



## **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

### **MINUTES OF THE CABINET**

**Held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 7 February 2022 at 10.00 am**

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 (in remote attendance) for Agenda Item 7.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

None received.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

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)**

**5.1 Environmental and Public Realm improvements and enforcement Tokyngton Ward**

Councillor Muhammed Butt (Leader of the Council) welcomed Sonia Francis to the meeting, who had been invited to speak on behalf of local residents living in the area surrounding Oakington Manor Drive, Grand Avenue, Vivian Avenue & Gardens and Neeld Parade within Tokyngton ward in order to highlight 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.

In addressing Cabinet, Sonia Francis began by thanking those Lead Members and officers who had attended the site visit held on 2 February 2022 and outlined the key concerns highlighted by local residents in relation to:

- 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 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 located at the junction of Oakington Manor Drive and Harrow Road;

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 health and wellbeing of the local community.

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 existing budgetary constraints, 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.

## **5.2 Kilburn Village Residents Association – Kilburn Square Development**

Councillor Muhammed Butt then moved on to welcome Margaret Von Stroll (as an online participant) who had been invited to speak on behalf of the Kilburn Village Residents Association in order to present a petition containing over 900 signatures against the scale of proposals for the infill development at Kilburn Square and expressing concern at the pre-consultation process undertaken to date.

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 an option (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. In addition, concerns were highlighted in relation to the extent it was felt the Council had involved Source Partnership in the process, who had been appointed to act as an independent advisor to local residents.

Whilst noting that Councillor Southwood (as Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform) 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. This was in view of the level of overcrowding, loss of health and community facilities and open green space which it was felt this option would result in.

Although recognising the need 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 as well as on an area already deprived of green space further impacting on local concerns relating to air quality and the climate emergency.

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.

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 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.

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 original concerns raised in terms of 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.

Given the timescales relating to the GLA funding being provided for 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.

In supporting the approach outlined by Councillor Southwood, Councillor Muhammed Butt (as the Leader of the Council) 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.

**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**

Prior to consideration of the main report Councillor Muhammed Butt (Leader of the Council) invited Councillor Ketan Sheth to introduce the key themes within the Budget Scrutiny Task Group report, which had been included as an appendix to the Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 report. In introducing the report, Councillor Ketan Sheth highlighted that the Task Group in undertaking their review had recognised the challenging financial environment in which the Council was operating given the long term reduction in Government funding, level of savings already achieved by the Council, 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.

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 included 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 Government grant funding had ceased; 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.

In summing up, Councillor Ketan Sheth thanked the members and officers who had been engaged in the review process. In response, Councillor McLennan expressed her own gratitude for the hard work of members and officers in producing the report and highlighted its importance to the overall budget setting process, especially given the detailed analysis undertaken in respect of the wider budget and funding implications on services.

Councillor McLennan, as Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources then introduced the report which set out the Council's budget proposals for 2022/23. The report also set out the results of the budget consultation, scrutiny and equality processes and the overall financial position facing the Council for the medium-term.

Councillor McLennan began by taking the opportunity to thank all officers and members who had been involved in the budget setting process and reminded Cabinet that the proposals represented the final year in a two year budget phase based on a savings programme (agreed in February 2021) profiled over 2021/22 and 2022/23. In focussing on the detail proposals, Councillor McLennan highlighted that aside from the usual updating and adjustments to various technical assumptions the key features within the budget for 2022/23 included:

- a proposed Council Tax rise of 2.99% for the Brent element, which included a 1% ring fenced for Adult Social Care. The proposed increase had been designed to reflect rising inflationary pressures on the Council, alongside the wider financial, funding and economic position and outcome of the budget consultation process and was felt to be the minimum required to ensure the Council was able to continue providing the level of services required given the ongoing nature of demand. It was noted that the final level would also need to include the precept agreed by the Greater London Authority (GLA);
- reconfirmation of the budget saving proposals (as originally agreed by Council in February 2021), as detailed in Appendix C(i) of the report with no new proposals having been identified for consideration on the basis this would deliver a balanced budget and was in the final year of the current Administration.

The report also provided a summary of the forecast position against the current (2021/22) revenue budgets as well as updates in relation to the capital programme and pipeline and ring fenced budgets including the Housing Revenue Account and Dedicated Schools Grant. In summing up Councillor McLennan advised that the proposals as set out in the report and agreed under the original two year programme would enable the Council to set a balanced budget in 2022/23 in accordance with its statutory obligations and key objectives and priorities within the Borough Plan. In addition to the proposals identified in the report, reference was also made to the recent government announcement regarding the introduction of a Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme. Whilst further detailed guidance was awaited on administration of the scheme, it was noted this would be considered separately to the Council Tax setting process.

In supporting the budget proposals, Councillor Tatler, Lead Member for Regeneration, Property and Planning thanked officers for their work in preparing the budget during such challenging times, along with the work of the Regeneration Team in relation to the development and delivery of the capital programme and pipeline (including the collection of s106 and CIL receipts). As specific examples of the impact of the various projects and schemes she referred to the Council's

continued support for affordable housing initiatives, town centres and local businesses as well as improvements in South Kilburn.

Councillor Stephens, Lead Member for Schools, Employment and Skills praised the budget proposals and in welcoming the inclusion of works to the buildings in Barham Park as part of the capital pipeline felt this demonstrated the Council's commitment to supporting its residents. He also highlighted the continued support within the budget for local schools and Special Educational Needs provision, with specific reference to inclusion of the capital investment programme for SEND provision which, despite the pressures on the Dedicated Schools Grant and High Needs Block, had been designed to increase local in borough provision by 50%.

Councillor Southwood, Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform, in supporting the budget proposals felt it important to recognise the ambitious nature of the ongoing New Council House Building programme and schemes within the capital pipeline coming together as a means of seeking to reduce the number of households within Temporary Accommodation and improve the overall quality and supply of affordable housing across the borough (including the support of private sector landlords). Taken together Councillor Southwood highlighted how the proposals once again had been designed to support and protect the most vulnerable residents and thanked officers for their efforts.

Councillor Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health, Culture and Leisure also endorsed the budget proposals and thanked all officers for their work in building on the support and services being provided for local residents and communities in view of what he felt was an absence of a long term funding strategy for local government by the government given the significantly challenging financial position and constraints local authorities (including Brent) were having to work within. He was pleased that despite ongoing budget pressures, the Council had continued to invest in libraries and culture but remained concerned at the government's approach towards funding for public health and had therefore particularly welcomed the focus of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group in relation to the impact on health inequalities work and support for continued lobbying to ensure a joined up approach and fair allocation of funding to level up the provision of local services in partnership with the NHS, including a focus on mental health.

Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment expressed her gratitude for the hard work of the Environment Team over the past year despite the challenging circumstances brought about by the pandemic. A number of initiatives were highlighted, including the work to deliver the Covid Recovery Programme and enhance the allocation of resources across town centres along with the proposed level of investment included within the capital pipeline focussed on highways, public realm and parks.

Councillor Knight, Lead Member for Community Safety and Engagement also expressed her support for the budget proposals and thanked officers for their hard work in bringing them forward. She felt that the proposals mitigated against any perceived risks in terms of the work being undertaken by the Community Protection and Enforcement Teams and was pleased, given the ongoing importance of the work being undertaken in relation to community safety and anti-social behaviour, that no reductions had been proposed across key services areas which would enable key areas of support to continue being commissioned.

Councillor Farah, Lead Member for Adult Social Care, also expressed support for the budget proposals highlighting the challenging nature of the demand led spending pressures in relation to Adult Social Care and thanking all staff and carers in Brent for their efforts and support in the ongoing delivery of services for some of the most vulnerable residents in the borough.

In summing up, Councillor Muhammed Butt highlighted the challenging nature of the budget setting process given the ongoing impact of the pandemic and continued uncertainty in relation to central government's funding of local authorities. He felt it was important to recognise that members and officers had looked at every aspect of their services to ensure budgets could be managed whilst delivering key strategic priorities and protecting the most vulnerable residents in the borough with the budget proposals delivering a balanced and proportionate approach. It was felt this had been made even more difficult given the difficulties in being able to forecast over the medium term as a result of the ongoing uncertainty over the Government's funding reforms (on which lobbying continued) and the continued impact of the pandemic and BREXIT on residents and businesses. Despite recognising the significance of the financial challenge, cumulative level of savings already delivered by the Council and that were likely to be required looking forward to 2023/24 and 2024/25 the measures outlined for 2022/23 had been designed to ensure the Council was able to operate in a financially sustainable and resilient way that would enable the Council to look forward and continue delivering key services and support. In concluding, Councillor Muhammed Butt once again thanked members and officers for their hard work in preparing the budget and ensuring the best possible level of service was provided to residents over the forthcoming year.

Having noted the comments provided, and welcomed and supported the approach outlined within the report, Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- (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 precept for Adult Social Care and a 1.99% general increase.
- (2) To recommend to full Council the General Fund revenue budget for 2022/23, as summarised in Appendices A & B of the report.
- (3) To recommend to full Council the savings proposals for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix C of the report.
- (4) To note the report from the Budget Scrutiny Panel, as set out in Appendix D of the report.
- (5) To recommend to full Council the HRA budget for 2022/23, as set out in section 7 of the report.
- (6) To agree the HRA rents for council dwellings, tenant service charges and garages, as set out in section 7 of the report.
- (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.

- (8) To note the Dedicated Schools Grant as set out in section 8 of the report.
- (9) To agree to recommend to full Council the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to additions of new 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
- (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.
- (11) To agree to recommend to full Council the Reserves Strategy and schedule of reserves, as set out in Appendix K of the report.
- (12) To agree the action plan to implement CIPFA's Financial Management Code, as set out in Appendix L of the report.
- (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.
- (14) To note the results of the budget consultation as set out in section 6 and detailed in Appendix N of the report.
- (15) To note the advice of the Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations as set out in Appendix O of the report.
- (16) To note and approve the specific recommendations identified for 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**

Councillor Southwood (Lead Member for Housing & Welfare Reform) introduced the report providing a six monthly update on progress towards delivery of the Council's housing target for new affordable homes over the five year period 2019-2024.

Members noted the updated housing demand analysis and forecasts, as detailed within section 6 of the report, along with the progress in delivery of the New Council Homes Programme, pipeline of developments and delivery of other large scale development schemes. As a result of the ambitious nature of the programme Cabinet noted that by 31 March 2022 it was anticipated 660 new affordable rented homes would have been delivered with 332 homes also having been given planning consent and in the process of procuring a contractor (with associated risks recognised in terms of current construction costs) and a further 198 submitted for planning permission. In addition, since the previous update Cabinet was advised of the award of a further allocation of £111m under the Greater London Authority (GLA) Affordable Housing Programme grant scheme for 2021-26. This had been awarded following a successful bidding process with the objective of delivering an additional 701 homes in addition to the existing programme by 2028, with details on the initial key activity areas set out in section 5 of the report. In considering the report, members were also advised of the way in which the approach towards the



programme had been developed to ensure that it was not only delivering affordable homes but was also seeking to widen other sources of supply, including maximising use of existing stock.

In commending all teams involved in the design and development of the programme for the progress being made, members felt it was important to recognise the ambitious nature of future targets being set and the Council's ongoing commitment towards meeting the housing needs and improving the quality of life for Brent's residents through the provision of affordable, safe and secure high quality housing.

Having considered the report Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- (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**

Councillor Southwood (Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform) introduced a report seeking approval for Brent to withdraw from the London Housing Consortium (LHC) Joint Committee.

In considering the report, Cabinet noted the background to the establishment and role of the LHC and review of its governance arrangements designed to provide what was felt to be a more appropriate approach to both the current and future operations of the organisation. Having considered the report it was **RESOLVED**:

- (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's Cabinet for consideration and approval.

#### 10. **Brent Long Term Transport Strategy Review - Draft for consultation**

Councillor Tatler (Lead Member for Regeneration, Property and Planning) introduced a report providing an update on the review and development of Brent's Long Term Transport Strategy (LTTS) 2015-2035 and seeking approval to the updated draft strategy proceeding to wider public consultation and stakeholder engagement.

In considering the report Cabinet noted the background to development of the LTTS in terms of providing a strategic focus for investment in transport within Brent aimed at not only improving transport options but also reducing the negative impact of travel on the borough. In recognising the progress made since publication of the original strategy in 2015, particularly in relation to increasing levels of sustainable travel, reducing the level of casualties on the road network, delivery of the school streets initiative and increased installation of on-street electric vehicle charging points, the need had also been identified for further review, particularly in relation to encouraging more active modes of travel. Members were advised that this further review had been focussed around an aim to reduce the environmental and health impacts of traffic in the borough as well as making the transport system safer and more inclusive and reflecting the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and emergence of new national, regional and local policies and priorities, with the revised draft strategy having been detailed in Appendix A of the report.

In terms of comments, members welcomed the approach outlined and way in which development of the strategy had been aligned to not only the London Plan and Mayor of London's Transport Strategy but also the Borough Plan, emerging Local Plan, Inclusive Growth Strategy along with the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan. The approach towards encouraging more active forms of travel was also supported along with the particular focus identified within town centres and outside schools and wider lobbying to secure transport improvements, particularly in relation to local rail services such as Chiltern Rail and delivery of the West London Orbital Rail scheme. Whilst noting the challenges identified in relation to future funding of TfL and securing improvements in the provision and operation of public transport services not directly within the control of the Council, members were keen to recognise the ambition within the strategy and to highlight the importance of the community and stakeholder engagement process in seeking to secure and deliver the improvements identified in terms of access to the borough and its transport systems.

Having considered the report Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- (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 and wider stakeholder engagement during spring 2022. The consultation to be for a minimum six week period.

- (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.

#### 11. **Final Redefining Local Services Delivery Model and Authority to Tender Contract for Highways Maintenance Services**

Councillor Krupa Sheth (Lead Member for Environment) introduced a report setting out the final proposed level of insourcing within the Redefined Local Services (RLS) Delivery Model relating to the Highways Reactive Maintenance function and presenting the detailed procurement strategy and timetable for the Highways Maintenance Services contracts (Highways Services).

In considering the report Cabinet noted the scope, aims, objectives and improvement priorities of the RLS programme along with the Highway Services procurement strategy, which for the reasons outlined in section 3 of the report, would also include the Highways Reactive Maintenance arrangements. Cabinet was advised this would include one tender with two separate Lots and the highways consultancy service to be tendered separately. The scope of the two Lots would cover reactive highways maintenance; cyclical and reactive gully cleansing; planned highways maintenance and highway schemes. The intention would be to appoint different contractors to the two work Lots for planned maintenance and scheme work, with the borough split geographically into two areas allowing one contractor to take on each area.

In welcoming the approach outlined, Cabinet noted this had been designed to provide greater flexibility in terms of service delivery along with a “back up” contractor facility from one area to another in order to enhance service outcomes and the responsive nature of the service.

Having considered the report Cabinet **RESOLVED**, having also noted the information contained within the exempt appendix of the report:

- (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.
- (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.
- (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.
- (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.

#### 12. **Authority to Tender: Contract for Parking and Traffic Enforcement Services**

Councillor Krupa Sheth (Lead Member for Environment) introduced a report setting out the procurement strategy and timetable for the Parking and Traffic Civil

Enforcement (PCE) Services contract and the Cashless Parking Contract (the Parking Services Contracts).

In considering the report Cabinet noted the aims and objectives of the RLS programme along with the service improvement priorities and intention to procure the PCE services as a standalone service contract giving specialist parking providers the opportunity to bid directly for the separate services on the basis of the benefits, improvements and opportunities identified within section 4 of the report.

In supporting the approach outlined within the report, Cabinet recognised the links identified in relation to Brent's Long Term Transport Strategy and Climate Emergency Strategy and as part of the Council's overall objective and vision to be able to manage in a balanced way parking and traffic flows for the benefit and safety of residents, businesses and visitors across the borough.

Having considered the report, Cabinet **RESOLVED** having also noted the exempt information contained in the appendix to the report:

- (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.
- (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.

### 13. **NNDR Rate Relief 2022-23**

Councillor McLennan (Deputy Leader, Lead Member for Resources and Interim Lead on Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care) introduced a report detailing a discretionary scheme for 2022/23 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief and the 2022/23 Extension of Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Relief for small and medium properties.

In considering the report Cabinet noted that the proposals relating to the 2022/23 scheme for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure had been based on guidance issued by the government in December 2021 who had indicated this would be a temporary measure to cover the 2022/23 financial year. The scheme had been designed to provide eligible, occupied retail, hospitality and leisure properties with a 50% relief up to a cash limit of £110k per business. The proposals relating to the extension of the transitional rate relief scheme had also followed guidance issued by government as another temporary measure in response to the ongoing impact of the pandemic, with details on its operation set out in section 3.5 – 3.6 of the report.

Whilst noting the limited number of eligible properties that would be covered under the extension of the transitional rate relief scheme, Cabinet welcomed the measures which had been introduced as a means of providing further support for those businesses and residents who were continuing to be impacted as a result of the pandemic.

Having considered the report Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- (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.
- (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.
- (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 report.

**14. Exclusion of Press and Public**

There were no items that required the exclusion of the press and public at the meeting.

**15. Any other urgent business**

None.

The meeting ended at 11.20 am

COUNCILLOR MUHAMMED BUTT  
Chair