concerns, which had resulted in amended design options being identified for further engagement and feedback. As a result of preferences expressed through the extended engagement process Approaches A & E had been identified as the final design options, with Approach A (involving a reduction in the height of the tower block) having been selected as the preferred option to take forward through the planning process.</p> <p>Whilst recognising the difference in views expressed regarding the preferred options and resident engagement process by those in support of the petition, the efforts which had been made to meaningfully engage with residents were highlighted with the amended design felt to have responded to the original concerns raised in terms of both the proposed reduction in height of the tower, no loss of open space and the aim to turn existing amenity space into a more usable area. Councillor Southwood also felt it important to reiterate the Council’s commitment and balance which had needed to be struck in seeking to secure the additional provision of family sized affordable accommodation for families currently placed in much more unsuitable forms of temporary accommodation, which the scheme had been designed to support, In addressing concerns relating to overcrowding she also highlighted the recent change to the Council’s Housing Allocation Policy that would support this approach in terms of the allocation of property within the new development.</p> <p>Given the timescales relating to the GLA funding being provided for</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>the scheme, the petitioners were advised that no further extension to the engagement process would be possible with the selected Approach now needing to move forward to the Planning stage. It was, however, noted that as part of the planning application process local residents would have further opportunities to comment on the design and impact of the scheme.</p> <p>In supporting the approach outlined by Councillor Southwood, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Muhammed Butt) also took the opportunity to highlight the challenges faced in relation to the supply of affordable social housing and the detrimental impact this was having on those currently placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation. Whilst recognising the difficult nature of the decisions involved and efforts made to address concerns highlighted, he ended by reaffirming the Council’s continued and overriding commitment to making the choices required in order to increase the provision of affordable social housing as a means of ensuring a secure future for everyone in borough.</p>
6.	Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)		There were no references from Scrutiny submitted for consideration at the meeting.
7.	Budget & Council Tax 2022/23	All Wards	NOTED the comments made by Councillor Ketan Sheth (as an online participant) in summarising the key themes from the Budget Scrutiny Task Group report. In introducing the report, Councillor Ketan Sheth highlighted that the Task Group in undertaking their review had recognised the challenging financial environment in

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>which the Council was operating given the long term reduction in Government funding, level of savings already achieved, social and economic impact of the pandemic and increasing complexity of demand for Council services along with similar pressures on other statutory and voluntary and community sector support.</p> <p>In considering the second year of a two year budget phase, Councillor Ketan Sheth advised that the Task Group had undertaken extension consultation and engagement in order to seek evidence from a wide range of stakeholders with a number of areas scrutinised in depth. These had includes the pressure within the Dedicated Schools Grant; the Covid Recovery programme; the impact of the pandemic on Adult Social Care, particularly in relation to mental health; the impact on health inequalities work once the Government grant had ended; the impact of the pandemic on business rates, Council Tax and HRA rent collection. As a result the Task Group had made a number of recommendations, as detailed within section 2 of their report, which were commended to Cabinet for consideration and approval as part of the final budget decision making process.</p> <p>Having noted the comments provided, and welcomed and supported the approach taken and recommendations made by the Budget Scrutiny Task Group, Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To recommend to full Council an overall 2.99% increase in the Council’s element of Council Tax for 2022/23, with 1% as a</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>precept for Adult Social Care and a 1.99% general increase.</p> <p>(2) To recommend to full Council the General Fund revenue budget for 2022/23, as summarised in Appendices A & B of the report.</p> <p>(3) To recommend to full Council the savings proposals for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix C of the report.</p> <p>(4) To note the report from the Budget Scrutiny Panel, as set out in Appendix D of the report.</p> <p>(5) To recommend to full Council the HRA budget for 2022/23, as set out in section 7 of the report.</p> <p>(6) To agree the HRA rents for council dwellings, tenant service charges and garages, as set out in section 7 of the report.</p> <p>(7) To agree the rents set under the Housing General Fund for Brent Housing PFI and traveller’s site pitches and to note the rents for Hillside dwellings as set out in section 7 of the report.</p> <p>(8) To note the Dedicated Schools Grant as set out in section 8 of the report.</p> <p>(9) To agree to recommend to full Council the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to additions of new</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>schemes and reprofiling, as set out in section 10 and Appendix E of the report and to note the Capital Pipeline Schemes in Appendix F of the report</p> <p>(10) To agree to recommend to full Council the Capital Strategy, the Investment Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement as set out in Appendices G, H, I and J of the report.</p> <p>(11) To agree to recommend to full Council the Reserves Strategy and schedule of reserves, as set out in Appendix K of the report.</p> <p>(12) To agree the action plan to implement CIPFA’s Financial Management Code, as set out in Appendix L of the report.</p> <p>(13) To agree, and where relevant agree to recommend to full Council, the schedule of fees and charges for 2022/23 as set out at in Appendix M of the report.</p> <p>(14) To note the results of the budget consultation as set out in section 6 and detailed in Appendix N of the report.</p> <p>(15) To note the advice of the Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations as set out in Appendix O of the report.</p> <p>To note and approve the specific recommendations identified for</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			consideration by Full Council as detailed in section 2.16 – 2.35 of the report.
8.	Six Month Update on Supply of New Affordable Homes	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To note the contents of the report and progress to date on delivering both the New Council Homes Programme (NCHP) and other programmes and projects to deliver 5,000 new affordable homes in the borough by 2024. (2) To note the demand forecasts and that the current programme would continue to reduce the demand for permanent Council homes. (3) To note and support approval of a capital investment of £135.1m to progress the delivery of the New Council Homes Programme as referred to in within the Financial Implications in sections 11.3 and 11.6 of the report. (4) To delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform, to award a construction contract in respect of the Watling Garden site for the reasons set out in in section 7.8 - 7.10 of the report.
9.	Future Governance Arrangements London Housing Consortium	All Wards	Cabinet RESOLVED:

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To agree that Brent Council, as one of the ten Constituent Authorities of the London Housing Consortium Joint Committee (“LHC Joint Committee”), withdraw from the LHC Joint Committee and notify the London Housing Consortium of this decision by 25 February 2022. (2) To note that the current plan was for the LHC Joint Committee to be disbanded in December 2022 at the earliest and for a new London Housing Corporation corporate entity to take its place. (3) To note that participation in a new London Housing Consortium corporate entity would be considered and discussed in meetings of the LHC Joint Committee before its disbandment and any decisions regarding Brent Council participating in such a new London Housing Consortium corporate entity would be submitted to Brent Council’s Cabinet for consideration and approval.
10.	Brent Long Term Transport Strategy Review - Draft for consultation	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To approve the approach contained within the Draft Brent Long Term Transport Strategy (as set out in Appendix A of the report) for delivering improvements to the transport system in the borough to 2041. (2) That the draft strategy undergo a period of public consultation

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>and wider stakeholder engagement during Spring 2022. The consultation to be for a minimum six week period.</p> <p>(3) That following comments received during public consultation a revised, final Brent Long Term Transport Strategy be brought back to Cabinet for approval to adopt in Summer 2022.</p>
11.	Final Redefining Local Services Delivery Model and Authority to Tender Contract for Highways Maintenance Services		<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve the “Specialist Contracts with Low Level Insourcing” model as the final delivery model for RLS, with the full highways reactive maintenance service continuing to be outsourced.</p> <p>(2) To approve Inviting tenders for Highways Maintenance Contracts consisting of one tender for Works, separated into two Lots, and one tender for Consultancy Services as detailed at sections 4.3 – 4.8 of the report.</p> <p>(3) To approve Inviting tenders for the Highways Maintenance Contracts on the basis of the pre-tender considerations set out in section 4.17 of the report.</p> <p>(4) To approve officers evaluating the tenders for the Highways Maintenance Contracts on the basis of the evaluation criteria set out in section 4.17 of the report.</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
12.	Authority to Tender: Contract for Parking and Traffic Enforcement Services	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve the invitation of tenders for the Parking Services contracts on the basis of the pre - tender considerations set out in sections 4.17 and 4.18 of the report.</p> <p>(2) To approve officer evaluation of the tenders for the Parking Services contracts on the basis of the evaluation criteria set out in section 4.17 (vi) and 4.18 (vi) of the report.</p>
13.	NNDR Rate Relief 2022-23	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve the National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) Discretionary Scheme: 2022/23 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and pursuant to the Council's powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended.</p> <p>(2) To approve the 2022/23 Extension of Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Relief Scheme as set out in Appendix 2 of the report and pursuant to the Council's powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended.</p> <p>(3) To delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Strategic Director of Customer and Digital Services to implement the schemes as detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 7 February 2022 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			report.
14.	Exclusion of Press and Public		There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.
15.	Any other urgent business		None.