

London Borough of Brent – Summary of decisions taken by the Council on Monday 12 July 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Colacicco (Mayor), Aden (Deputy Mayor), Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, S.Choudhary, A.Choudry, Dar, Ethapemi, Ezeajughi, Farah, Gbajumo, Georgiou, Grahl, Hassan, Hector, Hirani, Hylton, Johnson, Kabir, Kansagra, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Lo, Long, Mahmood, Mashari, Maurice, McLeish, McLennan, Miller, Mitchell-Murray, Murray, Naheerathan, Nerva, M.Patel, Sangani, Shahzad, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Southwood, Stephens, Tatler, Thakkar.

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1	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Abi, Akram, Colwill, Conneely, Crane, Daly, Denselow, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Lloyd, R.Patel, Perrin and Shah. An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Chan.
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Thursday 29 April 2021 were approved as a correct record.
3	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.
4	Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)	NOTED 1. The statement made by the Chief Executive prior to the start of the Mayors Announcements relating to the scenes around Wembley Stadium in the build up to the UEFA Championship final on Sunday 11 July 21. Referring to the unacceptable nature of the scenes witnessed, the Chief Executive advised of the work being undertaken with partners at the FA, Police and within the Wembley Safety Advisory Group to review what had happened in order to avoid anything similar being experienced and improve the management of future major events at Wembley. Turning to the more positive nature of the championships, the opportunity was also taken to congratulate the England Team for their achievements and inspiration provided both off and on the pitch and to thank all those involved for the work in ensuring the overall tournament was delivered successfully.

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		<p>2. The announcements which followed from the Mayor in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The thanks expressed on behalf of members to all staff and partners involved in the safe delivery of the UEFA Euro 2020 Championship matches at Wembley Stadium. • The result of the Brondesbury Park by-election and welcoming Councillor Grahl as the newly elected member to the Council. • The Queen’s Birthday Honours List & MBE awarded to Councillor Southwood • The Royal British Legion 100th Anniversary • The Garden Studios Tour • The Visit to Vaccine Centres and delivery events • The Windrush Day celebrations • The NHS Social Care & Frontline Workers Day • The Srebrenica Memorial Event • Petitions
5	Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs (if any)	No change in the appointments to Committees or Outside Bodies were submitted for approval at the meeting.
6	Deputations (if any)	No deputations were received at the meeting.
7	Questions from Members of the Public & Brent Youth Parliament	<p>NOTED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That no questions had been submitted for response by members of the public. 2. That no questions had been submitted for response by the Brent Youth Parliament.

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8	Petitions (if any)	No petitions were received for debate at the meeting.
9	Reports from the Leader and Cabinet	NOTED the report and update provided at the meeting by Councillor M. Butt, Leader of the Council, highlighting the ongoing work being undertaken across each Cabinet portfolio in response to the Covid 19 recovery programme and delivery of ongoing support and services to residents. Members were also asked to note the list of urgent Executive decisions taken since the last Council meeting.
10	Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members	<p>NOTED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The written and supplementary verbal response provided by the Deputy Leader to a question submitted by Councillor Ahmed regarding the continued support being provided for local residents and businesses as part of the Covid-19 recovery programme. 2. The written and supplementary verbal response provided by the Lead Member for Environment to a question submitted by Councillor Hylton in relation to the progress being made in building back better as part of the commitments contained within the Council’s Climate Emergency Strategy and involvement of local businesses in the Brent Environmental Network. 3. The written and supplementary response provided by the Lead Member for Housing & Welfare Reform regarding progress in addressing the findings contained within the report from the Independent Poverty Commission and with specific reference to food poverty. 4. The written and supplementary verbal response provided by the Lead Member for Environment to a question submitted by Councillor Maurice regarding representations being made to TfL on extension of the ULEZ and its impact on

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		<p>residents accessing the Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Abbey Road.</p> <p>Responses were also provided by the relevant Lead Members on the following additional questions raised during the open session of this part of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Kelcher regarding residents' concerns around noise and pollution from the funfair in Roundwood Park. • Councillor Georgiou regarding the support available to help home-based small and micro businesses during the pandemic. • Councillor Kennelly regarding the support available to leaseholders affected by the cladding scandal and efforts to ensure it did not happen again. • Councillor Thakkar regarding what had been learned from the vaccination rollout and concerns around the effects of Long Covid. • Councillor Afzal regarding how the Council would be working with its partners to tackle discrimination and abuse in football on social media. • Councillor Mahmood regarding the introduction of ULEZ charges in the borough. • Councillor Choudhary regarding the actions being taken by the Council to provide a Covid-19 economic recovery programme. • Councillor Long regarding how the Council would be working with Thames Water to resolve rainwater drainage issues across the borough and specifically within Willesden Green. • Councillor Kennelly regarding the funding available to tackle violent crime within hotspots identified in the north of the borough. • Councillor Georgiou regarding whether the Deputy Leader would be willing to meet with residents who had felt excluded from pandemic-related grant funding.
11	Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees	NOTED the update reports provided by the Chairs of the Resources & Public Realm and Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committees.

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		<p>Responses were also provided by the relevant Scrutiny Chairs on the following additional questions raised during the open session of this part of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Thakkar regarding the changes that had been made to maternity services at Northwick Park as an outcome of the recent CQC Inspection and discussions between the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and relevant partners.
12	Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee	NOTED the update report provided by the Vice Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.
13	Non Cabinet Members' Debate	<p>The following motion was agreed as an outcome of the non-cabinet member debate:</p> <p><u>Somewhere to call Home</u></p> <p>This Council understands that housing is amongst this city's greatest social and economic challenges.</p> <p>This Council recognises that there are no quick fixes or easy options, but remains nonetheless determined to make things better.</p> <p>This Council can be proud of how far it has come in tackling the many problems afflicting the borough's many housing markets and systems.</p> <p>This Council notes its record of:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping deliver more than 11,000 new homes, almost 30% of which at social or affordable level, including more than 1,000 brand new council homes; • Bringing council housing services back in-house, leading to improvements in performance; • Beginning the process of properly regulating and responding to the needs of people living in this borough’s substantial private rental market; and • Tackling homelessness by developing i4B, an ethically managed, council-owned private rental service. <p>That said, this Council is of course alive to the fact that there is obviously much more to do if housing is to be made universally affordable, readily available, and of the highest possible standards.</p> <p>To that end, this Council is determined to build on its proud record, and is committed to continue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressing government on giving us the powers we need to roll out landlord licensing across the borough; • Campaigning against government plans to strip local residents of their democratic rights to participate in and contribute to the planning process; • Intervening earlier when residents are at risk of homelessness, giving them the best possible chance of getting back on their feet;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping every resident who loses their home find another they can afford; • Working with other London boroughs and local partners to provide guaranteed emergency shelter to anyone forced to sleep rough; • Growing i4B, changing the nature of the rental market from the inside, making it a fairer, more affordable, and decent place to live; • Developing a new generation of Key Worker housing; • Making it easier for those residents who need help to downsize, relocate or find a more suitable home; • Encouraging and supporting the formation of independent Tenants and Residents Associations in the homes that we provide and manage, calling on Housing Associations to do the same; and • Pressuring government to properly fund and support essential fire safety works across the public and private sectors.
14	Recovery from Covid-19	<p>Council RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To agree the establishment of a £17m reserve as detailed in the report as part of the Borough’s COVID-19 recovery plan. (2) To agree that the new £17m reserve be established through re-designation of existing reserves that were set aside to manage the financial impact of COVID-19 and, where dealing with health inequalities, the ring fenced Public Health

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		reserves.
15	Treasury Management Outturn Report 2020-21	<p>Council RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To note and approve, following its consideration by Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 11 May 2021 and Cabinet on 14 June 2021 the the 2020/21 Treasury Management outturn report, in compliance with CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code).</p> <p>(2) To note that for 2020/21 the Council had complied with its Prudential Indicators which were approved by Full Council on 19 February 2020 as part of the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Capital Strategy Statement.</p>
16	Changes to the Constitution	<p>Council RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To agree the designation of the Operational Director, Adult Social Care as the council’s statutory Director of Adult Social Services (DASS).</p> <p>(2) To agree the designation of the Senior Lawyer, Constitution and Governance as the council’s Data Protection Officer (DPO).</p> <p>(3) To agree that the delegation of council functions in Appendix 1 of the report remain in place until the next meeting of Full Council in September 2021.</p> <p>(4) To note that the delegation of executive functions in Appendix 1 of the report would remain in place until the next meeting of Full Council in September 2021, unless otherwise determined by the Leader.</p>

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		<p>(5) To note that, to the extent that the changes set out in this report relate to executive functions of the Council, they had been approved by the Leader.</p> <p>(6) To authorise the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations to amend the Constitution accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.</p>
17	Financial Regulations and Scheme of Virements and Transfers	<p>Council RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To agree the proposed Financial Regulations as set out within Appendix A of the report to replace the current Financial Regulations in the constitution.</p> <p>(2) To agree the proposed Scheme of Virements and Transfers as set out within Appendix B of the report to replace the current Scheme of Virements and Transfers in the constitution.</p>
18	Approval of resolution for reason of member non-attendance at meetings	<p>Council RESOLVED to approve in relation to each member of the Council, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the following reason set out below in respect of non-attendance of any member until the Council's annual meeting in May 2022:</p> <p>The councillor has been unable to attend as a member (including remote attendance during the period that the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 were in force) any relevant meeting (as defined within paragraph 3.1 of the report) throughout a 6-month period due to the circumstances set out in section 3.4 of the report.</p>
19	Motions	<p>(1) The following motion submitted by the Conservative Group was declared lost:</p>

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		<p><u>Protect Our Environment</u></p> <p>This Council notes the concerns of Brent Residents Against Asphalt Pavements, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The basis for the Council’s policy adopted in May 2016 to replace paving slabs by asphalt when footways are being renewed; and b. The implementation and apparent further evolution of the policy up to the present time. <p>This Council believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme is aesthetically ugly. • The programme is environmentally harmful. <p>The programme is costly in comparison to replacing and repairing existing slab and or block paving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Residents were not and are not properly consulted and their views are ignored. <p>This Council therefore calls on the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet to halt the roll out of this programme forthwith and revert to repair and replace the pavement like for like.</p>

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		<p>Councillors Georgiou, Kansagra and Maurice voted in favour of the above motion. All other members present at the meeting voted against the motion.</p> <p>(2) The following Motion submitted by the Labour Group was approved:</p> <p><u>The road to recovery</u></p> <p>This Council recognises how deeply the pandemic has impacted on the lives and livelihoods of the people of Brent.</p> <p>This Council acknowledges the toll taken on all residents, not least those already enduring, pre-COVID19, the enormous difficulties of poverty and deprivation.</p> <p>This Council commends the huge civic effort that enabled the speedy and sustained provision of essential support to those prevented by various lockdown restrictions from meeting their own needs.</p> <p>This Council applauds communities that have come together in these difficult times, and commends key workers that have given so much of themselves in keeping vital services running.</p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the invaluable Resident Support Fund through which thousands of households could access desperately needed financial assistance • The delivery of the Covid-19 Winter Grant Scheme supporting families in need over the winter period

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of nearly £100m for local business impacted by Covid-19 • Its ability to help meet the third highest level of demand in England for self-employment support packages • The enhancement of Brent Start and Brent Works to ensure that Brent’s workforce remains connected to nearby employment opportunities • The outstanding help and support provided to high numbers of clinically extremely vulnerable residents • The public health partnerships that have enabled the large scale and ongoing roll out of vaccinations <p>This Council commits itself to continue building on these successes and embraces the fact that there remains much to be done on this borough’s road to recovery.</p> <p>To that end, this Council is determined to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver on its Climate and Ecological Emergency pledge to become a carbon neutral borough. • Launch the Business Support Fund and Additional Grant Scheme, providing local enterprise with access to a wide range of financial and advisory resources. • Collaborate locally to provide affordable and creative co-working space in

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		response to people's new working patterns. Councillors Kansagra and Maurice abstained from voting on the above motion.