



SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 20 September 2021 at 6.00 pm

Grand Hall - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Please note that this meeting will be held as a socially distanced physical meeting with all members of the Council required to attend in person.

Guidance on the safe delivery of face-to-face meetings is included at the end of the agenda frontsheet.

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: 10 September 2021 (Republished 15 & 20 September 2021)

For further information contact: James Kinsella, Governance Manager
Tel: 020 8937 2063; Email: 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

Due to current restrictions and limits on the socially distanced venue capacity, any press and public wishing to attend this

meeting are encouraged to do so via the live webcast. The link to attend the meeting will be made 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 of trade union).
- (b) The interests 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

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 22

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on Monday 12 July 2021.

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)

23 - 24

To agree any appointments to Committees, Joint Committees, Forums, Panels and Outside Bodies in accordance with Standing Order 30(g).
(List of appointments included as part of republished agenda on 20 September 21)

6 Deputations (if any)

To hear any deputations requested by members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 32.

7 Questions from Members of the Public

25 - 32

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

Members are asked to note that five 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 Scheme and Standing Order 66.

9 Annual Report from the Leader of the Council

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

10 Reports from the Leader and Cabinet 33 - 74

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

11 Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members 75 - 80

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

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

Members are asked to note that this session will also include an opportunity (within the time available) for other Non-Cabinet members and the Opposition to ask questions of Cabinet Members.

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 81 - 90
(Agenda republished with report attached 15 September 2021)

12.2 Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 91 - 100

Members are asked to note that this session will include an opportunity (within the time available) for Non-Cabinet Members to ask questions of relevant Scrutiny Chair's in relation to the remit of their Committees.

13 Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee 101 - 104

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 105 - 106

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 reports from Cabinet members, as required, on any issues previously raised.

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

Cuts to Universal Credit

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

15 Continuation of Temporary Delegations

107 - 110

To receive a report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations seeking approval to extend the additional delegations granted to the Chief Executive following the expiry of Regulations enabling Local Authority meetings to be held on a remote or hybrid basis during the pandemic period, in order to reduce the number of meetings required.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Debra Norman, Director of
Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations
Tel: 020 8937 1578
debra.norman@brent.gov.uk

16 Motions

111 - 116

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

Members are asked to note that the motions submitted have now been republished with the agenda.

(Agenda republished to include motions on 15 September 2021)

17 Urgent Business

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

Guidance on the delivery of safe meetings at The Drum, Brent Civic Centre

- We have revised the capacities and floor plans for event spaces to ensure they are Covid-19 compliant and meet the current social distancing guidelines.
- Attendees will need to maintain the necessary social distancing at all times.
- Signage and reminders, including floor markers for social distancing and one-way flow systems are present throughout The Drum and need to be followed.
- Please note the Civic Centre visitor lifts will have reduced capacity to help with social distancing.
- The use of face coverings is encouraged with hand sanitiser dispensers

located at the main entrance to The Drum and within each meeting room.

- Those attending meetings are asked to scan the coronavirus NHS QR code for the Grand Hall upon entry. Posters of the QR code are located in front of the main entrance.
- Although not required, should anyone attending wish to do book a lateral flow test in advance these are also available at the Civic Centre and can be booked via the following link:
<https://www.brent.gov.uk/yourcommunity/coronavirus/covid-19-testing/if-you-dont-have-symptoms/>

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LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
held in the Grand Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 12 July 2021 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Lia Colacicco

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Abdi Aden

COUNCILLORS:

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	Murray
W Mitchell Murray	Naheerathan
Nerva	M. Patel
Sangani	Shahzad
Ketan Sheth	Krupa Sheth
Southwood	Stephens
Tatler	Thakkar

1. Mayors Introductory Statement & Order of Business

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the first in person Full Council which it had been possible to hold since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic. Before consideration of the formal agenda, the Mayor informed members of a change to the order of business. Given that some members were unable to attend the meeting in person due to underlying health conditions or other issues relating to Covid-19, she

intended to move the order of items so that the report listed as item 18 on the agenda (Approval of resolution for reason of member non-attendance at meetings) was taken as the first item of business.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) The business to be considered at the meeting be re-arranged in the following order:

Agenda Item 18 be considered as Agenda Item 1 – (Approval of resolution for reason of member non-attendance at meetings);

- (2) The remaining items of business to follow in the same order as listed in the agenda.

2. **Approval of resolution for reason of member non-attendance at meetings**

Having agreed to the change in the order of business, the Mayor then invited Councillor M Butt (Leader of the Council) to introduce the report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations seeking approval to extend the reasons under which a waiver might be granted for the non-attendance of any member at a meeting of the Council, Cabinet or any committee or sub-committee of the Council within a six-month period, for circumstances related to Covid-19.

As no members indicated they wished to speak on the item, the Mayor put the recommendations in the report straight to the vote and they were unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **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 in respect of the non-attendance of any member until the Council's Annual meeting in May 2022:

“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.”

3. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor reported that apologies for absence had been 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.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 29 April 2021 be approved as a correct record.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

6. **Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)**

Prior to the Mayor's Announcements, the Mayor invited Carolyn Downs (as Chief Executive) to make a statement on the scenes witnessed around Wembley Stadium in the build up to the UEFA European 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 (including Brent's Raheem Sterling) for their achievements and inspiration provided both on and off the pitch and to thank all those involved for the work in ensuring the overall tournament, during which Brent had hosted eight matches at Wembley Stadium, was delivered successfully. This was highlighted as a particularly achievement given the extent to which the borough had also been impacted by the Covid pandemic and work which had needed to be undertaken in response. The subsequent racist abuse received by players within the England squad was also condemned on behalf of the Council in the strongest possible terms.

Members fully endorsed the statement made by the Chief Executive and the Mayor then moved on to make the following announcements:

(i). UEFA European 2020 Championship

The Mayor thanked all staff involved for their efforts in supporting the safe delivery of the UEFA European 2020 Championship tournament during the previous month. Whilst England had not won the tournament, she felt it was still a great achievement to have reached the final. She also recognised the work that had been undertaken to deliver the testing arrangements at the Civic Centre and by the Council's Highways, Regulatory Services, Community Safety and Enforcement teams as well as Veolia in supporting each match been hosted at Wembley Stadium.

(ii). Brondesbury Park by-election – Welcome to Councillor Grahl

The Mayor then took the opportunity to formally welcomed Councillor Grahl to her first Full Council meeting as the newly elected ward member for Brondesbury Park following a by-election held on 7 May. She thanked the Returning Officer and all staff involved for the safe and efficient delivery of both the by-election and the London Mayoral and Assembly elections.

(iii). Queen's Birthday Honours List

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Southwood, who she advised had received an MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. The award was given for Councillor Southwood's service to charity and local government, and in particular

her leadership of and campaigning for the Royal National Institute of the Blind and her time as an elected member.

(iv). Royal British Legion – 100th Anniversary

The Mayor advised that she had been honoured to attend a small wreath laying ceremony at Barham Park to mark the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Royal British Legion. She felt the event had demonstrated the borough's support and duty to the Royal British Legion.

(v). Garden Studios

The Mayor then informed members she had been pleased to have been invited to visit the new Garden Studios built in Harlesden. Commenting on the tour, she felt that the borough was lucky to have such an amazing facility to be shared with local residents.

(vi). Vaccination Events

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank all those involved in supporting the Max Vaccine event at Bridge Park, the vaccine bus in Cricklewood and the pop up vaccination centre in Willesden. She was keen to recognise the important role these events and facilities were playing in encouraging and supporting the community vaccination programme.

(vii). Windrush Day

The Mayor then advised that she had been pleased to attend the virtual celebrations for Windrush Day on 22 June, which honoured the British Caribbean community and the half a million Caribbean people who travelled to the UK after the Second World War. Highlighting the efforts and commitment made by the Council to mark the day since it had first been commemorated in 2018 she felt this was an important way in which to recognise and support the contribution made by the Windrush Generation.

(viii). NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day

The Mayor advised Members of her involvement in supporting the first NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day on 5 July, which had been held to celebrate the founding of the NHS. The Mayor felt it was important to recognise the way in which NHS, Social Care and frontline workers had all mobilised since the start of the pandemic to keep the nation afloat and felt they were all owed an enormous debt of gratitude. She also advised how the event had provided an opportunity to remember those who had lost their lives during the pandemic.

(ix). Srebrenica Memorial Event

The Mayor also advised Members of her attendance at a virtual remembrance event commemorating those who had been displaced during the genocide and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia in the 1990s. The theme of the event had been focussed on those who had settled in the UK and how they had been able to rebuild their lives.

(x). Petitions

Finally, the Mayor drew members attention to the list of current petitions tabled at tonight's meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders, which also shows the action being taken to deal with them.

7. **Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs (if any)**

The Mayor advised that there were no membership changes to be considered at the meeting so moved straight on to the next item.

8. **Deputations (if any)**

The Mayor advised that no requests for any deputations had been received for consideration at the meeting.

9. **Questions from Members of the Public & Brent Youth Parliament**

The Mayor advised that no questions had been received from members of the public or from representatives of the Brent Youth Parliament.

10. **Petitions (if any)**

The Mayor advised that no requests for any debates on petitions had been received for consideration at the meeting.

11. **Reports from the Leader and Cabinet**

The Mayor then invited Councillor M Butt, Leader of the Council, to introduce the report updating members on the work undertaken by the Cabinet and significant issues identified within their remit. In presenting the report, Councillor M Butt highlighted the extent of work being undertaken across a number of key service areas including housing & welfare support, environment, planning & regeneration, public health, schools, employment, social care and community safety and thanked the Lead Members for their work and efforts to support continued service provision for residents during both the pandemic and recovery process. Finally, members were asked to note the list of Executive decisions tabled at the meeting which had been taken under the Council's urgency procedures.

The Mayor thanked the Leader for his report and it was **RESOLVED** to formally note the update provided.

12. **Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members**

Before moving on to consider the questions submitted by non-Cabinet members, the Mayor reminded Members that a total of 30 minutes had been set aside for this item, which would begin with consideration of the written questions submitted in advance of the meeting along with any supplementary questions. Once these had been dealt with, the remaining time available would then be opened up for any

other non-Cabinet members to question Lead Members (without the need for advance notice) on matters relating to their portfolio.

The Mayor advised that four written questions had been submitted in advance for response by the relevant Lead Member. The written responses supplied had been circulated within the agenda. The Mayor invited supplementary questions from the Members who had submitted the written questions. The following questions were raised and responses provided:

12.1 Without raising any specific supplementary question Councillor Ahmed took the opportunity to thank Councillor McLennan, as Deputy Leader, for her response to his question and noted the continued support being provided for local residents and businesses as part of the Covid-19 recovery programme.

12.2 Councillor Hylton thanked Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Lead Member for Environment, for the written response in relation to her question on the Council's efforts to build back better from the pandemic and deliver on its climate emergency commitments. Councillor Hylton then asked a supplementary question seeking details on the involvement of local businesses as part of the Brent Environment Network.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth advised that a number of local businesses had signed up to the Brent Environment Network and that the Council had regular meetings with these businesses to support them to fulfil their climate obligations.

12.3 Councillor Grahl thanked Councillor Southwood, as Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform, for the written response to her question in relation to the Council's efforts to tackle poverty within the borough. Councillor Grahl then asked a supplementary question on the work being undertaken to tackle food poverty.

In response, Councillor Southwood highlighted the extent to which food poverty was an issue providing the example locally of food banks within Brent having supported over 13,000 residents. She advised that the Council would continue to work alongside foodbanks to ensure relevant support could be accessed. Moving forward, she also highlighted the work being undertaken by the Council to support fresh food projects and community gardens as an additional means of promoting healthy and sustainable food sources.

12.4 Councillor Maurice thanked Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Lead Member for Environment, for the written response to his question in relation to the impact of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) charge on users of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Abbey Road. Councillor Maurice then asked a supplementary question seeking further clarification on the answer provided and whether the Council would make representations to Transport for London seeking an exemption from the charge for Brent residents using the Household and Recycling Centre.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth advised that Brent had made a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 but highlighted that difficult

choices would be required in order to reach this objective which may unfortunately inconvenience residents. Whilst the boundaries for the ULEZ had now been set, other options were available for those residents likely to be impacted in terms of use of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Abbey Road which it was pointed out also included the Council's bulky waste service and community skips.

The Mayor thanked members for their written questions and Lead Members for the responses provided to the supplementary questions. She then advised that the remainder of the time available would be used for an open question time session to the Cabinet. The following questions were raised and responses provided:

- (i). Councillor Kelcher sought details on action being taken to address residents' concerns around noise, pollution and anti-social behaviour from a funfair at Roundwood Park.

Councillor Knight, as Lead Member for Community Safety and Engagement, responded by advising that the Council had sought assurances from the operators of the event that sound protective cladding would be fitted to their generators and that alternative locations for the generators would be considered, if necessary. Additionally, members were advised that the operators had outlined their commitment to engaging with local residents regarding noise concerns and that the Council's Nuisance Control team were also available to visit and investigate any further complaints. Whilst no specific anti-social behaviour complaints had been received by the Council, members were encouraged to report any further concerns they may have to ensure they were properly investigated.

- (ii). Councillor Georgiou sought further detail on the support available to help home-based small and micro businesses during the pandemic.

Councillor McLennan, as Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources, advised that the Council had discharged over £100 million pounds in business grant support and continued to look at the ways in which it could support local businesses. She also highlighted that further detail on the support being made available to local businesses, as the Council moved forward into the recovery phase of the pandemic, had been included in the Covid-19 recovery paper to be considered later on the agenda.

- (iii). Councillor Kennelly referring to local protests within the borough on the issue, sought further detail on the approach being taken by the Council and support available to leaseholders affected by the cladding scandal along with efforts being made to ensure the problems identified were addressed and could not happen again.

In response, Councillor Tatler, as Lead Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning, provided assurance that the Council continued to lobby central government to ensure adequate support was provided for leaseholders affected by the cladding scandal. Regarding planning applications, she advised that the Council's remit did not allow it to consider the past history of developers as landlords. She encouraged all Members (including those from the Conservative Group) to join the Administration in their continued efforts to

lobby central government to ensure the issue was properly addressed and funded.

- (iv). Councillor Thakkar was keen to explore what had been learned from the vaccination rollout and concerns around the effects of Long Covid.

In response, Councillor Nerva, as Lead Member for Public Health, Culture and Leisure, advised that whilst the Council was not directly responsible for the vaccine rollout it was supporting its health partners in the process. He thanked everyone who had come forward to receive their vaccination, as well as the NHS and volunteers who were administering them. He advised that the Council had been working in partnership to ensure vaccines were taken up throughout the community, for example by using vaccination buses and collaborating with community leaders. Regarding Long Covid, he advised that the Council and its partners were awaiting the outcome of the mass pilot events and studies on the effects of Long Covid with further updates on any implications in terms of the future planning and provision of local services to be provided for the Health & Wellbeing Board.

- (v). Councillor Afzal referring to the recent incidents of racial abuse on social media directed towards members of the Enfield Football squad sought further details on how it was felt the Council could support and work with its partners to tackle the issue of discrimination and abuse on social media.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Lead Member for Environment, assured members of the Councils stance against hate and discrimination of any kind. Referring back to the statement made by the Chief Executive earlier in the meeting, she advised that further discussions were planned with the Stadium Safety Group and partners to ascertain what had happened in the build up to the UEFA European Championship Final and how any issues identified could be addressed going forward. She ended her response by also thanking all Council staff for the work they had undertaken to support delivery of the tournament at Wembley Stadium.

- (vi). Referring to the concerns highlighted earlier in the session, Councillor Mahmood queried what support was being provided for residents likely to be impacted by introduction of ULEZ charges in the borough.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Lead Member for Environment, advised members of the initial support likely to be available from the GLA for those residents in financial hardship who may be impacted by the introduction of the ULEZ charge and potential for the Council to also look at other forms of support over the longer term.

- (vii). Councillor Choudhary sought further details on the actions being taken by the Council to develop its Covid-19 economic recovery programme.

Taking the opportunity to highlight what he felt had been the limited response from central government to provide adequate support for local residents during the pandemic and impact of ongoing reductions in funding for local services, Councillor M.Butt, as Leader of the Council, assured members of the Council's continued commitment to supporting the most vulnerable residents

in the borough. Highlighting the various approaches being developed to support residents moving forward, he again (in response to the specific question) referred members to the detail contained within the Covid-19 recovery paper to be considered later on the agenda.

- (viii). Councillor Long highlighting specific issues within Willesden Green, sought details about how the Council would be working with Thames Water to resolve rainwater drainage issues across the borough.

In response, Councillor Sheth, as Lead Member for Environment, advised that the concerns expressed had been raised direct with Thames Water with the Council keen to work with them in order to ensure the issues highlighted were progressed and improvements were secured in terms of their operation across the borough.

- (ix). Highlighting concerns about recent local social media content, Councillor Kennelly sought details on the funding available to tackle violent crime within hotspots identified in the north of the borough.

Councillor Knight, as Lead Member for Community Safety and Engagement, outlined the work being undertaken by the Council and funding available to tackle crime within a range of identified hotspots across the borough. She asked Councillor Kennelly to forward any information he may have regarding the specific incident highlighted so that it could be investigated further.

- (x). Following on from his previous question, Councillor Georgiou asked the Deputy Leader whether she would be willing to meet with residents who had advised they felt excluded from access to pandemic-related grant funding.

In response, Councillor McLennan, as Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources, advised that she would be happy to meet with any residents who felt they had been excluded from the range of support which had been made available during the pandemic.

At this stage in the proceedings, the Mayor advised that the time available for the open question session had expired. She therefore thanked all members for their contributions and advised that she would now move on to the next item.

13. Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees

Before being presented with the updates from each Scrutiny Committee Chair, the Mayor reminded members the time set aside for this item was 12 minutes, with each Chair having up to three minutes in which to highlight any significant issues arising from the work of their Committees. Once these updates had been provided, the remaining time available would then be opened up for any other non-Cabinet members to question (without the need for advance notice) the Scrutiny Committee Chairs on matters relating to the work of their Committee.

Councillor Mashari was then invited to introduce the update report on the work being undertaken by the Resources and Public Realm Committee, with the following issues highlighted:

- The wide ranging remit of the Committee and its work programme which included waste and recycling, welfare and benefits, employment and skills, planning and regeneration, climate and community safety.
- The wide scope of work undertaken by the Panel over the previous year which, amongst other issues had included a focus on the impact of pandemic on employment, fly tipping, the future of high streets and local business support.
- The Committee's engagement with a range of stakeholders and external witnesses at their meetings including the business representatives as well as the voluntary and community sector. It was felt this had provided an interesting and diverse perspective to the Committee's work.
- The Committee's intention to include a review at its next meeting of the safety concerns already referred to at the meeting in relation to the scenes witness in and around Wembley Stadium in the build up to the UEFA European Championship Final.
- As outlined in the Committee's Work Plan for 2021/22, future focus would be on a range of topics including fire safety, CCTV provision and collaboration and consultation with members of the public on a range of issues including the budget.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Mashari for her update.

Councillor Ketan Sheth was then invited to introduce the update report on the work being undertaken by the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, with the following issues highlighted:

- Members were advised of the establishment by the Committee of a Scrutiny Task Group to review GP access, chaired by Councillor Daly. The Task Group review was currently ongoing with three wide ranging evidence gathering sessions having been held to date.
- Following publication of the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) review of maternity services at Northwick Park Hospital, the Committee had agreed to convene a special meeting in order to consider the report and areas for improvement which had been identified.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Ketan Sheth for his update and it was **RESOLVED** that the contents of both update reports be noted.

Following the updates provided, the Mayor advised that the remainder of time available would be open for questions from non-cabinet members to the Scrutiny Chairs. The Mayor reminded members of the need to ensure that questions raised were focused on the updates provided or the work being undertaken by each Committee. The following questions were raised and responses provided:

- (i). Following on from the update provided in relation to the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Thakkar sought further details on the planned review of the CQC inspection report in relation to maternity services at Northwick Park Hospital and how and action or improvements identified would be taken forward with partners.

In response, Councillor Ketan Sheth advised that the arrangements for the special meeting of the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee were currently being finalised but would include representatives from the main partner organisations with a focus on the key areas for improvement identified and plan to address those areas. He advised that any interested members would be welcome to attend.

As no further questions were raised the Mayor thanked both Chairs and members for their contribution before moving on to the next item.

14. **Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee**

The Mayor invited Councillor Lo, as Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee, to introduce the report updating members on the work of the Committee.

In terms of issues highlighted, Councillor Lo drew members attention to the important role which the Committee had in reviewing and approving the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts and commended Finance officers for the significant work undertaken to ensure the accounts had been completed and submitted on time for review by the Council's External Auditors.

Focussing specifically on the Committee's role in relation to compliance and control he also outlined and commended the robust nature of the work being undertaken in relation to various governance matters including internal audit activity, the regulatory framework and members' standards of conduct.

Finally, Councillor Lo also took the opportunity to draw members attention to the Corporate Risk Register and Annual Governance Statement, which had both been subject to review and approval by the Committee. The Committee had focussed on a number of risks including the ongoing pressure on local government finance and recovery from the pandemic and identified the need to ensure these risks were kept under review and that members were aware of the importance of both documents given their significance to the Councils overall control and governance arrangements.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Lo for the update provided and it was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

15. **Non Cabinet Members' Debate**

In accordance with Standing Order 34, the Mayor advised that the next item on the agenda was the non-cabinet member debate, with the subject chosen for consideration being the Council's commitment to solving the housing crisis.

Members were advised that the motion submitted as the basis for debate had been circulated with the agenda and that the time available for the debate was 25 minutes.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Johnson to introduce the motion. As context for the debate, Councillor Johnson highlighted the importance of secure and affordable housing provided for residents. In outlining his own experiences, he felt it was

important to recognise the impact created by the lack of universally affordable, readily available and high quality accommodation within London. To that end, Councillor Johnson urged all members to support the motion submitted as the basis for the debate and the Council in its efforts to build on its record of delivering affordable homes through its own delivery programme and regulation of the borough's private rental market.

The Mayor then opened up the debate to other members, with the following comments made during the discussion that followed:

Councillor Choudhary, speaking in support of the motion, felt it was important to recognise the Council's impressive record on providing affordable housing despite the Government's programme of austerity. He spoke in support of a range of planned developments across the borough such as in Neasden and Alperton, highlighting the positive impact they would have not only in providing much needed social and affordable housing but also various improvements to the public realm.

Councillor Miller also expressed his support for the motion, citing the difficulties being experienced by many in becoming homeowners and the resulting over reliance on the private rented sector. As a result, he felt there was need to continue encouraging central government to recognise the provision of social and affordable housing as a key means of addressing the housing crisis, which he felt could provide not only permanent solutions for residents but also the necessary assistance for those looking to be able to afford a permanent home.

Councillor Georgiou, whilst supporting the sentiments expressed in the motion, questioned the types of housing being delivered within his ward in Alperton. He felt that too many new developments were high-rise, offered too few affordable units and were being let under what he felt was a flawed leaseholder model.

Councillor Tatler, Lead Member for Regeneration, Property and Planning, also felt it was important to recognise the impact of the housing crisis not only within the borough but across London as a whole. In supporting the motion she expressed her pride in the Council's record of delivering affordable housing. She also called on all members, including those from the Conservative Group, to support the stance within the motion being taken against the Government's proposed national planning reforms, which she felt would remove the democratic right of residents to participate in the planning process and ability of the Council, as local planning authority, to support local employment, affordable housing provision and community cohesion.

Echoing the sentiments expressed by Councillor Miller, Councillor Mahmood also highlighted the importance of providing affordable high quality social housing as a means of tackling the housing crisis. Whilst supportive of the Council's record in delivering new affordable housing he also took the opportunity to highlight, as an example of the problems needing to be addressed, a case of a disabled resident he had been involved with who had experienced a wait of over a year for a permanently adapted home.

In supporting the motion, Councillor Kabir also commended the Council's record in delivering new social housing stock but recognised that more was needed to tackle the current housing crisis. As a specific example she highlighted the issue of leaseholders and those families needing to support children with special

educational needs and was keen to ensure these issues were also addressed as part of the action needing to be taken to address the current crisis.

In responding to comments made during the debate, Councillor Maurice highlighted his own as well as the Conservative Groups concerns regarding the proposed national planning reforms, feeling that planning control should remain with local authorities and the democratic rights of residents to participate in the process should be protected. At the same time, he also pointed out his dissatisfaction with proposed developments within the borough which did not provide adequate levels of affordable housing due to a lack of viability, and the continued construction of high-rise developments, which he felt also adversely affected communities.

Councillor Kennelly, speaking in support of the motion, thanked the Council for its efforts to bring rogue landlords to justice and protect the safety and wellbeing of private tenants. He highlighted the efforts of the Council in delivering affordable housing across the borough and, in praising the development of key worker housing in Wembley Park, also encouraged the Council to ensure returning army veterans had access to high-standard, affordable housing upon their return.

As a final contribution to the debate, Councillor Kansagra also expressed concern over some types of housing being built in the borough and subsequent developer contributions. He also felt there was a need to ensure the Council complied with its planning policy at all times as well as ensure it spent all available Community Infrastructure Levy contributions.

As no other members had indicated they wished to speak the Mayor then invited Councillor Southwood, as Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform, to sum up and close the debate.

Councillor Southwood began by reaffirming the Council's commitment to ensuring current and prospective residents had access to safe, secure and high quality affordable housing in order to maintain the Council's approach towards tackling the housing crisis. She recognised that affordability remained a significant issue for residents, whilst praising the contribution of i4B and Capital Letters in accessing and regulating the private rental market. She also highlighted the Council's efforts to ensure newly built homes were of a suitable standard and in adapting existing homes to provide more accessible accommodation for those with specific needs. As a final point, she felt it was important to recognise the Council's record and progress being made against delivery of its new homes programme as well as in tackling homelessness and seeking to develop other initiatives to maximise use of available housing stock. She ended by also thanking the public for their engagement and support in delivery of the new homes programme in order to address local needs.

With one minute left for the debate, the Mayor then invited Councillor Johnson to provide the closing remarks. Councillor Johnson thanked all members who had contributed in the debate. Whilst recognising the progress made alongside the extent of work still required to address the current housing crisis and ensure the provision of adequate levels of safe and affordable housing within the borough, he also highlighted the need to ensure the Government was encouraged to properly fund and support the delivery programme in order to meet the needs of local residents.

The Mayor thanked all members for their contributions and as an outcome of the debate it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the motion as set out below:

“This Council understands that housing is amongst this city’s greatest social and economic challenges.

This Council recognises that there are no quick fixes or easy options, but remains nonetheless determined to make things better.

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.

This Council notes its record of:

- 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.

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.

To that end, this Council is determined to build on its proud record, and is committed to continue:

- 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;
- 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.”

16. **Interval**

In accordance with Standing Order 24 the Mayor agreed to take a short 2 minute break at this stage in proceedings.

The meeting reconvened at 7:36pm

17. **Recovery from Covid-19**

The Mayor then invited Councillor McLennan, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources, to introduce the report from the Director of Finance presenting members with a sustainable and inclusive Covid-19 recovery programme for the borough. In introducing the report, Councillor McLennan advised members that Brent's response had highlighted the strengths in its approach to cross-sector engagement and partnership working. Whilst the recovery programme had been designed to build on the successes to date it also recognised those areas on which there was a need to refocus attention moving into the pandemic recovery phase in order to ensure the process was equitable, inclusive and environmentally sustainable and was able to address issues exacerbated by the pandemic in relation to health inequality and poverty. In concluding her introductory comments, attention was also drawn to the way in which the proposals in the report had been designed to provide a sustainable recovery process which was fully aligned to the Council's Borough Plan priorities.

The Mayor then opened the debate inviting other members to speak on the report.

Councillor Shahzad in supporting the proposals within the report took the opportunity to thank the NHS, the Council and all partner organisations for their hard work in supporting residents during the pandemic, which he commended as having brought the best out of everyone within the borough.

As no other members indicated they wished to speak on the item and Councillor McLennan had confirmed she did not need to exercise her right of reply, the Mayor then put the recommendations in the report to the vote and they were unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (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 reserves.

18. **Treasury Management Outturn Report 2020-21**

The Mayor then invited Councillor McLennan, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources, to introduce the report from the Director of Finance on Treasury Management activity and confirming the Council's compliance with its Prudential Indicators for 2020/21. In introducing the item members were advised that the report was being presented following its consideration by the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 11 May 2021 and Cabinet on 14 June 2021.

As no members indicated they wished to speak and Councillor McLennan had confirmed she did not need to exercise her right of reply the Mayor then put the recommendations in the report to the vote and they were unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To note and approve the 2020/21 Treasury Management outturn report, in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code).
- (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.

19. **Changes to the Constitution**

Moving on, the Mayor invited Councillor M Butt, Leader of the Council, to introduce the report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations detailing a number of recommended changes to the Constitution. Members were advised that these included the proposed re-designation of two statutory posts and potential further extension of officer delegations, which had been agreed on a temporary basis at the last Council meeting should they be felt to be required.

As no other members indicated that they wished to speak on the item and Councillor M. Butt had confirmed he did not need to exercise his right of reply, the Mayor put the recommendations in the report straight to the vote and they were unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To agree the designation of the Operational Director, Adult Social Care as the council's statutory Director of Adult Social Services (DASS).
- (2) To agree the designation of the Senior Lawyer, Constitution and Governance as the council's Data Protection Officer (DPO).

- (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.
- (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.
- (5) To note that, to the extent the changes set out within the report related to executive functions of the Council, they had been approved by the Leader of the Council.
- (6) To authorise the Director of Legal, HR. Audit & Investigations to amend the Constitution accordingly, including the making of any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

20. **Financial Regulations and Scheme of Virements and Transfers**

The Mayor then invited Councillor McLennan, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources, to introduce the report from the Director of Finance which members were advised detailed a number of proposed changes to the current Financial Regulations and Scheme of Virements and Transfers following the release of a new Financial Management Code and an updated Code of Audit Practice.

As no other members indicated they wished to speak on the item and Councillor McLennan had confirmed she did not need to exercise her right of reply, the Mayor then put the recommendations in the report to the vote and they were unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (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.
- (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.

21. **Motions**

Before moving on to consider the motions listed on the summons, the Mayor advised members that a total of 20 minutes had been set aside for the consideration of the two motions submitted for debate, based on an initial allocation of 10 minutes per motion. Should the time taken to consider the first motion be less than 10 minutes she advised that the remaining time available would be rolled forward for consideration of the remaining motion.

1st Motion (Conservative Group) – Protect Our Environment

The Mayor invited Councillor Kansagra to move the first motion which had been submitted on behalf of the Conservative Group. Councillor Kansagra, in moving the motion, began by highlighting the detrimental impact which he felt hard

landscaping, in particular asphalt paving, was having on water run-off and flooding in the borough. Referring to a number of concerns raised by the recently established alliance Brent Residents against Asphalt Pavements in an email to the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, he supported the request made for a detailed review to be undertaken of the current policy and the return in its place of like for like repair and renewal of pavements.

The Mayor then invited other members to speak on the motion, with the following contributions received.

Councillor Long, speaking against the motion, advised she did not support the view that asphalt paving increased flooding and instead highlighted what she felt to be the benefits of asphalt pavements in terms of them providing an easier, safer and more cost effective method of maintenance, repair and renewal than existing slab or block paving. For these reasons she advised that she would not be supporting the motion.

Councillor Georgiou, speaking in support of the motion, highlighted his concerns regarding the sustainability and environmental impact of the policy, which he felt not only served to increase the Council's carbon footprint but also directly contradicted the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy. He also highlighted the extent of local residents opposition to the policy and concerns which had been raised by Brent Residents against Asphalt Pavements.

As a further contribution Councillor Mashari, as Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, took the opportunity to confirm that a detailed response had been requested by the Committee on the email from Brent Residents against Asphalt Pavements in order to address the issues raised.

Councillor Kelcher, also speaking against the motion, outlined what he also felt to be the safety benefits from the use of asphalt rather than more traditional slab and block paving along with its more cost effective maintenance and repair. He also highlighted that not all local residents were objecting to the policy with many he had engaged with expressing their support.

As no further members had indicated that they wished to speak the Mayor invited Councillor Kansagra to exercise his right of reply.

In summing up, Councillor Kansagra advised that given the concerns raised by local residents regarding consultation on the policy and programme he would be seeking a formal response on the issues raised in the email from Brent Residents against Asphalt Pavements, which he was keen to ensure was also circulated to all members.

The Mayor then put the motion, as set out below, to a vote by show of hands which was declared **LOST**.

Protect Our Environment

This Council notes the concerns of Brent Residents against Asphalt Pavements, namely:

- 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.

This Council believes that:

- The programme is atheistically ugly.
- The programme is environmentally harmful.

The programme is costly in comparison to replacing and repairing existing slab and or block paving.

- The Residents were not and are not properly consulted and their views are ignored.

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."

Councillors Georgiou, Kansagra and Maurice voted in favour of the above motion.

2nd Motion (Labour Group) – The Road to Recovery

The Mayor then invited Councillor Afzal to move the second motion which had been submitted on behalf of the Labour Group. Councillor Afzal in moving the motion began by highlighting the efforts undertaken across the Council, its partners and local communities who had come together to ensure the provision of essential support to those most in need during the pandemic. In commending the motion to members, he was keen to ensure that a commitment was secured to continue building on these successes and embrace change during the borough's road to recovery, in spite of what he felt were the inadequacies of the support being provided by central government to deal with the pandemic and its ongoing impact.

The Mayor then invited other members to speak on the motion, with the following contributions received.

Councillor Maurice began by also highlighting what he felt was the need to recognise not only the efforts of key workers in ensuring key services were sustained throughout the pandemic but also the Government for the support they had provided in seeking to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, as well as on the mass vaccination rollout. Concerns were, however, raised in relation to the limited support which he felt had been provided for the self-employed. Moving on to then focus on the borough's pandemic recovery programme, he urged the Council to consider car users when working towards its climate goals, and was keen to ensure that funding for business support was maintained.

As a further contribution, Councillor Kansagra, whilst commending the level of support provided by the Council in response to the pandemic felt there was also a

need to recognise the level of financial support which had been provided by the Government to assist in the response.

Councillor Tatler, Lead Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning, then spoke in support of the motion and reassured members that the Council was committed to a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic. In particular, she highlighted the work underway to ensure Brent's high streets remained vibrant, ensure the provision of affordable workspaces and ensure local businesses had access to basic digital skills.

Councillor McLennan, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources, also spoke in support of the motion by highlighting the difficulty local authorities had in accessing the necessary levels of funding to support the response being led locally during the pandemic. She highlighted the promise by the Government to provide "whatever it took" in terms of funding and subsequent difficulties faced by the Council to ensure this commitment was met along with the challenges created as a result of the lack of a long term financial settlement for local government. Despite these issues, however, she felt the motion captured the huge civic efforts made to respond to the pandemic and ensure the necessary tangible support was provided locally for residents and business within the borough as part of the recovery programme.

As no further members had indicated that they wished to speak the Mayor invited Councillor Afzal to exercise his right of reply.

In summing up, Councillor Afzal highlighted the extent of the recovery that would be required as a result of the pandemic and the United Kingdom having one of the highest covid related death rates in the world. He felt the motion recognised the work of the Council, community and voluntary groups and key workers who had stepped up to support residents, which it was felt the Government had failed to do so. He ended by recognising the efforts made by all staff across the Council to support this response whilst also ensuring the continued delivery of essential services and for which he felt the Council had rightly been recognised as Council of the Year.

The Mayor then put the motion, as set out below, to a vote by show of hands which was declared **CARRIED**.

"This Council recognises how deeply the pandemic has impacted on the lives and livelihoods of the people of Brent.

This Council acknowledges the toll taken on all residents, not least those already enduring, pre-COVID19, the enormous difficulties of poverty and deprivation.

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.

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.

This Council notes:

- 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;
- 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;

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.

To that end, this Council is determined to:

- 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 response to people's new working patterns."

Councillors Kansagra and Maurice abstained from voting on the above motion.

22. Urgent Business

There were no urgent items of business raised at the meeting so the Mayor, in closing the meeting, thanked all members for their co-operation and support and advised that she looked forward to seeing everyone again in person at the next Full Council meeting on Monday 20 September 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

COUNCILLOR LIA COLACICCO
Mayor

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FULL COUNCIL – 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

AGENDA ITEM 5 – APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Standing Order 30(g) states that, if necessary, Full Council is required to agree appointments to committees and outside bodies.

Such appointments are set out below:

1. Councillor Kennelly to be replaced as a full member of the Licensing Committee by Councillor Grahl.

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Item 7: Questions from Members of the Public

Full Council – 20 September 2020

1. Question from Nicholas Kollgaard to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment

Why is Brent Council the last in Central London (and one of the last in the entire Greater London Region) to integrate with a flexible car sharing scheme, such as Zipcar's Flex scheme?

Whilst the benefits of such a flexible car sharing scheme are clear, officers within the Transportation Service have advised that further work is required to determine the full implications. Please could you provide an update on these investigations and when the Council aims to have a decision by?

Response:

Car sharing schemes are an important part of the overall transport offer in Brent and the Council recognises the important role they can play in reducing the need for people to own their own car which, in turn, can help alleviate congestion and improve local air quality. Two such schemes currently operate in Brent, with Zipcar and Enterprise Car Club operating from 50 locations across the borough on a fixed-bay model.

As part of the review of the Brent Long-Term Transport Strategy, the Council is proposing the development of a Shared Mobility Action Plan by the end of 2022, which will set out in more detail our approach to car sharing schemes and how they operate in the borough. This will include the potential for introducing flexible car sharing schemes, which currently operate in 15 of the 33 London Boroughs. Such schemes will need to be considered carefully due to the potential for issues such as inappropriate parking of vehicles, which can create problems for our local communities.

2. Question from Carmen Meagher-Mansilla to Councillor Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health, Culture & Leisure

Brent is a large Borough, with an enormous amount of development activity including in Cricklewood (with development of the B&Q site) and around Dollis Hill Lane and Avenue.

Given their importance to young people in the borough can the Council please explain what is being done to plan for the provision of leisure and cultural facilities as part of this wider regeneration activity, especially in the area around Gladstone Park.

Whilst the park offers access to some sports facilities and lessons there is no Sports Centre or library located close to these new developments with access to such facilities seen as key for the development of young people and parents.

Response:

There are no plans in place to introduce an additional library or leisure centre as part of the regeneration around Gladstone Park.

However, within our resources the Council is supporting residents to become more physically active and to engage in cultural activities across the Borough as evidenced by the recent Summer on Your Doorstep programme. The programme is currently being evaluated and will inform future plans. In the meantime the Council website provides details of the offer in all our parks, libraries and other settings.

The Council is committed to expanding the cultural offer to young people notably through our funding to support the creation of a Local Cultural Educational Partnership (LCEP) which is part of the lasting legacy of Brent's time as London Borough of Culture. The LCEP will ensure every child in Brent has access to cultural opportunities and a pathway into the creative industries.

3. Question from Gordon Aldrich to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment

Can you please advise what steps are being taken to enforce the double yellow lines on the Queensbury Station Roundabout? There are double yellow lines all around, but the lack of enforcement means that cars are actually often left without occupants at times.

It has become a very easy drop off and pick up point for people collecting family and friends from the station during rush hour. Often cars are double parked which creates a hazard and danger for other vehicles and pedestrians.

In addition could you also advise about the enforcement policy on footway parking in local roads such as Girton Avenue and also on what measures are being taken to enforce the signs forbidding the consumption of alcohol on the green? These are being ignored due to a lack of enforcement, which can be witnessed by all those using the station on most days.

Response:

We are aware of the issue related to vehicles stopping in this location. We have recently refreshed the double yellow lines and kerb markings at the roundabout to make it clear to motorists that both waiting and loading is prohibited at all times. Vehicles are however, permitted to stop for short periods in order to allow passengers and their luggage to board and alight. If a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) witnesses a vehicle stopped for a longer period they will seek to enforce by issuing a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). However, when a CEO attends the location the vehicle will often be moved away by the driver before a PCN can be issued. CCTV cannot legally be used for enforcing this parking contravention.

Footway parking remains unlawful within all roads within Greater London unless the local authority has painted markings and erected signage explicitly allowing the practice. The Council publishes a list of all streets within the borough where footway parking is lawful that can be accessed via the following link;

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16415706/list-of-footway-parking-exemptions.pdf>

Officers do regularly patrol the area of The Green for the purposes of enforcing the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) that forbids the consumption of alcohol. During August 2021 for example, three Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) were issued for street drinking. The Council will continue to enforce the PSPO in the area whenever an offence is identified.

4. Question from Pam Laurance to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment

About a year ago the Council launched the Brent Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy, with a considerable amount of publicity, setting out specific aims and targets.

The First Year Delivery Plan 2021-2022 set out 23 targets for that period. The Strategy documents states that:

'Progress against the key objectives will be monitored and measured regularly, and progress on the delivery of the specific actions in our yearly delivery plans will be reported in detail, alongside a commentary of progress of the overall programme each year. Available datasets and baselines will be measured against the most up to date statistics at the time of the adoption of this plan. This strategy is currently a long-term strategy, but we will keep under review the need to refresh its aims and objectives in the years to come'.

Please will the Council say:

- 1) What criteria are being used to measure progress?
- 2) How does the Council plan to keep the public informed on progress?
- 3) Does the Council believe that any of the targets need to be more ambitious in the light of recent climate developments?

Response:

1) What criteria are being used to measure progress

The overarching means for measuring progress on direct carbon emissions in the borough is from the local authority dataset provided by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) each year. It is from this dataset, for example, that we have been able to ascertain that there has been a 35% reduction in total carbon emissions on a borough-wide basis since 2005 (when this method of accounting began) and it is also by utilising this dataset that we are able to analyse different pathways of getting to carbon neutrality by 2030. Unfortunately, the complexity of carbon accounting means that these figures are only available with an 18-month timelag – and therefore the latest set of figures for Brent is from 2019. We also have a baseline estimate of the consumption emissions (wider greenhouse gases, not just carbon) which are attributed to Brent and one of our key objectives is to reduce these emissions by at least two thirds by 2030.

Due to this timelag in receiving specific data, councils are reliant in the meantime on assessing progress through other 'proxy' measures which will indicate the direction of travel in reducing emissions. We are currently working on developing an internal dashboard with the council's Corporate Performance Team which currently includes around 80 potential underpinning long-term indicators and

datasets. These can include specific datasets such as EPC ratings, waste statistics, TfL travel data but also through more the practical delivery of initiatives we have set out in our yearly delivery plans. Progress will be reported to Cabinet each year. The current 2021-22 delivery plan for example, comprises of actions that we expect to have a direct impact on emissions, or lay the building blocks for emissions reduction in the future.

2) How does the Council plan to keep the public informed on progress

The council has been keeping the public informed of progress through regular updates via Brent's main communications and engagement channels. This includes the council's social and digital channels, through news updates, webinars and social media feed on specific projects and themes from the delivery plan as well as in the physical copies of the Your Brent magazine or at any in person event where the climate emergency team has a presence.

We have also developed and established the Brent Environmental Network which is now approaching 1000 members. The network is ultimately proposed to be the key overarching mechanism for sustained and ongoing engagement with communities on tackling the climate and ecological emergency and achieving the council's sustainability aims for the borough. Signed up members receive, at the very least, a monthly e-newsletter which provides information on how individuals can live more sustainably and contribute to tackling the climate emergency, alongside updates about the council's climate emergency programme and a 'community corner' which seeks to shine a light on all of the positive environmental initiatives that are happening in Brent led by brilliant individuals and local organisations. Members also receive specific alerts about local events, issues or new initiatives like grant funding as and when necessary.

We have also established and meet regularly with the Brent Environmental Network Advisory Group not only as a means of providing updates, but also to gather regular community input on how we expand our engagement to all of Brent's communities. As an example of an outcome of this work, we are also hoping to develop new dedicated social media platforms for the Brent Environmental Network as a means of providing even more regular and dedicated information about environmental initiatives in Brent.

We have also committed to providing a comprehensive yearly report to cabinet which set out the progress made against all actions within the yearly delivery plans, plus any key contributing actions which have developed through the course of the year outside the formal delivery plan. This report will also be the opportunity for cabinet to approve future yearly delivery plans.

3) Does the Council believe that any of the targets need to be more ambitious in the light of recent climate developments

Page 41 of the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy sets out of that this is a long-term strategy but that we will keep under review the need to refresh its aims and objectives in the years to come. Whilst recent weather events around the world and in London, plus the findings of the IPCC report, have been

very troubling, we are one of only twelve London councils to have adopted a carbon neutrality target both for our own operations and for borough wide emissions by 2030. We therefore sincerely feel that we are being as ambitious as we can be with resources at our disposal at the present time. We remain open to ideas and suggestions from residents or communities as to what else the council can do to upscale our plans. We are very clear throughout the strategy document that the council cannot achieve these targets alone and we need all individuals and communities in Brent to play their part and strive for carbon neutrality.

5. Question from Keith Anderson to Councillor Eleanor Southwood, Lead Member for Housing & Welfare Reform

Since ten months, New Council Homes has been pre-consulting on an Infill scheme to add over 80% more flats to the 2019 total on the Kilburn Square Co-op Estate, on the existing footprint; residents and neighbours alike consider that far too big.

Housing officers told the January 21 Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee that Brent “would not want to force homes on anyone” so they had built only “with the support and encouragement of local residents and ward councillors”.

The Council now has a three-pronged rejection of the current scheme: strong resistance from Estate residents, via an independent Tenant and Leaseholder Advisor; a unanimous rejection from the local community, via five Community zoom meetings and 50 feedback forms; and an 850-signature Change.org petition for a much smaller scheme.

Will the Council now have the courage to publish in full the results of the resident and community consultations, and engage with the community to design a much smaller scheme, protecting green space and mature trees and excluding a 17-storey tower right next to a Conservation Area and the polluted A5?

Response:

There is a housing crisis in London, and Brent Council is at the forefront of efforts to help alleviate this. There are over 1,400 families in Brent currently living in temporary accommodation and many more whose home is completely unsuitable. Over the past three years, Brent has been one of the most ambitious council home builders in London and we continue to push forward. We are on track to build 1700 new council homes by 2028, with 400 families set to move in to a new home by the end of this year alone. This means that 1700 families will have a key to a new home, and a new future. But this is not about numbers, this is about building a fairer and more equal Brent.

It is essential that rents for our new homes are kept as low as possible so that they are affordable for our tenants, with our ability to keep rents low affected by the costs of building and the amount of grant we receive. The most cost effective building occurs when the council is able to build on land that it owns. Most of the land that the Council owns that is suitable for residential development is located next to existing Council homes.

Kilburn Square has been identified as a potential site for the infill development of new homes due to a number of factors. Firstly, there are two obsolete buildings that represent excellent opportunities for redevelopment and secondly, there are some parcels of land on Kilburn Square that the council understand would be suitable for additional properties. Finally, the accessible location means that, in London, higher density development at this location is strongly supported.


Our approach at Kilburn Square has involved considerable consultation and engagement with residents with monthly Resident Panel meetings, estate wide questionnaires and in person exhibitions as soon as this was possible after lockdown. Monthly newsletters are delivered to all households and a dedicated Kilburn Square Estate webpage has been established (www.brent.gov.uk/KilburnSquareEstate). Over the summer, Source Partnership, the Independent Tenant and Leaseholder Advisor, carried out extended engagement with Kilburn Square households on the proposed development scheme. Thank you to the residents and local groups who spoke to the team and provided feedback on the current scheme – we received formal responses from 54% of households on Kilburn Square. The report from Source Partnership on the engagement will be published shortly. We'd also like to thank local councillors who have played an important role in articulating residents' concerns and aspirations throughout the process.

We have carefully reviewed the designs and considered your comments and concerns, as well as feedback from Planning, the GLA and the Design Council, all of whom have reviewed and commented on the current scheme, together with comments from the professional team working on the design including the architects, transport consultants and landscape architects.

Each council housing scheme is different and will always be considered within its own specific context. This scheme was designed to optimise a number of outcomes and the feedback we have received has been valuable. The Council is committed to working with existing residents in the development of new homes, balancing this with the needs of people who are waiting for a permanent home.

After careful consideration, we have agreed that the project team will work with the residents of Kilburn Square to amend the scheme design. This responds to the concerns raised by residents around the proposed new tower, the loss of open space and the impact of the new homes on existing services, whilst delivering a significant number of new homes for Brent residents who are currently homeless.

We will therefore be collaborating with residents on revising some elements of the current design. Details of how to get involved will be communicated via the usual channels. Stakeholders and neighbours will be given the opportunity to give their views ahead of submission to planning.

 Brent	Full Council 20 September 2021
	Report from the Leader of the Council
Update report from the Leader and Cabinet	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix 1 Lead Member Update reports
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	N/A

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the work being undertaken by the Leader and Cabinet, in accordance with Standing Order 31.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Council is asked to note this report.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In accordance with Standing Order 31, this report presents an outline by the Leader and Cabinet Members on the key and significant issues identified as arising from their remits and that of the Cabinet.
- 3.2 Up to 3 minutes is provided at the Council meeting for the Leader, or any other Cabinet Member(s) identified to present the report highlighting any issues felt to be of significance.
- 3.3 Set out in Appendix One are the written updates provided.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct financial implications.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct legal implications.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct equality implications.

APPENDIX 1 – UPDATES FROM LEADER AND CABINET

1. Leaders Introduction – Councillor Muhammed Butt

- 1.1 A fuller update will be provided at the meeting in the form of my annual State of the Borough report. In addition, the unfolding crisis in Afghanistan and Brent's role in response will also be addressed as part of our motions for debate.
- 1.2 Until then, as we will surely see in the weeks ahead, the pandemic continues to dominate. That said, at the time of writing, London was England's best performing region for 'cases by area for the last 7 days', with a per100k or population rate of 238.7. For reference, Yorkshire and the Humber was worst performing, with a per100k rate of 365.5. Nationwide, England's 7day per100k rate stood at 317.0, with Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales standing at 798.4, 533.7, and 480.6 respectively. Here in Brent, our 7day per100k rate was 257.8, down from its 20/21 New Year peak of 1,234.69. Nevertheless, residents are still being hospitalised by avoidable infection, and friends and loved ones are still dying from the virus itself or complications arising from having been struck down by it.
- 1.3 Regrettably, despite having been ravaged by the pandemic, and despite the widespread availability of proven and demonstrably safe and effective vaccines, ours is the 6th from bottom worst performing local authority nationally for first dose recipients, with 60.6% of those eligible having received a jab, and 5th worst for second doses, at 52.8%. However, credit where it's due – this is a large, diverse, and complicated borough – health partners have still managed to give 218,221 residents one shot, and 189,870 a second. Clearly there is more to do, but I know and appreciate that all efforts are being made to encourage and enable the hesitant to do the right thing and protect themselves, their loved ones, and their communities.
- 1.4 In addition to the human tragedy COVID19 has also inflicted an economic crisis on this borough. Tens of thousands of working age residents in Brent are at present out of work or under-employed due to necessary pandemic related restrictions and are either dependent on a soon-to-end furlough scheme or – as addressed in the motion for backbench debate – a soon-to-shrink Universal Credit. Compounding this looming crisis is a local housing market largely dominated by expensive private rental properties in which rent arrears will have undoubtedly accrued and to which eviction protections no longer apply. For reference and by way of example of this government's hierarchy of priorities, a company in COVID-related rent arrears on its commercial premises lease remains protected from eviction until at least March 2022. The furloughed employees of that same company, and many more like it, in reduced personal income related PRS rent arrears, were stripped of those same eviction protections earlier this summer.
- 1.5 Whilst we are yet to experience the totality of this pent-up problem, a harsh winter will undoubtedly reveal the true extent of these multiple pressures. As we and every other council across the country has done from the outset, everything that can be done for those in need will be done as quickly and

comprehensively as possible. However, for local government, the present capacity of “as possible” is in short and declining supply. Therefore, if we are to avoid falling short of our best intentions, we cannot be left to meet these new and substantial burdens without adequate resources from central government. And, for the avoidance of doubt, ‘adequacy’ in this instance, is at the very least tens of millions of pounds of new and unrestricted emergency funding. Whether we are such support remains to be seen.

2. Deputy Leader – Councillor Margaret McLennan

2.1 Finance

2.1.1 The process of budget-setting for 2022/23 commenced in July with the publication and approval of three key financial reports, that I have repeated from last month as a vital part of the constitutional process in achieving a legally required balanced budget:

- Financial Outturn 2020/21 - This report sets out the outturn for income and expenditure versus the revenue budget for 2020/21.
- Q1 2021/22 Financial Forecast - This report sets out the current forecast of income and expenditure versus the revenue budget for 2021/22.
- Medium Term Financial Outlook (MTFS) - This report sets out the overall financial position facing the Council over the medium term and the proposed budget setting strategy for 2022/23.

2.1.2 The MTFS is the principle report that sets out the:

- Risks and uncertainties that already existed prior to COVID-19 and the new risks that must now be addressed. It also sets out the proposed budget setting strategy for 2022/23, which is the Council's minimum legal duty in respect of local authority budget setting, and beyond in order to maximise the period of consultation with residents, businesses and other key stakeholders.
- Outlines how the MTFS aims to provide a framework to invest broader ambitions and long term priorities such as the Borough Plan, the recovery from COVID-19 and other future steps to ensure the Council continues to operate in a financially sustainable and resilient way.
- Sets out the medium term risks and uncertainties to the current budget assumptions contained within the MTFS.

2.1.3 On the 26th August, the Deputy Director of Finance and I attended the first of four designated Budget Scrutiny Task Group meetings to discuss the budget process and implication for 2022/2023 to ensure there is robust oversight on behalf of the residents we serve. This includes close monitoring of the recently approved £17m COVID-19 Recovery Fund to ensure the objectives of the funding, projects and programme are met.

2.2 Fair Funding Review/Spending Review

2.2.1 It is now certain that there will not be a Spending Review this year and that the hoped for 3-year plus settlement will not be provided this year. It now means we will again be delayed in the budget setting process and hope that we will have notification in October, but it could be November or even December, as we had last year. We will therefore go into the budget-setting process on our very best assumptions as we did for 2021/22.

2.3 ICT/Digital Transformation

- 2.3.1 The Oracle Cloud Finance, Procurement and HR Transformation programme is to be further enhanced with new functionality that will allow real-time data production and also invoicing; where automatic compensation will be paid directly to all Providers/suppliers, should their invoice payment be delayed beyond the 30 day legal requirement. It will also further reduce any reliance on paper reports. This is part of the Capital Programme for Digital Transformation agreed at Budget-Setting Full Council in February 2021.

2.4 Customer Services: Customer Access (Housing Customer Services, Customer Service, Contact Centre and Benefits)

- 2.4.1 The demand per week is steady and the operational hours 10:00 to 14:00 hours function well with the current level of demand, but is regularly reviewed should numbers increase. The self-service has now opened and staff are helping residents to complete application forms for Housing, Universal Credit, Housing Benefits, RSF etc. The service offers a virtual appointment system that is working well with staff using that to facilitate some of the most vulnerable housebound residents who cannot use the self-service.
- 2.4.2 Staff are also supporting the Contact Centre on the switch board and Covid calls. The Track and Trace outbound calls have increased with staff working 9 to 5 all seven days a week supporting this.
- 2.4.3 The self-scanning project is on-going. All back end processes have been integrated and we are now in the process of user testing.

2.5 Registration and Nationality

- 2.5.1 Religious Buildings: Good progress is being made with the return of the registers from the religious venues, following the introduction of The Marriage Schedule System on 4th May 2021, where Marriage registers have now ceased and A4 Marriage Schedules are signed as notification that a marriage has taken place. From the 93 buildings we have received 58, with 45 outstanding. Second reminders have been sent allowing them to be returned any day of the week.

2.6 Community Hubs

- 2.6.1 The Hubs have now fully reopened, including the new Hub based at Kingsbury Library and at The Living Room, Harlesden. The Brent Law Centre will be working from the Hubs from this month until it finds a new permanent base in the Borough. Work is well underway on developing the hub offer for the Civic Centre from October.
- 2.6.2 The current face to face opening arrangements are as follows:
- Monday - Wembley Hub, Ealing Road Library - 10am-2pm
 - Tuesday - Willesden Hub, Willesden Green Library - 10am-2pm
 - Wednesday – Harlesden Hub, Harlesden Library - 10am-2pm
 - Wednesday – (Outreach) Trussel Trust food bank, Kingsbury - 1pm-3pm

- Thursday – Kilburn Hub, William Dunbar House, 10am-12pm
- Kingsbury Library, Kingsbury - 10am-2pm
- Thursday – (Outreach) St Laurence's Larder food bank - 10.30am-12.30pm

2.7 Legal Services

2.7.1 The Council's legal service consists of two teams made up of 6 sub-teams. These are the Commercial Team (Property & Planning, Contracts & Governance) and the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Team (Adults Social Care, Housing & Children's Social Care, Criminal Litigation & Licensing and Commercial Litigation). A small Practice Management Team supports the service.

2.7.2 Over the past 4 years the service has expanded to enable it to insource work previously placed with private sector solicitors firms or which is of a type that in the past would have been so placed. In all instances; a business case has been prepared to assess the viability of in-house provision and the potential financial and other benefits to the council. Support from private solicitors firms is very expensive and it is much more cost effective to undertake work in-house wherever possible, using external solicitors only for genuinely very specialist advice or in cases where, for example, the LGA are instructing solicitors on behalf of a number of local authorities including Brent.

2.8 Human Resources

Human Resources will be encouraging all Departments to engage with Brent Works to support placement of 30 Kickstart residents within the organisation.

3. Public Health, Culture and Leisure – Councillor Neil Nerva

The report to the September meeting of Council highlights work undertaken by

- Library, Arts and Heritage services
- Physical Activity and Sports services

3.1 Introduction: Restore, Reinvent, Retain and Remove

3.1.1 Brent's Library, Arts and Heritage (LAH) Covid recovery plans are based on Restore, Reinvent, Retain and Remove and aligned with Universal Offers¹ "which aims to demonstrate the power of libraries to enrich the lives of individuals and their communities" (Libraries Connected).

3.1.2 Each offer reflects the challenges libraries face as we ease out of lockdown. In partnership with local and national organisations they can also be used to respond to societal issues:

- Children's Promise
- Culture and Creativity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Information and Digital
- Reading
- Vision and Print Impaired People's Promise

3.1.3 Examples of recovery and what this has meant for LAH is:

- Restore – opening buildings to the public in a phased, safe and secure way that ensures staff, volunteers and the public return with reassurance and confidence
- Reinvent – imagine the way we provide LAH services, a hybrid model of physical and digital events
- Retain - digital services but empowering the workforce with technological solutions – WhatsApp worked very well for many LAH staff by managing to support a community of people sharing knowledge and experiences
- Remove – the barriers to access, ensure staff, volunteers and the public have the right digital resources, that personal finance does not hinder engagement, for example, removing fines.

3.1.4 We want everyone to know about the brilliant things the world of arts and culture is already doing to bring creativity to homes across the borough. Examples are detailed below of "recovery" oriented work

Arts Council England (ACE) - Harlesden

The service made an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a project in Harlesden project. It was successful and we have now been invited to submit a full application to ACE. The proposal is to:

- redesign the main library
- create a dedicated learning and hub space

¹ <https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/>

- enable more residents to access services
- more flexibility for library events to take place with higher attendances
- refurbish a defunct classroom creating the Front Room, an inclusive, accessible community space, adaptable to cater to the various functions required
- provide a source of income through commercial hires

The project involves working across council, especially with colleagues in facilities. The next deadline is towards the end of September.

Being Brent - Brent Heritage for Health and Wellbeing

The Heritage Wellbeing Fund community projects are kicking off soon with “Coal, Dole and Dinner Ladies” immersive theatre in September 2021. In the autumn, an Artist in Residence will join the project to create digital artworks with local significance over a 5-month residency.

A digital walking tour, Harlesden Trailblazers, which will celebrate local people and places.

There are exhibitions to explore on the second floor of The Library at Willesden Green:

- [Roots and Changes: Gujarati Influences](#) (closed 22 August)
- From the Ground Up (opening 6 September)
- Icons of Colour: Portraits of Brent's Change Makers (opening in December)

Being Brent is supported by a Steering Committee made up of local community members, Brent Council staff and a Brent councillor and is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Being Green

The new short film [Being Green](#)² looks at how local people in Brent connect with the wonderful natural heritage around them. You will see and hear from community members of Barn Hill Conservation Group, Queens Park Harriers running club and Friends of Welsh Harp.

Book Fund

The book fund of £450k is utilised to provide online resources, adult fiction and non-fiction, children's fiction and non-fiction, periodicals, spoken word, newspapers, reference materials, memberships and subscriptions.

Brent Health Matters

Brent LAH and the community leader for Brent Health Matters met to discuss the role of Community Coordinators - who represent 5 Brent Connect Areas across the borough.

² <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/culture-leisure-and-parks/brent-museum-and-archives/being-brent/being-green/>

Community Coordinators will attend the September Performance and Officers meeting 1) for coordinators and officers to meet; and 2) to go off into breakout sessions and discuss Brent Health Matters local or thematic issues.

In addition to the health awareness raising benefits, this will help LAH develop community engagement – thinking beyond the confines of a building, etc.

Brent Hubs

Operating from four of the six libraries, Brent Hubs started at Harlesden in 2018/19. Pre-pandemic we were seeing around 300 people a month there, predominantly seeking support for accessing benefits, with debt support and employment the next two most common areas.

Post pandemic, food insecurity is a huge problem and they are seeing a broader demographic across the hubs than previously as more people are newly impacted and needing to navigate the welfare system.

Brent Start

Volunteers contribute greatly to running ESOL classes. The classes are often a gateway for many to the learning provided by Brent Start.

During the lockdown, to keep our relationship working, Brent LAH kept in touch with participants via emails, phone call and Zoom meetings; then for the autumn programme 2020, with the help of Brent Start coordinators, we established the ESOL classes online and successfully continued it for Spring & Summer 2022.

As with much LAH development work, it's working with partners that bring about the most successful experience for communities.

Nine volunteers - who ran two classes each week – did so and around 373 students attended them.

Community Libraries

Throughout the lockdown, Brent LAH have been liaising directly and more often with all Community Libraries providing regular updates in meeting and via email.

Each library had their own issues and concerns – Kensal and Barham were simpler as it was a matter of reopening. Preston Rd and its redevelopment and Cricklewood and its opening of a new library posed and continue to pose unique challenges.

They were all provided with infection control training from Public Health colleagues as well as site visits from LAH managers to support them with risk assessments.

E-Library

With free access to over 20,000 ebook titles through the London libraries consortium, resources can be easily accessed 24/7 for free with a library card and PIN.

They are available on a variety of phones and e-readers and include children's e-books and e-audio; youth e-books and e-audio; African Stories; eComics - Marvel & more; and over 2,500 e-newspapers and magazines in over 100 languages (available only in libraries or local hotspots).

With an extensive catalogue of educational classes, there is also access to learning courses online which include resources to practice driving theory test online and citizenship.

Brent libraries offers e-reference material that supports homework help for children with *Encyclopaedia Britannica* as well as providing access to a range of academic resources (available only in libraries). Subscriptions include access to the online Oxford English Dictionary and others such as Spanish, French, Portuguese, German and Arabic.

There is a wealth of reference material from other dictionaries - National Biography, Art, Music, Bibliographies, Biblical Studies, Islamic Studies, Shakespeare to finding biographical data on more than 33,000 influential people from around the world in the online version of *Who's Who*.

There are short introductions on subjects such as, philosophy, horror, Henry James, creativity and much more.

Also on offer is online mental health and support service for children and young people. It includes a range of free, safe and anonymous online support for their mental health:

- Online forums
- Counselling (all counsellors are BCAP accredited)
- Discussion boards
- Journals
- Magazine
- Mini activities

Events

During the various lockdowns, LAH delivered online events and activities. After 1 ½ years, library rhyme times will return to the physical space in September.

The list of ad hoc and regular events happening this Autumn 2021 is as follows:

- **Summer Reading Challenge celebration!** Every year the Summer Reading Challenge encourages and supports children to enjoy a summer of brilliant books. It helps bridge the gap of the long summer holiday and children transition from one year to the next.

This year's theme is Wild World Heroes – teaming up with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for a nature-themed challenge has inspired. All the statistics have yet to be returned when the challenge finishes in September. But early indicators are positive:

<u>Library</u>	<u>Starters</u>	<u>Finishers</u>
Willesden Green	191	51
Wembley Library	249	87
Harlesden Library	93	21
Ealing Rd Library	173	65
Kilburn Library	102	25
Kingsbury Library	177	40
Total	<u>985</u>	<u>289</u>

- **Upcoming events include**

- The Queen's Park Book Festival returns on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 September 2021. The festival showcases literary talent from across the UK. Brent LAH will also be there. Further info is available at <https://queensparkbookfestival.co.uk/>
- Libraries Week October 4 – 10 October - This year's theme focuses on the central role that libraries play in their community as a driver for inclusion, sustainability, social mobility, and community cohesion.
- The 12 Plants of Christmas - Wreaths, Raisins & Roasties - by Michael Holland
- Knitting Club
- Reading Friends Coffee morning
- Black History Month
- Uncovering the History of Black British Mariners
- Empowering Black History: The Perfect Storm That Ended Slavery
- Family Learning Festival 16 – 31 October - Inspire a love of learning in family life.
- The Big Draw – Insect symmetry butterfly
- Live family theatre by Upswing
- London Jazz Festival 2021 - A musical journey from the Delta to the Ganges
- Stoneface: The Rise and Fall of Buster Keaton
- Family Learning English for Speakers of other languages
- Family Learning IT
- Booktrust storytime and rhymes

Upcoming Heritage badged events include:

- People Powered – From the Ground Up opens to the public from Monday 6th September with the Private View Launch on Thursday 9th (Cllr Nerva should have received his invite).
- **Coal, Dole and Dinner Ladies**³- Local theatre performances this autumn from Brent Museum and Archives telling the story of Brent's support for the Kent miners strike.

³ <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/culture-leisure-and-parks/brent-museum-and-archives/being-brent/coal-dole-and-dinner-ladies/>

Fines

To enable participation and remove barriers that might inhibit it, for many years under 18s have not incurred library fines for late returns. Post pandemic, those over 18 will now not be charged a fine. We only retain hire charges on DVDs and printing charges.

Marketing

Social Media Reaches:

- Newsletter distributed to 19,605
- Facebook: 4,560 followers
- Twitter: 3,368 followers
- Instagram: 1,329 followers
- Eventbrite: 548 followers
- YouTube: 171 subscribers

Opening Times and Opening Up Services

- All six libraries open
- Museum open
- Gallery spaces open
- Halls for Hire returning – opportunities for Cllr and MP surgeries
- Libraries are open 7 days a week from 10:30 to 18.00 (Willesden and Wembley close at 20.00). All libraries are open Saturday, 10.30 to 17.00 and Sunday, 12.00 to 17.00
- Reintroduction of private study spaces with a forthcoming online booking facility

Outreach

- Home Library service – new volunteers recruited following a social media campaign and making connections with teams at Brent Council e.g. Do It Brent (part of C-19 response team)
- Volunteering continues to be a substantial contribution to service deliver. In 2020-21, 15 volunteers contributing 319 hours helped Outreach and learning and reader development activities – incredible considering the lockdown and pandemic
- The team will attending the Queen's Park Book Festival on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 September 2021

Reading Friends

Reading Friends programme that we launched the beginning of 2021. It segued nicely from an internal pilot called the Winter Reading Challenge which dovetailed the campaign for schools food programme to engage school with reading and literacy during the winter lockdown and festive holidays.

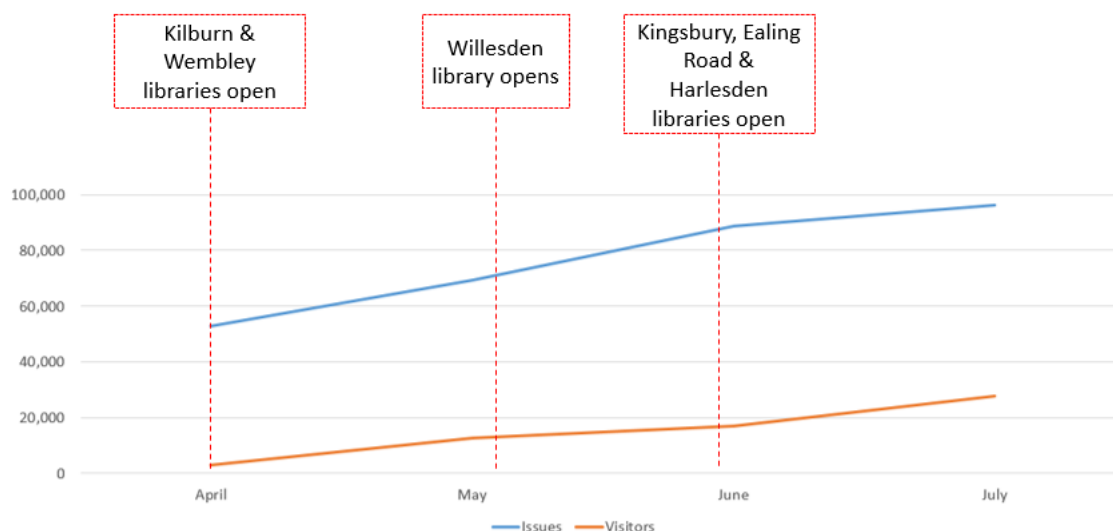
Reading Friends is UK-wide programme from The Reading Agency. Brent LAH successfully bid £10,000 funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and government with the aim to tackle loneliness by bringing people together to read, chat and share stories. Activity has involved:

- Befriending calls – 109

- Children & Young People events – 34 / 1769 attendees
- Adult events – 2 / 90 attendees

Stats / Key Performance Indicators

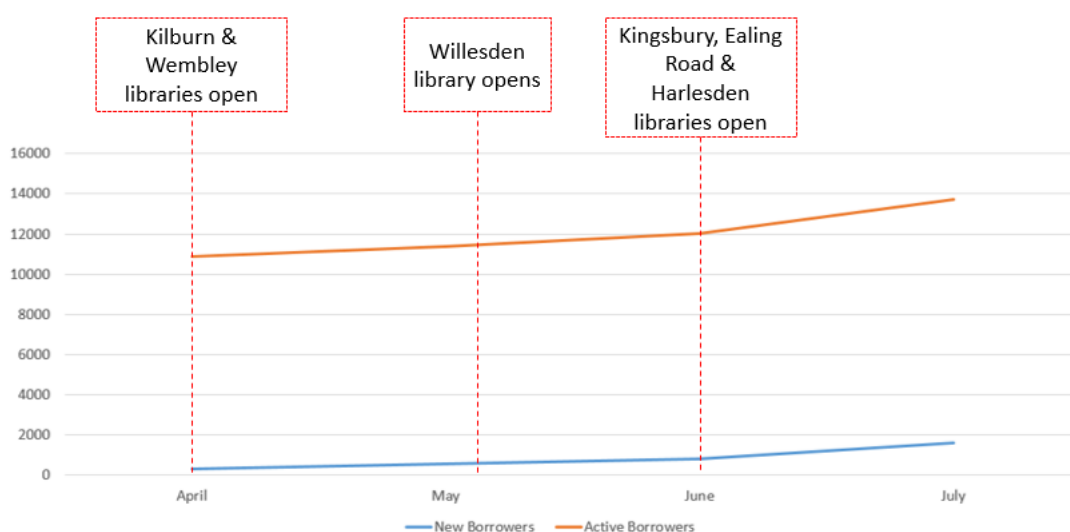
Highlights: Issues and Visits rise steadily as we ease out of lockdowns and restrictions.



Slight drop in e-issues as libraries open and visits increase showing demand physical access.



New enrolments and active borrowing show encouraging signs that people want to participate.



Exhibition Space and Museum Visits

April	May	June	July
	263	1,077	1,009

Search Room Visits

April	May	June	July
	17	13	

Issues at the libraries

April	May	June	July
46,295	62,367	80,004	88,562

E-resources Issues

April	May	June	July
6,725	7,142	8,851	7,730

Library Visits

April	May	June	July
3,185	12,690	17,130	33,005

STEM⁴

Operated out of Ealing and Harlesden previously, successful partnership with STEM Learning, brilliant volunteer support, additional holiday programming through partners including the Linnean society. STEM club didn't run during the lockdowns. We are reinstating the clubs at Ealing Rd Library for the upcoming Autumn programme.

Wembley Children's Library

Wembley Library children's area refurbished at cost of £58,000 funded by S106 funding. This location now offers a more attractive, sensory, colourful, and manageable space which is flexible to accommodate events and activities.

3.2 Physical Activity and Sport update

3.2.1 Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre

- Phased reopening from 12 April.
- Memberships doing well. Classes fully booked (reduced capacity).
- Steam/Sauna open.
- Sports Hall bookings returned.
- Room Bookings and Functions not yet operational.
- Restarting conversations about Redevelopment with Property/Legal/Sport England

3.2.2 Vale Farm Sports Centre

- Phased reopening from 12 April.
- All areas of activity reopened and doing well. Numbers and income as pre Covid.
- New activities to encourage residents in to centre.



- Kids Swim Programme ran over summer holiday – well attended
- Fit for Sport ran holiday programmes – well attended.
- Starting discussion about Tri-borough contract (Brent, Ealing & Harrow) extension as current contract expires 2023

3.2.3 Willesden Sports Centre

- Phased reopening from 12 April.
- All areas of activity reopened and doing well. Numbers and income as pre Covid.

⁴ https://www.stem.org.uk/system/files/elibrary-resources/2018/09/STEM%20Clubs%20%20Library%20Impact%20report_WEB.pdf



- Kids Swim Programme ran over summer holiday – well attended
- Fit for Sport ran holiday programmes – well attended.
- Classes and activities capacity being increased to meet demand

3.2.4 Community Physical Activity Sessions

Our Parks – ran on line during Covid lockdowns. Very well attended, with 100 at 1 class. Current programme includes 4 sessions in person and 4 online. Programme extended to end December 2021. A leaflet is attached

CLASS	TIME	DAY	PARK
Full Body Workout	10:00	Tuesday	Tokington Rec (online)
HIIT	10:30	Wednesday	King Edward VII Park (online)
HIIT	10:00	Thursday	Gibbons Rec (online)
ABT	09:30	Thursday	Alpertons Sports Ground, Alpertons Lane, Wembley, HA0 1JH (OUTDOORS)
Full Body Workout	10:00	Sunday	Roundwood Park, Harlesden Road, Brent, NW10 3RT (OUTDOORS)
Circuit	10:00	Saturday	Roe Green, Kingsbury High Road Kingsbury NW9 (OUTDOORS)
HIIT	10:00	Sunday	Gladstone Park, Dollis Hill Lane London NW2 (OUTDOORS)
Full Body Workout	10:00	Sunday	Queens Park Gardens (online)

3.2.5 Outdoor Gym programme

Weekly sessions across the borough. Open access when park is open.

	9.30 - 11am	12 - 1.30pm	2.30 - 4pm
Mondays	Gladstone Park, Willesden	Alpertons Sports Ground	Tokington Recreation Ground, Stonebridge
Tuesdays	King Edward VII Park, Wembley	Neasden Recreation Ground	Eton Grove, Kingsbury
Wednesdays	Chalkhill Park, Wembley	Northwick Park, Sudbury	Roundwood Park, Harlesden
Thursdays	Gibbons Recreation Ground, Church Road	Barham Park, Sudbury	Grove Park, Kingsbury
Fridays	Preston Park, near Wembley	One Tree Hill, Alpertons	
Saturdays	Tiverton Playing Field	GEC Sports Ground, Wembley	
Sundays	Roe Green Park, Kingsbury	Woodcock Park, Kenton	

3.2.6 Healthy Walks programme: 7 walks throughout the week at different park locations

3.2.7 Parkrun: Restarted on 26 June

3.2.8 Holiday Activities and Food Programme

- 45 different organisations delivered activities across the summer, in 15 wards.

- Brent HAF agreed to fund just under 3000 places (2954).
- Number of children who attended is TBC as monitoring data is now being returned, full attendance data should be available later in the month. However, anecdotally attendance was good, and we are hoping that the majority of funded places were taken up.
- Provided Nutritional resources for all deliverers that included video workshop, recipe, and workshop notes.

3.2.9 PHE Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health 2021-22

Recruitment for Get Active Officer post to deliver as bid:

- To work with Public Health and the Sports Centres across the borough to provide programmes for residents affected by mental health conditions (stress, anxiety, depression, loneliness)
- These programmes to focus on encouraging and supporting non-active residents with mental health issues to be more active and to engage with other residents
- There will be specific targeting of areas of high deprivation and low income (through community champions) with funding used to ensure programme locations are easily accessible, local with a range of activities which are free/nominal charge

4. Environment – Councillor Krupa Sheth

4.1 Key areas of operational activity include:

- Leybourne Open Space Improvements: Work is underway on the resurfacing of Leybourne Open space following a successful NCIL bid. Residents have come up with a number of suggestions for improvement for the middle of the space and the service is in discussion as to the possibilities of each.
- NCIL Bids: A number of NCIL bids were successful in the last round; including a new sensory playground at Silver Jubilee. Officers are working to ensure an efficient delivery process.
- Gladstone Car Park: The service is undertaking a review of the car park and will be liaising with colleagues in Parking to consider options for a sustainable process for preventing anti-social behaviour in the long term.
- Responding rapidly to changes in retail and hospitality sectors' opening hours as Covid restrictions were lifted: All Parking services were upgraded immediately, and have been operating at 100% capability since the lifting of Covid restrictions.
- Neighbourhood Management including Environmental Enforcement: Activity undertaken includes:
 - Finishing the first round of 21 community Skips events, which has been received well by members of the public
 - Cleaner front garden project (pilot as part of the great British Spring Clean), found to be a 60-70 success rate with the next step to increase pilot area.
 - Started idling engagement, with over 90 interactions so far.
 - Days of Action, continuing with days in Wembley, Neasden and Queensbury targeting ASB and other issues connected to the street scene.
 - "Wanted" Campaign having affect with residents identifying by offenders, who are normally neighbours. 4 x offenders identified (July) using this method, which may not have been identified without the "wanted" campaign.
 - 1ST June – 1st August 2021 = 356 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for waste offences
 - Euros, 100+ Fixed Penalty Notices issued for breach of Public Space Protection Orders > mainly for urination & illegal selling of tickets.
- Injection Patching Contract: A new Injection Patching Contract is now out to tender, the previous very successful two-year contract having come to an end having completed around 35,000 pothole repairs

4.2 Other notable events include:

- Cricket nets installed at One Tree Hill: The installation has been a success with local residents. Litter has been a problem, but we are working with Veolia to provide additional cleaning.
- Green Infrastructure Vision Action Plan: The service is leading on the working group developing the action plan for the green infrastructure vision. We expect all actions in the first year plan to be achieved on time

and within budget. Discussions are still underway regarding the publication of the action plan.

- Dog bag stations: The installation of 10 dog bag stations at a number of parks have proved to be very successful. We have requests for a further 10 at additional locations.
- Parking and Lighting:
 - Street tree planting: 120 new street trees planted in deprived wards on schedule, funded by external grants and CIL
 - New traffic and bus lane enforcement CCTV cameras: High traffic road junctions and bus routes affected by unreliable services are being targeted
 - Euros: Effective parking enforcement prevented disruption to residents' parking on match days
- Footway Improvement Programme: The second phase of the £20m footway improvement programme is now coming to an end, with around 45 miles of footway having been resurfaced, which equates to about 8.5% of the footway network. The six shopping parades are all that remain and are programmed for autumn / winter.
- Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Measures: Eleven of the thirteen original sites identified for anti-terrorist bollards are now complete, with one site under construction and the other in design. Two more elements of work are in the design stage.
- North End Road Connector: The new North End Road junction at Bridge Road opened in June 2021, ahead of the Euro 2020 events at Wembley. Initially this will operate as a T junction and we are liaising with TfL on signalisation of the junction and future bus services. There are also plans to strengthen the culvert which has a 17t weight limit.
- Town Centre Improvements: Public Realm improvements are planned for Wembley High Road and Church End. Starting in November 2021, these are part of the Councils wider plans to support the economic recovery of local town centres through cultural activities, shop local campaigns and providing an attractive and accessible environment. The schemes will improve pavements, roads and provide new trees and greening, street furniture, lighting and signage.
- Air Quality:
 - New guidance to tackle engine idling launched spring 2021. This included communications on the effect of pollution on climate change and public health, and arrangements for enforcement. Council suppliers have been contacted and there is an ongoing campaign from the pan-London anti-idling group to raise awareness.
 - E-cargo bikes have been piloted in Harlesden Town Centre in May and will be trialled in Willesden between December 2021 and June 2022. We are also investigating further trials in the borough. The aim is to promote zero emission deliveries in local town centres.
 - Green screens have been installed in Our Lady of Lourdes and will be installed at Harlesden Primary School in September to reduce children's exposure to pollution. These measures have been identified through the 'Breathe Clean' project, raising air quality awareness and monitoring pollution in our schools. Further schemes to be implemented as funding is identified.

5. Regeneration, Property and Planning – Councillor Shama Tatler

5.1 Economic development and Town Centres

5.1.1 As restrictions lift, and we head towards recovery we need to do all we can to support the economy of the borough. We have 19 town centres and 14000 SMEs as well as the bigger industrial sites and small start-ups.

5.1.2 We have working on several strategies to support those valued businesses and support our residents.

5.1.3 We've held various webinars that look to support businesses going online and going green. In fact, I went to visit a site in Park Royal where Segro have converted a unit to be carbon-neutral. Businesses are actively working to go greener and more sustainable.

5.1.4 Some things I'd like to highlight in particular:

a) Affordable Workspace

Brent Council adopted its [Affordable Workspace Strategy & Action Plan](#) in September 2020. The Action Plan outlines eight actions to increase supply in the borough.

- Action 1: Develop a Brent Affordable Workspace Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- Action 2: Expand the Affordable Workspace Operator list to give developers a better range of options when disposing affordable workspace, and improve the local affordable workspace. Operator list expanded from 7 to 14 operators, with a wider range of typologies. New operators include:
 - Impact Hub (flexible office space for social enterprises)
 - South Kilburn Trust (signing up existing operator of the Granville)
 - Enterprise4Good (flexible office space for small businesses)
 - Wimbletech (flexible office space)
 - CEME (flexible offices, conference centre and engineering workshops)
 - Bow Arts (creative studios)
 - The Co-Spaces (flexible offices and kitchens)
- Action 3: Create or facilitate affordable workspace projects in vacant and hard to let properties on the high street.
 - Meanwhile Space appointed as partner for Meanwhile Pilot (January 2021).
 - Landlord outreach and engagement exercise to landlords in priority town centres of Church End, Neasden and Willesden Green town centres.
- Action 4: Inform and direct business cases for workspaces in Council assets and developments, specific to location and context, for how best to develop and manage the workspace.

- Action 5: Facilitate and optimise affordable workspace delivery in mixed-use developments
- Action 6: Agree a forward plan for using S106 commuted sums collected in lieu of onsite affordable workspace.
- Action 7: Work with economic development and finance colleagues to create a specific discretionary business rate relief for Affordable Workspace Operators.
- Action 8: Develop and launch a Brent finance and grant scheme for Affordable Workspace Operators with a focus on either location or sector.

Officers have been working to progress the Action Plan, with particular focus on developing a finance scheme for workspace (Action 8), delivering workspace in vacant high street units (Action 3) and drafting an Affordable Workspace Supplementary Planning Document (Action 1).

b) Harlesden Action Zone

The Harlesden Action Zone (HAZ) relates to a number of improvements to Harlesden Town Centre. Some of these improvements are capital works to shop fronts and historic buildings in the town.

The architects have been appointed and have proposed the required works to bring the shopfronts and buildings to an acceptable condition and heritage appearance. Consultation with shop owners and property owners are taking place.

5.2 Planning

5.2.1 Local Plan - Consultation on Proposed Modifications

The proposed modifications to the draft Local Plan are required by the Inspectors undertaking the examination. This is to ensure that the plan is sound and legally compliant and can be adopted by the Council.

The modifications follow the examination hearings sessions between 29th September and 16th October 2021 and associated actions required of the Council. The consultation only relates to modifications. Other parts of the draft Plan that are not changing cannot be commented on. It will be for a 6 week period starting 8th July 2021.

5.2.2 Property and Planning achievements

Working with Housing, we're proud to say that to date we have

- Over 260 council homes built and occupied
- Over 500 under construction
- Over 300 with planning permission

In terms of planning the last year has seen the following be secured in planning

- 9,283 new homes approved
- 2,847 secured as Affordable Housing

- 27,000 sqm of industrial / warehousing space
- 4,000 sqm of retail / food and drink space
- A new secondary school
- A new Special Educational Needs school
- Extensions and improvements to schools (incl. an art studio and an artificial turf pitch)
- Three new multi-use community facilities
- A new nursery
- New university facilities and student accommodation
- Affordable Workspace
- New primary health centre
- New gyms and leisure facilities
- A new sports and recreation centre
- Upgraded train driver accommodation
- 9 additional concerts each year at Wembley Stadium
- A diplomatic and consular services facility

A huge thank you to the planning committee and department who have worked so well continuing the work of planning online.

5.2.3 Planning Policies – work continues on the Neasden Station Growth Area and Church End Masterplans. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far on these policies.

5.3 Brent Streetspace/Active Travel

5.3.1 We have been delighted in the success of the school street programme and now over 30 schools and children have benefited from a safer, greener and more active journey to school. We are working on making improvements to the schemes following consultation and hope to expand the programme to other schools.

5.3.2 Living Streets have started engagement with residents and councillors about Brent Healthy Neighbourhoods. There will be a series of online meetings, on street conversations with residents on proposed schemes. The initial approach has not been ideal but as the Cabinet Lead I am determined to look at ways we can improve air quality as well as improve infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists. We have also have a public health duty to encourage more active travel and modal shifts. We will work with residents and councillors on this.

5.4 NCIL

5.4.1 It has been fantastic to see NCIL projects come to life and benefit their communities. I have was proud to visit The Lexi Cinema (Kensal Green) and Leybourne Open Space (Queensbury) to see how NCIL have been used and will support our communities. Huge thanks to the NCIL team, officers, ward councillors and residents who have driven these projects forward.

5.5 South Kilburn – Kilburn residents buzzing at the chance of becoming beekeepers

- 5.5.1 When people think about beekeeping, Kilburn in northwest London is not necessarily one of the images or places that springs immediately to mind.
- 5.5.2 That is all going to change, however, with the delivery of a new beehive and hive of bees as part of the plans for Carlton Vale Boulevard. Five Kilburn residents have also been trained on how to become a beekeeper. GM Design Associates Limited, the company appointed by Brent Council to lead and develop proposals for the regeneration of Carlton Vale, South Kilburn, is donating the new beehive and beekeeping suits as part of its social value
- 5.5.3 The new beehive will join an existing hive in the Energy Garden at Brondesbury Park Rail Station. Energy Garden is a community benefit society that maintains a network of 34 thriving green plots on train platforms across London. Energy Garden supported local residents to create The Beeline at Brondesbury Park station in 2018. This space, which includes wildflower meadows and beehives, allows people in Kilburn to grow food and promote biodiversity and sustainability in their local area.

6. Schools, Employment and Skills – Councillor Tom Stephens

6.1 Update on ‘Summer on your Doorstep’ holiday activities and food (HAF) programme

- 6.1.1 A wide range of activities were on offer to attendees at HAF clubs over the school summer holidays. Activities included: multi-sports and games, arts and crafts, dance, drama and music, coding, gardening, podcasting, kayaking, horse-riding, cooking and baking, and trips in and around London, as well as a range of other physical and enrichment activities.
- 6.1.2 45 individual providers were involved in the delivery of Brent’s summer HAF programme, across 47 different sites. In total, 3000 places were offered at summer holiday clubs in Brent. Final attendance figures are in the process of being returned by providers, but initial reporting suggests take up of HAF funded places over the summer was high.
- 6.1.3 Councillor Mili Patel and I were delighted to pay visits to several providers across Brent during the summer – including at Newman Catholic College, the Roundwood Youth Centre, Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre and Stonebridge Park. We were very pleased by the diversity of activities on offer and the broad range of young people – of all ages, and from across Brent’s schools – who participated in the programme and got the chance to engage with each other.
- 6.1.4 In addition to the above, I was also very pleased to attend TETH Youth and Adult Services’ awards ceremony for all the young people who participated in their summer HAF programme, and hand out awards to all the young people who took part. The excellent dancing and singing performances on show at the event – which young people had practiced to perfection, often within the space of just a week – were an outstanding demonstration of the talent and drive of Brent’s young people.
- 6.1.5 We will be lobbying the Government for the continuation of the HAF programme for the long-term. Support outside of term time is vital for the education and wellbeing of our young people, particularly the most disadvantaged. We have seen the direct impact these activities have on building self-confidence, enhancing wellbeing and building community cohesion amongst young people, with the benefits going far further than simply improving educational attainment. Programmes such as these should be a fundamental part of local councils’ offer to schools and young people, and we will fight for continued funding.

6.2 Employment support update

- 6.2.1 The employment team has continued to enhance its support offer as the furlough and self-employed income support schemes come to a close at the end of September. Brent Works has continued to enjoy successes even during the summer months, which are usually a less busy period for them.
- 6.2.2 Recent achievements include:

- Achieving 927 Brent works registrations since April, 52 job starts, 22 apprenticeship starts and 44 apprenticeship starts
- We will be creating up to 30 Kickstart placements within Brent Council at London Living Wage, in addition to the placements we have created with businesses locally
- Working with housing colleagues and the charity Beam to offer employment support to those at risk of homelessness
- The Living Room team, based within the now re-opened Brent Hubs, has achieved 22 job outcomes over the last 4 months

6.2.3 More targeted support programmes are also continuing to deliver for the most disadvantaged groups. The Moving on Up programme for young black men, supported by NCIL funding, has commissioned a local charity called Hornstars to engage and support young Somali men in Brent. This will add to the current delivery consortium who have been funded to build capacity in their delivery. Since April, 112 engagements and 31 job outcomes have been achieved for Moving on Up.

6.2.4 As part of the Black Community Action Plan, Business in the Community have continued their work on challenging employers in discussing issues like unconscious bias amongst employers in recruitment of young black men. They have held several employer engagement and support sessions to focus on the issue, and a feedback session for employers to hear directly from young black men about the barriers they see to their engagement with these organisations. They have held three events with different employers to promote various sectors and roles to the programme beneficiaries.

6.2.5 Finally, Career Camp CIC, commissioned to deliver the Tech camps project, have continued to enjoy success in raising awareness with Brent residents of opportunities in the tech industry. They have delivered various tech camps and engaged a wide range of employers as well as participants. 8 residents have thus far secured employment. The next camp is scheduled for September with Alstom and Hitachi Rail. They have 20 quality job roles and apprenticeships that are attached to the project. The programme will also lead on a Green Skills Summit in November 2021, to tie in with COP26.

6.3 Expanding the employment service offer

6.3.1 The employment team continues to work to secure funding to enhance its offer, building on the day-to-day funding it receives in Section 106 contributions from developments in Brent. As Members will know, Brent Works already successfully submitted a successful business case for £500K from the Council's Renewal fund to support local residents with skills and employment over the next 2 years aimed to mitigate some of the employment losses arising from the pandemic by building pathways into key growth area opportunities.

6.3.2 Building on this, a bid has been submitted for £500K to UK Community Renewal Fund to build capacity in Brent Works' service and key partners (BEAM and Careers Camp) until the end of financial year. The funding will provide targeted support to disadvantaged individuals including upskilling for careers of the

future. Funding is also being sought from DWP to support the priority groups identified by Jobcentre Plus. The groups in focus are 18-24 year-olds, women and people aged over 50.

- 6.3.3 In addition, as we chart a path to recovery, increasing the wages and quality of employment for our residents will be a key priority, as identified in the report of the independent Poverty Commission in July last year. Plans are currently being drawn up to build on and where possible exceed the recommendations of the Poverty Commission, including in relation to 'Living Wage Places', and Members can expect a further update on this in the near future as we approach Living Wage Week in November.

6.4 Brent Start update

- 6.4.1 Brent Start, our Council-owned adult education college, has achieved and exceeded its enrolment target of 5,000, which is a good indicator that we will receive the full GLA grant allocation of £3.1 million without the need for any clawback. Early signs indicate that the team will match the previous year's achievement rate of 92.5%, but this will be subject to data validation and confirmation later in the year. This is testament to the excellent work of the Brent Start team and the dedication of the students on the courses.

- 6.4.2 In addition to the above, Brent Start has also secured two additional funding bids:

- £220,000 over two years as part of the 'Good Work for All' initiative, focusing on NSF (Level 3 programmes), Health and Social Care, Digital skills and ESOL.
- £98,900 from the ESOL for Integration Fund (EFIF), focusing on accredited and non-accredited courses to support residents with the lowest level of English language

- 6.4.3 A new Head of Brent Start is due to be appointed in late October, and a new annual prospectus for the Brent Start courses available has been finalised and is due for distribution in the coming weeks. A copy will be forwarded to Members when completed and you are encouraged to share it widely with residents.

- 6.4.4 Plans to tender for the design and build contract for Morland Gardens and to decant Brent Start to the Stonebridge annexe are continuing apace. Once completed the project will significantly enhance the support offer for our residents with a state-of-the-art adult education centre, whilst also securing vital affordable housing for the most vulnerable residents in the borough.

6.5 GCSE, A-Level and BTEC results

- 6.5.1 Brent students did extremely well during this year's GCSE, A-level and BTEC results, and I pay tribute to the hard work of students across Brent's schools in their achievements – as well as the school teachers, support staff and leaders who made this possible.

- 6.5.2 This has been a very challenging year for Brent students and teachers, and as Members will be aware on 6 January 2021 the Government confirmed that this summer students would be awarded grades based on an assessment by teachers. The results this year are for the use of the students they are awarded to. As with the summer 2020 results, the DfE is not publishing any performance tables, and the data should not be used by others, such as Ofsted, local authorities and academy trusts, to hold schools or teachers to account.
- 6.5.3 The outstanding results achieved are testament to the efforts of all Brent pupils and schools, and they should be deeply proud of what they have achieved. I was pleased to see their hard work and results being celebrated across social media and in the local press. Ahead of results day, I was also delighted to be invited by Step Up Hub to speak with Somali students and parents about results day, and to reassure them about the processes in place.

6.6 Schools update

- 6.6.1 As Lead Member I continue to make plans for school visits across the borough, now that the start of term is upon us. It was a privilege to visit a number of schools during the summer holidays to see the excellent summer activities they have organised as part of our 'Summer on your Doorstep' Holiday Activities and Food programme.
- 6.6.2 As part of this, I was delighted to meet with students at Ark Academy recently to discuss their ongoing campaign to encourage the Football Association to accredit as a London Living Wage employer. I support their campaign, and applaud the long-standing work of students – over many years – to fight for better rights and pay for Brent workers.
- 6.6.3 Now that the summer holidays have ended, schools have returned under an updated Covid safety regime, and Covid safety plans have been updated. It is essential that we work to keep school students, teachers and support staff safe to allow for the continued education of young people, and work is currently being done to explore what further support we can provide as a Council in light of some recent campaigning on school ventilation.
- 6.6.4 Finally, the school place planning strategy update for this year is in the process of being prepared, and is due to be reported to Cabinet in November 2021. Schools forum and, through this, schools unions, will be engaged on the strategy update. In subsequent months following the completion of this strategy, we will review current secondary school and SEND capital expansion needs to meet place planning requirements.

7. Community Safety & Engagement – Councillor Promise Knight

7.1 Community Safety

- 7.1.1 **ASB:** the Community Protection Team have continued to target known hotspots and high streets over the summer. Actions were conducted in a number of locations including Wembley and Ealing Road, Neasden Town Centre and Willesden Green targeting street drinking, begging, and rough sleeping and on street prostitution. Community Protection Warnings, Notices and Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued as a result of these operations.
- 7.1.2 **Walks:** to ensure that there is greater alignment between actions taken and concerns raised by Members, myself and the team took part in walkabouts with members and key stakeholders in a number of wards including Queensbury, Alperton, Barnhill, Tokyngton and Harlesden to identify ASB hotspots alongside tangible solutions.
- 7.1.3 **Nuisance control:** the Nuisance Control Team are currently running a party patrol programme which commenced on 6 August up until 4 September. Pre warning letters were sent to Housing Providers, businesses and premises likely to hold unlicensed music events from previous intelligence. The police have also shared warning letters with some individuals on the gang matrix.
- 7.1.4 **Increased demand:** the team is still dealing with a very high demand of noise app cases which has been exacerbated by the COVID outbreak and previous restrictions. Additional temporary cover has been brought in to deal with the current demand.

7.2 Regulatory Services

- 7.2.1 **Easing of Lockdown Rules and full reopening of hospitality:** Staff continued to oversee and support businesses as lockdown ended and the final restrictions were eased. We have been following up non-compliant businesses who were issued penalties during the pandemic who have yet to pay their penalties.
- 7.2.2 **Tables and Chairs Licenses:** The Business and Planning Act 2020 which allowed tables and chairs to be placed on the pavement outside businesses were originally introduced until 30 September 2021. The expiry date has now been extended for a further year so the Licensing team have been making arrangements ahead of those wanting to renew their licence. So far, 53 businesses who don't have a licence that should do have been identified. Visits have been arranged to address this.

7.3 Engagement

- 7.3.1 **New Consultation and Engagement Platform – Citizenlab:** the platform is now live and features the following 5 live consultations:
- Carlton Value Boulevard (regen.)
 - Housing Allocations Scheme (statutory consultation)

- Making it easier and safer to travel in Brent
- Town Centre Workspace Loan – demand survey
- Chapter Road – public realm improvements

7.4 Successes, challenges and risks

- 7.4.1 **VAWG training:** the safety of women and girls continues to be a top priority. Alongside the Brent VAWG Forum, we have developed a selection of local VAWG training opportunities. These sessions are being delivered between August and December 2021 by local specialist VAWG providers and are open to all Brent professionals. The free training for staff working in the Night Time Economy in Brent supports businesses include how to identify and support vulnerable customers and staff.
- 7.4.2 **Food Safety Challenge:** the Food Safety Team has secured a small £6k grant from the Food Standards Agency to provide some administrative support triaging the backlog of food business waiting a food hygiene inspection. The backlog has occurred due to the high number of new food businesses opening during the Covid pandemic and the fact that only high risk inspections were being carried out during the lockdown.
- 7.4.3 **Adult gaming and betting shops:** the Licensing Sub Committee approved a premises licence for an adult gaming centre for Little Vegas, High Road, Wembley. The planning application for this premises was refused but the applicants have appealed. These premises tend to be situated in areas most at risk of ASB related issues and where vulnerable residents reside. Although it is well known that these establishments contribute to health and other inequalities, quantifying the impact of a particular betting shop is challenging.
- 7.4.5 We are making every effort to pre-empt any potential increase in violent crime due to the relaxation of Covid restrictions. Community Safety has been working alongside partners to ensure a coordinated approach to preventing / reducing local incidents. Police led Operation Bloomington has focused on a coordinated plan across the summer with Operation Horizon. Children and Young People services have worked closely with Community Safety to ensure the most vulnerable are directly diverted from criminality through diversionary summer activities.

8. Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care – Councillor Mili Patel

8.1 Afghani children and their families

- 8.1.1 We have all watched on in horror as the latest deadly events have unfolded in Afghanistan. I can only imagine how disturbing this has been for our existing Afghani community in Brent. Children & Young People (CYP) have taken immediate action into supporting Brent's Looked After Children and Care Leavers of Afghan origin. Personal advisers and social workers have made contact with these young people, and foster carers looking after Afghani children to ensure that they are receiving appropriate support.
- 8.1.2 The team in CYP are also looking into how the Council can make use of mental health and wellbeing services such as West (Anna Freud Centre) and Kooth, as well as Young Roots – a community group who could offer some emotional support.
- 8.1.3 In addition to the direct intervention, arrangements are in place to liaise with local community groups, and other activities include, peer support for Afghani children.

8.2 Young Pride of Brent Awards

- 8.2.1 This August we once again hosted the Pride of Brent Youth Awards at the Civic Centre. These awards are a rare opportunity to honour the achievements of the young people in our borough. What this year's winners had achieved, when faced with the added pressures of the pandemic and lockdowns makes their success even more astonishing and even more noteworthy. The following awards were presented:
- Young Leader – Dev Patel: volunteered to help deliver meals twice or three times a week to the elderly and most vulnerable in his community, as part of the Neasden Temple's 'Connect and Care' programme
 - Positive Role Model - Maleekah Burden-Kaizra: studies at the University of Law in London, and has been praised by her tutors for her academic and the very high standard for her assignments
 - Most Improved Young Person - Michael Panford: escaped gang culture through football and involved in football projects run by the youth charity, Connect Stars, which saw him and his friends win local and national football tournaments
 - Community Spirit - Denisa Stincanu: managed a project around mental health, the aim of which is to increase the awareness of the mental health issues and to provide information about them
 - Young Volunteer of the Year – Niamh Butler-McMahon: juggled her GCSE coursework and extra revision sessions with volunteering as a play worker for the Two Da Stage Performing Arts & Childcare Club

- Young Environmentalist – Joshua Bennett: organised community litter picks in particular in King Edward VII Park and Roundwood Skate Park to keep the area tidy and clean for residents during lockdown
- Young Person of the Year – Casey Clownes; autism ambassador who dedicates a huge amount of her time to raising awareness and educating others about autism
- Special Recognition Group – Ansar Youth Project: young people at Ansar organised vans to distribute and deliver food to those who were vulnerable or in need, offering many a lifeline
- Community Spirit Group – Phoenix Rising: charity working with children and young people to raise aspirations and self-esteem through a number of community activities

8.3 YP inspectors

- 8.3.1 It is one of my priorities to ensure that those people who have used our services are able to influence the way they are delivered in future. I believe this is essential to ensuring they are continuously improved.
- 8.3.2 This is why I was extremely excited about the young inspectors project. As part of this a group of 11 Brent care leavers, aged 18-25 years old were trained to lead an inspection of services and activities for care leavers in Brent Council.
- 8.3.3 The aim of their inspection was to explore the quality and effectiveness of services and activities for care leavers as outlined in the Brent Care Leavers' Charter. This included looking at areas which have been working well, and areas which could be improved. The methods they followed included:
1. Interviews: they conducted four interviews with five service managers and team leaders
 2. Focus groups: they led three focus groups with two groups of PAs and one with the Virtual School
 3. Surveys: they created a survey for other care leavers to share their views on the inspection themes, and the survey received 19 responses
 4. Mystery shopping: they carried out two mystery shopping exercises on the duty line
 5. Desk research: they researched the inspection themes in Council documents, such as the 2019 Ofsted report that focused visit to the Brent children's services, Bright Spots Report and TACT Language That Cares Report
- 8.3.4 Through the project they created a list of recommendations to improve the services for them and future care leavers in Brent. My department will now be analysing these closely to see how we can learn the lessons and make them a reality.

8.4 Ministerial visit

- 8.4.1 At the start of August, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP made a visit to the Three Trees Family Wellbeing Centre. The minister wanted to talk to families

and keyworkers about their experiences, and find out how Brent's new family wellbeing centres are making a difference for local families.

- 8.4.2 It was great to know that Brent's work is being recognised on a national level by a Whitehall department. But more importantly, from my point of view, was the fact I was able to speak to the minister directly. I highlighted several challenges that councils face in supporting families, particularly after a decade of austerity and the continued uncertainty we face around long term funding for work with the supported families programme. I explained that our family wellbeing centres are a great solution to the problem in the circumstances, but that if we were properly funded we'd ideally have more of them ensuring services were even more widely available across Brent.

8.5 CIA Summer party

- 8.5.1 On 19 August I attended the Care in Action Summer Fun Day for care experienced young people and their carers. This was held at Kenton Hall. The event was planned in partnership with members of Care in Action and Care Leavers in Action.
- 8.5.2 It was a rare chance for all those who have experience care in our borough to come together in a social setting to relax and network. I know that everyone in attendance enjoyed the experience and for many it was their first in-person social event since the pandemic.

8.6 Youth Strategy

- 8.6.1 When I was growing up in Brent, the youth services on offer were a huge lifeline for me, and many thousands of other young people like me. Therefore, as a Cabinet Member, I was very honoured to present the new Brent Youth Strategy at September's Cabinet. I want to make it clear that the new strategy belongs to the young people of Brent. At every stage it was designed to represent their voices. The ideas and opinions we heard underpin both the strategy and our plan for delivery.
- 8.6.2 I am sure all members will agree that the Independent Brent Poverty Commission, which reported in 2020, was a hugely impressive and important piece of work. It laid bare the huge challenges many people – especially the young - face in our borough. I am determined that my department will not shirk from this challenge and am pleased that this strategy starts to set out how the council will work together in tackling poverty, inequality and social exclusion to improve outcomes for local young people.
- 8.6.3 But the council cannot achieve all of this on our own. This is why we collaborated closely with partners, including the voluntary sector, across Brent. I know that, as we work to deliver on the commitments in this strategy, our partnerships will grow and develop still further.
- 8.6.4 Central to our vision is a long-term approach. I want this strategy to make a difference in our borough for many years, so, I am pleased it will provide a

statutory framework that will support future funding bids and improve service co-ordination.

8.7 Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programmes

- 8.7.1 Through these programmes, my department provides free places in holiday clubs for the equivalent of at least 4 hours a day, 4 days a week over 4 weeks during the summer and a week at both the Easter and Christmas holidays. These places are available to children of school age on benefits related to free school meals.
- 8.7.2 We developed the programme to provide for other vulnerable groups children and offered places for looked after children, children with an EHC plan, and children assessed as otherwise vulnerable or in need.
- 8.7.3 The summer HAF programme was designed to be as inclusive as possible. We committed to fund 50 places at specialist provision for eligible children with SEND. Activities at specialist provision included arts and crafts, cooking, sensory play, games, sports, dancing and swimming. Brent has also allocated funding to HAF providers to support a further 34 children with additional needs to access mainstream provision (e.g. through funding a 1:1 support worker).

8.8 Summer holiday support for Looked After Children and Care Leavers

- 8.8.1 Over the summer 50 young people accessed a range of activities organised by Brent Virtual School, including:
- ESOL summer school
 - Equine therapy
 - Orienteering, canoeing and raft building at the Phoenix Outdoor Centre
 - online book clubs
 - a writers residential trip to Hebden Bridge
 - Visits to the Chelsea Psychic Gardens
 - Opera Holland Park – workshops with opera singers. One young person was also able to attend a production of Wicked with her foster family, alongside attending the final production.
 - Jamie's Farm residential for UASC
- 8.8.2 One young person from Brent was selected, beating off competition from across England, to become one of only 16 Jamie's Farm ambassadors. As an ambassador they will not only have the opportunity to experience all the Jamie's Farm centres, but will be able to be part of the team that looks to improve the provision and offer as well as be invited to events to represent Jamie's Farm.
- 8.8.3 Care In Action held a successful residential trip to the Gordon Brown Centre, as part of our work to maximise the use of this brilliant Brent resource for children. 14 Looked After Children took this opportunity to plan participation activities for the year ahead and enjoy a range of positive activities including archery, rope climbing and enjoying the farm animals on site.

9. Housing and Welfare Reform – Councillor Eleanor Southwood

9.1 Update on the future of St Raphael's Estate

9.1.1 Since 2018 we have had thousands of conversations with the residents of St Raphael's to understand what they would like for the future of their estate. Two masterplans were developed, one for **infill development** and one for **redevelopment** and it was always our intention to give residents the choice of which masterplan we deliver, as long as both continued to be affordable. Unfortunately, due to a number of factors, including uncertainty around the future availability of funding from the government, the redevelopment option is no longer affordable at this point in time. This means that we will be continuing with the infill masterplan but there will be no ballot offering residents the option of redevelopment at this time.

9.1.2 I want to thank St Raphael's Voice and all the residents who have contributed their time, energy and ideas to the project so far. I appreciate that this news is disappointing and we have not come to this conclusion lightly. However, alongside building new council homes as part of the infill plans, we want to invest significantly in the estate. Over the coming months we'll be continuing to engage with residents as we design the infill scheme and identify priorities for additional investment. This is an opportunity to do so much more than just build new homes and I'm looking forward to working with residents to deliver meaningful change on the estate.

9.2 Consulting on changes to housing allocations scheme

9.2.1 A 10 week consultation is underway on some technical changes and clarifications to the scheme that governs how the council allocates social housing in Brent. There are 7 proposed changes, the first of which is the most substantive change and relates to a recent legal challenge received by the Council.

9.2.2 The wording of Brent's allocation scheme currently states that the register is only open to homeless applicants "to whom a main housing duty is owed". However, those applicants who are homeless, threatened with homelessness, or have a priority need but have made themselves intentionally homeless, should also have been entitled to a "reasonable preference" on the housing register, subject to the residence criteria. We're proposing to amend the allocation scheme, introducing an additional C- category as part of the existing Band C. While this is subject to consultation, the council is proactively contacting applicants who might have been affected and were homeless, threatened with homelessness or have a priority need but are intentionally homeless.

9.2.3 Other proposed changes are largely technical but include giving existing council tenants priority to bid for all newbuild council properties: ensure that families awarded an emergency management transfer for reasons of personal safety are able to move to a home that also addresses any overcrowding issues: and awarding Priority Band A to Special Guardians.

9.2.4 The consultation is open until 14 October. To participate, visit:

<https://haveyoursay.brent.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/housing-allocations-scheme>

9.3 Making the most of our housing stock

9.3.1 Cabinet has endorsed a number of initiatives to make sure we're freeing up as many of our larger council homes as possible. The wait for a 3 bedroom property in Brent is around 16 years and we have a chronic shortage of larger homes. This includes:

- Adapting properties, including extensions where this resolves overcrowding. This enables tenants to stay in their current homes instead of needing to move to somewhere larger
- ensuring that empty properties brought back into use also meet need, i.e. keeping demand in mind when we help owners with grants and incentives
- working with residents receiving care to see if a move to a newly built home would be more suitable, including one of the council's NAIL properties
- pilot an enhanced financial incentives programme for people who wish to downsize or move into the private rented sector or who wish to own their own home. This follows a 12 month pilot with tenants who wanted to downsize. This resulted in 31 new homes being made available, including a 6 bed, 2 5 bed and 3 4 bed homes. Everyone's circumstances are different and we will monitor this programme closely but even a small number of large properties being made available makes a significant difference.

9.3.2 Preparing for the end of furlough and the £20 UC uplift and a return to business as usual with evictions.

9.3.3 I know that for many residents the prospect of the end of furlough and likely end to the £20 uplift to UC is causing significant concerns. Please encourage all residents to get in touch with the council and other local organisations for help as early as possible. We're working hard to make sure the council is able to offer support.

9.3.4 Anyone who finds themselves in financial hardship, whether because of Covid19 or not, is encourage to apply to the Resident Support Fund for a grant and/or loan to assist:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/benefits-and-money-advice/resident-s-support-fund/>

10. Adult Social Care – Councillor Harbi Farah

10.1 Social care funding announcement

10.1.1 The Government's social care announcement is an important 'first step', but further clarity is needed on a range of additional crucial issues. This is a hugely complex area and there is much that needs clarifying in the Government's plan. Over the coming weeks, government therefore needs to work with councils, their partners and those with lived experience, to build a supportive foundation and develop a care and support system which is fit for the future.

10.1.2 Much of the plan currently focuses on the NHS, but a sustainable NHS depends on a sustainable social care system, as care and support is essential in supporting people of all ages to live their best life as well as alleviating pressure on the health service. It is important to remember that, while the NHS backlog needs to be tackled, social care was already under greater pressure pre-pandemic.

10.1.3 It is positive to see additional funding for ASC, but so much is unclear at the moment for example.

- How will the cap work? There is a real risk that it will create a considerable administrative burden
- Will the funding increase the number of people or amount of care they receive?

10.1.4 It is positive to see £500m allocated to the adult social care workforce, but again it is not clear what this will fund and whether it will ensure significant investment in the care workforce creating career pathways, improving training and development and pay that values their contribution – Brent is a London Living Wage borough (and already pays LLW in Homecare, extra care and Supported Living), but this should be the minimum, not the maximum.

(Appendix 1 provides more information on the Government Plans for Health & Social Care)

10.2 Vaccination update

10.2.1 Work continues with care providers to increase Covid-19 vaccination take up in Brent. From 11th November in order to work in a care home, all staff will need to be vaccinated. Whilst take up across the borough is good (89% of care home staff have had their first vaccination), there are a number of providers where vaccination rates are a cause for concern. There are 12 care homes (out of 58 in total) where vaccination rates are 80% or less.

10.2.2 With each provider, their Provider Relationship Officer is working with them to ensure their contingency plan is up to date and they have a plan to either ensure staff are vaccinated or can be replaced in the event that they are unable to work in their role from 11th November onwards. The support given to the sector to

promote uptake has been substantial, and it is still available if required. Among the actions are –

- Weekly contact by Provider Relationship Officers with all care homes to trouble shoot issues, including support around vaccination take up. Vaccination sessions were arranged in homes to increase uptake amongst staff and residents.
- The LA/Public Health Team facilitated a total of 10 Webinars to address the misconceptions staff had in regards to taking the Covid-19 vaccine, and the PH team are going to homes to talk to staff if that is requested.
- Use of the Workforce Capacity Fund to support staff to receive the vaccination, such as by paying them overtime to attend a vaccination appointment, or arranging cover for them to attend a vaccination appointment during working hours.

10.2.3 A consultation has now been launched on widening compulsory vaccination across the health and social care sector. The implications for staff and providers will be considered in due course, but Brent is already responding to the requirement for compulsory vaccination to work in care homes. All staff that need to work in care homes, including all social workers, OTs, care assessors, the Residential and Nursing Team and Move On Team have been told that vaccination will be essential to do their role. Proof of vaccination is required by 10th September, after which time we will better understand the number of our own staff that are still to be vaccinated. (See Appendix 2 for the latest vaccination figures for care providers)

10.3 Winter Planning update

10.3.1 Winter planning across the health and care system has begun for Winter 2021/22, with the main focus as per previous years on hospital discharge and admission avoidance, with the addition of Covid-19 vaccinations this year. Within adult social planning has started and a number of schemes are in development. As with previous years, any funding for adult social care will be allocated within the Better Care Fund, the plan for which will be submitted at the end of October (based on current guidance). The Winter plan will be discussed through the ICP Executive for agreement on the schemes in September, but these will likely focus on key areas to support hospital flow, such as:

- Additional short term packages of care and placements (both block and spot purchased)
- Additional support for Home First – to support people settling at home
- Additional support in the community to support more complex discharges, and for people with dementia and challenging behaviour

10.4 Development of ICS and ICP

10.4.1 NW London has undergone some major changes in the development of a single CCG across the 8 boroughs at a NW London level. At a borough level there remains a core borough team, and significant progress has been made on the establishment of an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Executive. The Executive is co-chaired by the Chief Executive of CNWL NHS Trust and the

Strategic Director of Community Wellbeing for Brent Council, and reports into the Health and wellbeing Board. The ICP Executive have put forward four key priority focus areas for transformation for the current financial year:

1. Health inequalities and vaccinations
2. Community services
3. Primary care network (PCN) Development and GP practice variation
4. Mental health and wellbeing

10.4.2 Dedicated executive steering groups have been established to oversee progress against each of these groups, and work is underway on the development of focussed action plans to support delivery and transformation. This work will be reported regularly to the Health and Wellbeing Board

10.5 Integrated Rehab & Reablement service (IRRS)

10.5.1 Following agreement by Cabinet, work is well underway on the establishment of an in house reablement service. This will be live from April 2022, and will include a number of significant improvements to the outcomes achieved and support provided to Brent residents.

10.5.2 At the same time, the Brent rehabilitation service has undergone significant changes in the transfer of staff from one NHS provider (London NW NHS Trust) to another (CLCH NHS Trust). Dedicated work is underway to improve the rehabilitation pathways, including improvements to pathways between reablement and rehabilitation to ensure a seamless and integrated service experience.

10.5.3 Brent council has supported NHS partners in the procurement of 20 new additional rehabilitation beds within a Brent care home (Birchwood Grange), and these beds have provided invaluable additional capacity to the system. Going forwards, there may be scope to go further in providing more additional capacity for residents in receipt of rehab support at home or in other settings outside of hospital.

10.6 Health Wellbeing Board Meeting

10.6.1 The next scheduled meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board would be held on Tuesday 19 October 2021. As reminder this is the agenda for October meeting

- Public Health's Covid update
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy update
- ICP update – community services, including update on winter planning
- Brent Children's Trust – 6-month update

Appendix 1: Government Plan for Health & Social Care

The Prime Minister has now announced the Government's plan for health and social care. The announcement included commitments to:

- Invest £5.4 billion in adult social care over the next three years.
- From October 2023, the Government will introduce a new £86,000 cap on care costs and a new upper capital limit of £100,000 (up from the current limit of £23,250).
- Develop and publish White Papers on the reform of adult social care and health and social care integration, both to be published before the end of the year.
- Consult on adult social care charging reforms in October this year.
- Invest at least £500 million in new workforce measures over three years. This includes providing support in professionalising and developing the workforce and to fund mental health wellbeing resources and provide access to occupational health funding to help staff recover from their roles through the pandemic.
- There are also commitments to ensure that unpaid carers have the support, advice and respite they need and to invest in the Disabled Facilities Grant and supported housing, as well as exploring other innovative housing solutions to support more people to live independently at home.

Appendix 2. The latest vaccination figures for care providers

Cohort	Target	W/B 23 rd August	W/B 30 th August	W/B 6 th Sept	Change
Care Home residents (1 st Dose)	100%	94%	93%	93%	-
Care Home Residents (2 nd Dose)	100%	92%	92%	92%	-
Care home staff (1 st Dose)	80%	88%	88%	89%	+1%
Care home staff (2 nd Dose)	80%	81%	81%	83%	+2%
Home care staff (1 st Dose)	80%	78%	77%	80%	+3%
Home care staff (2 nd Dose)	80%	59%	59%	64%	+5%

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Questions from the Opposition and Other Non-Cabinet Members**Full Council – 20 September 2021****1. Question from Councillor Jumbo Chan to Councillor Tom Stephen, Lead Member for Schools, Employment & Skills:**

Could the Cabinet Member for Schools, Employment & Skills provide the Council with an update on how this borough's Year 11 and Year 13 students have fared in terms of attainment in lieu of normal exams?

Moreover, could he comment on how Brent's schools and colleges – run by our dedicated, hardworking teaching and support staff – can be best supported to ensure that all our pupils are able to realise their future potential?

Response:

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the second year, the government confirmed that in summer 2021, students taking GCSE, AS and A levels and vocational, technical and other general qualifications should be awarded grades based on an assessment by their teachers. The government also announced that it would not publish school or college level results data in autumn 2021, and that this data would not be used to hold schools and colleges to account.

Brent schools have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic in the most challenging of circumstances to support Brent pupils' achievement. Whilst published data is not available I have been pleased to see the positive news shared by schools as to our young people's success.

I would like to share my heartfelt congratulations to all Brent pupils who received results this summer. I am deeply proud of all Brent pupils, and of the outstanding support Brent's schools and colleges have provided to ensure that all our young people have every opportunity to succeed.

I am grateful for Councillor Chan highlighting the importance of our schools and colleges receiving support. I have been pleased to receive feedback from our schools and trade union representatives on the support provided by the Council, particularly over the past year. As a Council, we are supporting schools and colleges in their education and wellbeing recovery work with pupils and I have been pleased to see the positive impact of our summer holiday activities and Food programme in supporting recovery. Councillors too can support their local schools. Get in touch with them, find out what help you can provide and offer your support to their efforts. I remain keen on more councillors putting

themselves forward to support schools. School governors and interested councillors should contact the Governor Support Service to see how they can apply.

2. Question from Councillor Mary Daly to Councillor Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health, Culture & Leisure:

Seasonal influenza and Covid 19 viruses have the potential to add substantially to the winter pressures usually faced by the NHS, particularly if infection waves from both viruses coincide.

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Culture & Leisure explain what steps Brent council has taken to plan for the upcoming flu season?

Response:

The Council is working closely with the NHS, who will be delivering Flu vaccination. This year we will be building on our joint work on COVID to address vaccine equity. The Brent Health Matters Teams will outreach to address community concerns and provide factual information. Flu vaccination is recommended for those over 50, with a long term health condition, people living in residential care, informal carers and those living with someone who is more susceptible to infection, pregnant women and health and care workers. The majority of vaccination will happen in community pharmacies and GP practices but should it be required to promote uptake, the Council is ready to support the NHS with pop up or mobile vaccination as we have done with COVID vaccination. This year flu vaccination is recommended for all children from age 2 to year 11 in secondary school.

At the time of writing a decision from JCVI on the COVID “booster” was awaited as is a view from the Chief Medical Officers on vaccinating healthy 12 to 15 year olds. However the Council is supporting the NHS and engaging with local schools on phase 3 of COVID vaccination

More generally, adult social care is working closely with health partners to prepare for winter, and a number of schemes have been discussed to support with the flow of patients from hospital and to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions. The deadline for completing winter plans and accessing funding for ASC is likely to be 31 October, although this date has not yet been confirmed by NHS England. The schemes, as with previous years, will focus on providing additional bedded capacity in the community, additional support (including housing and reablement) to ensure timely and safe discharges home as well as additional support for more complex discharges.

3. Question from Councillor Ernest Ezeajughi to Councillor Eleanor Southwood, Lead Member for Housing & Welfare Reform:

In light of substantial financial pressure and regulatory change, can the Cabinet Member for Housing reaffirm this council's commitment to ensuring that the homes and housing services it provides are of the highest possible standards, and that, in undertaking any and all regenerative improvements, we continue to do so in genuine partnership with the communities involved?

Response:

The demand for social housing far outstrips supply, leading to a major housing crisis in the country. This is particularly worse in London and we are not spared in Brent. We currently have over 23,000 households on the Housing Register and around 6,000 households approach us for homelessness assistance every year, with about 900 going into temporary accommodation. Before 2020, we were letting about 600 social properties every year, which explains why many households sometimes have to wait for decades to get social housing.

We are however doing everything we can to respond. First, recognising that people flourish in good quality permanent homes, we have worked very hard to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation from about 6,000 six years ago to about 1,500 today. We are also investing in our own temporary accommodation and before the end of this year, our newly built temporary accommodation will be ready for occupation, which will mean the cessation of using B&B.

We are also currently investing £400m into building 1,000 new Council homes by 2024 and by the end of this year, we would have already delivered more than half of this target. In addition, we have recently been awarded over £111m GLA grant, which will facilitate the building of an additional 700 homes by 2029. At present, no London borough is building more Council homes than Brent.

Although we are building as much and as fast as we can, we recognise that we can't solve the problem on our own. We are therefore working with key Housing Associations, encouraging, facilitating and supporting them to invest in Brent. As a result, there has been more supply of affordable homes in Brent in the last two years than any other borough in London. The outcome of this is that, for the first time in many years, we were able to let 725 social homes last year, 125 more than previous years. We expect to let even more this year.

To ensure no one is left behind, we are investing an average of £20m a year into existing Council homes. We are carrying out refurbishments to both internal and external areas in both street properties and blocks. For many properties, we have replaced roofs, installed modern windows, new kitchens and bathrooms and decorated internal and external communal areas. Something that hadn't happened for decades. We have also invested significant funds to ensure fire safety in all the properties we own and manage.

We recognise that the private sector contribute significantly to the supply of accommodation. As such, we have licensing schemes, both for HMOs and singly rented accommodation, that enables us to enforce standards. Our primary objective is to work with private landlords to deliver good quality homes, which is why we have a thriving Landlords' Forum, where we provide support and advice to landlords on how to ensure they provide good quality accommodation to residents. However, we recognise that not all landlords will voluntarily comply, which is why we do not shy away from enforcement and prosecution, when necessary.

4. Question from Councillor Suresh Kansagra to Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council:

Brent Council comes down extremely hard on pubs, clubs and restaurants where illegal activities like drug dealing, alcohol consumption and other public order issues cause a nuisance. This can, quite rightly, often result in these premises losing their licences to trade.

We have seen the media reports and disturbing clips on social media of the events that took place around Wembley Stadium in the build up to the England v Italy UEFA 2020 European Championship final back in July. In light of this public order disaster and bearing in mind that Brent Council is the relevant Licencing authority, what investigations has the Council carried out to find what went wrong and lessons learnt to avoid such incidents in the future?

Response:

As has been reported, the events that took place before and during the Euro 2020 final, held at Wembley on July 11 2021, are the subject of an independent review to be led by Baroness Casey of Blackstock.

The Council has committed to participating in this review in order to identify what occurred and what lessons could be learnt for the future.

The Council has undertaken to carry out two reviews following the Euro 2020 tournament; one into an incident that occurred inside the ground prior to the England v Croatia match which left an individual supporter with serious injuries and a review of licensing arrangements.

With specific regard to Alcohol Licensing, this has been identified as one of the areas of concern, given the large amount of apparent drunkenness and also the number of cans and bottles that were left on the streets following the event.

As a result, the Council will be working with relevant partners to undertake a high level review of licensing arrangements on event days with the objective of identifying key considerations and recommendations to form part of the submission to the Casey review.

The Council will consider the recommendations of the Baroness Casey of Blackstock review prior to implementing any changes to the licensing regime that are considered necessary.

	Full Council 20 September 2021
	Report from the Assistant Chief Executive
Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report	

Wards Affected:	All
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
Appendices:	One Appendix A: Committee Work Programme 2021-2022
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officers:	Lorna Hughes, Head of Strategy and Partnerships 0208 9377 4458 lorna.hughes@brent.gov.uk Angela d'Urso, Interim Strategic Partnerships, Policy and Scrutiny Manager angela.d'urso@brent.gov.uk Michael Carr, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer 020 8937 2855 michael.carr@brent.gov.uk

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present Full Council with a report providing an update on the meetings and activities of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee since Full Council on 12 July 2021.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the updates from the Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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 member of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWLJHOSC), and Cllr Sheth is the Chair of the NWLJHOSC for the municipal year 2021-22.
- 3.2. A scrutiny committee can look at anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit. The 2019 statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny recommends that a committee concentrates on fewer, significant topics which it reviews in-depth. The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has prioritised issues and work planning based on strategic thinking and focusing on high-value, high-impact areas of decision-making and policy development.
- 3.3. The remit of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees. The remit of the committee includes:

Adult social care, public health and the statutory responsibility for scrutiny of local health services. It also scrutinises services for the children and young people, partnership work undertaken by the Children's Trust and safeguarding arrangements.

- 3.4. As part of its remit set out in the constitution, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can scrutinise, and make recommendations, to NHS organisations. It reviews the provision and operation of health services in the borough and can make reports or recommendations to NHS bodies or Full Council.

The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

- 3.5. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. A key role of the CQC is to publish findings, including performance ratings to help people choose care.
- 3.6. On 25 June 2021 an inspection report was published by the CQC which included maternity services at Northwick Park Hospital. The services were rated inadequate. Both safe and well-led were rated as inadequate. The caring, effective and responsive domains were not rated. There were positive findings in infection control.
- 3.7. An extraordinary meeting of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee was organised for 23 August 2021 by the Chair as a response to the CQC inspection of Northwick Park Hospital maternity services and the inadequate rating causing high levels of concern in Brent.
- 3.8. The committee called for evidence from senior responsible officers in NHS organisations and relevant partners, including:
 - Chris Bown, Chief Executive, London Northwest University, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNWH)

- Simon Crawford, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Strategy, London Northwest University, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNWH)
- Lisa Knight MBE, Chief Nurse, London Northwest University, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNWH)
- Lesley Watts, Chief Executive, the North West London Integrated Care System (NWL ICS)
- Pippa Nightingale, Chief Nurse, the North West London Integrated Care System (NWL ICS)
- Dr MC Patel, Northwest London Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Judith Davey, Chief Executive, Brent Healthwatch

3.9. The committee considered the maternity services improvement plans in detail. The improvement plan covers three key areas:

- Workforce, culture and leadership
- Women centred care
- Safe, effective care

The C&WSC's key lines of enquiry included governance, leadership, women centred care and culture.

3.10 The committee proposed suggestions for improvement and further information requests. The draft recommendations are being agreed by the committee. A progress report on the delivery of the maternity services improvement plan was requested for the January C&WSC.

3.11. The GP Access Task Group has continued to meet during this period. An interim report on the findings of the Task Group has been prepared for consideration by the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWLJHOSC)

3.12. The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprises representatives from the boroughs of Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Richmond, Wandsworth and Westminster. It meets with representatives of NHS North West London organisations to consider matters concerning health care subject to consultation.

3.13. On 14 July 2021 the NWLJHOSC met. The committee elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Councillor Ketan Sheth, the Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee was proposed and elected Chair of the NWLJHOSC. This decision will be ratified at the first public meeting of the committee post pandemic.

3.14. At the July meeting, the NWLJHOSC considered the development of the North West London Integrated Care System. Lesley Watts, the Chief Executive of the NWL ICS, introduced this item. Lesley Watts outlined how the NWL ICS was well developed and the Development Plan had been submitted to NHS England. Key questioning from

NWLJHOSC members included the need to ensure there was quality improvement across mental health provision.

- 3.15. The NWLJHOSC also considered the North West London NHS Recovery and COVID 19 Vaccination Programme. Pippa Nightingale, Chief Nurse NWL ICS and Rory Hegarty, Director of Communication and Engagement NWL CCG introduced the item. The COVID 19 Vaccination Programme item was agreed, with a number of requests made, including the sharing of communications in relation to the recruitment of local people as vaccine volunteers.

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 Councillors will discuss this report at the Council meeting.

Report sign off:

Shazia Hussain
Assistant Chief Executive

Appendix A - Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2021-2022

8 July 2021

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External participants
Brent Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2025	<p>Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adult Social Care</p> <p>Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health, Culture and Leisure</p> <p>Cllr Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care</p>	<p>Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing</p> <p>Dr Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health</p> <p>Gail Tolley, Strategic Director, Children and Young People</p>	<p>NW London CCG</p> <p>Central and North West London NHS Trust</p>	<p>Jonathan Turner, Brent Borough Director, NW London CCG</p> <p>Dr MC Patel, Brent representative, NW London CCG</p> <p>Robyn Doran, Chief Operating Officer, CNWL</p>

Additional meeting 23 August 2021

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External participants
Care Quality Commission Inspection Report Northwick Park Hospital	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing	Northwick Park Hospital, London North West Healthcare NHS Trust, North West London Integrated Care System	Simon Crawford, Deputy Chief Executive

21 September 2021

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Directors
Homelessness and Services for Families	Cllr Eleanor Southwood, Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		
Brent Housing Management Services and Performance	Cllr Eleanor Southwood, Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		
GP Access Scrutiny Task Group Interim Report	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing	NW London CCG	Jonathan Turner, Brent Borough Director, NW London CCG Dr MC Patel, Brent representative, NW London CCG

15 November 2021

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet - Members/Non-executive Member	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-2021	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing	Brent Safeguarding Adults' Board	Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, Independent Chair
Brent's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children	Cllr Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People Chief Executive, Brent Council	North West London CCG North West London Basic Command Unit	Director of Quality, North West London CCG Independent Convenor, SCF Safeguarding Lead, North West London BCU
Scrutiny Task Group Scoping Report on Transitional Safeguarding	Cllr Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People		

24 January 2022


Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members/Non-Executive Member	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations	External Participants
Transfer of Community Services from LNWHT to CLCH NHS Trust	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing	North West London CCG	Jonathan Turner, Brent Borough Director, NW London CCG Dr MC Patel, Brent representative, NW London CCG
Diagnostic Hubs in North West London	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing	North West London CCG	Jonathan Turner, Brent Borough Director, NW London CCG Dr MC Patel, Brent representative, NW London CCG
Scrutiny Task Group Interim Report on Transitional Safeguarding	Cllr Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People		
GP Access Scrutiny Task Group Final Report	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing	North West London CCG	Jonathan Turner, Brent Borough Director, NW London CCG Dr MC Patel, Brent representative, NW London CCG

22 February 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations	External Participants
Education and Wellbeing Recovery	<p>Cllr Tom Stephens, Lead Member for Schools, Employment and Skills</p> <p>Cllr Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care</p>	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People		
London Borough of Culture Legacy	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health, Culture and Leisure	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		
Transitional Safeguarding Final Report	Cllr Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People		

14 March 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Care Homes Provision and Commissioning	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		

	Full Council 20 September 2021
	Report from the Assistant Chief Executive
Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non Key Decision	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
Appendices:	One Appendix A: Committee Work Programme 2021-22
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officers:	<p>Lorna Hughes, Head of Strategy and Partnerships 0208 9377 4458 lorna.hughes@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Angela d'Urso, Interim Strategic Partnerships, Policy and Scrutiny Manager angela.d'urso@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Michael Carr, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer 020 8937 2855 michael.carr@brent.gov.uk</p>

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 the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the updates from the Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

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 committees¹.

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 "crime and disorder committee" for the purposes of Section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006 and as such may review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of the crime and disorder functions by the responsible authorities (as defined by section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) who make up the Safer Brent Partnership, in order to make reports or recommendations to Full Council.
- 3.5. On 13 July 2021 the committee considered CCTV Deployment in Brent and the Redefining Local Services consultation on preferred models of delivery.
- 3.6. The CCTV deployment report was agreed, and the committee made a suggestion to make the annual review of CCTV deployment in Brent more accessible to the public. The review will be published on the council's website when completed.
- 3.7. The Redefining Local Services report presented both the result of a consultation on delivery model options for how the services in the scope of the programme would be commissioned and delivered, as well as the proposed overarching RLS delivery model. The committee resolved areas for improvement including:
- To consider small and medium-sized enterprises and community and voluntary organisations for delivery contracts.
 - To review the consultation process being undertaken on delivery and endeavour to improve the process going forward.

¹ Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.

<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s98196/part%202%20May%202020%20Procedural%20Rules.pdf>

- To ensure that biodiversity and habitat concerns be prioritised in the delivery model.

These issues were addressed in the Cabinet report of 16 August 2021.

- 3.8. The July committee meeting also considered the UEFA European Championship 2020 finals at Wembley. As a result the committee made a recommendation to the Cabinet in August 21, with the Executive response to that agreed by the Cabinet in September 21.
- 3.9. The July committee meeting also considered the UEFA European Championship 2020 finals at Wembley. As a result the committee made a recommendation to the Cabinet in August 21, with the Executive response to that agreed by the Cabinet in September 21.
- 3.10. The work plan of the committee is attached for reference at Appendix A.

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 Councillors will discuss this report at the Council meeting.

Report sign off:

Shazia Hussain
Assistant Chief Executive

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Appendix 1 Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2021-2022

Tuesday 13 July 2021

Agenda item	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External Participants
Redesigning Local Services (substantive item) To consider the process undertaken to determine the preferred delivery models that are currently out for statutory Best Value consultation.	Cllr Krupa Sheth - Cabinet Member for Environment	Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment	
CCTV in Brent (substantive item) To consider CCTV deployment in Brent and how the council determines where CCTV cameras are placed based on priorities and demand.	Cllr Promise Knight – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement	Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment	
Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee annual work plan To agree the annual work plan for the committee.	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council	Shazia Hussain, ACE	

Tuesday 14 September 2021

Agenda item	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External Participants
Housing Zone Regeneration in Brent (substantive item) To consider progress with achieving the objectives for the two housing zones in Brent, meeting our obligations to the GLA as partial funders. To receive a contextual update on other regeneration schemes.	Cllr Shama Tatler - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning	Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment	
Brent Council Legal Services (substantive item) A report to introduce the committee to the legal service, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the legal team does and how it works • Information including number of cases and challenges the service is involved with • How the service ensures the council is compliant with legislation and compliance with decision making processes – particularly in relation to the risk as outlined in risk register • The council's constitution and how legal services support this. 	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council	Debra Norman, Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations	

Wednesday 10 November 2021

Agenda item	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External
Brent Council Finances (substantive item) To produce a report with a focus on the following specific areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council's pension scheme The council's income and income generation strategy 	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council	Minesh Patel – Director of Finance	
The Safer Brent Partnership (substantive item) A review of the Safer Brent Partnership priorities, performance and Strategic Assessment.	Cllr Promise Knight – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement	Carolyn Downs - Chief Executive/ Chair of the Safer Brent Partnership Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment	Representatives of community organisations, Met Police
Climate and ecological emergency strategy (substantive item) To review the delivery so far of the CEES as against the year 1 delivery plan, and to contribute to planning of the year 2 delivery plan. Including a look at the planning policy and process and how it assists the delivery of CEES objectives	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council	Shazia Hussain - ACE	
Knife Crime Review Review of the implementation of the Knife Crime Scrutiny Report and recommendations	Cllr Promise Knight – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement	Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment	
Budget Oversight Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 2 Financial Report 2021/22 	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council	Minesh Patel, Director of Finance	

Tuesday 18 January 2022


Agenda item	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External
Covid19 recovery (substantive item) A report on how the council is supporting economic and community recovery. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusive growth strategy and priority actions supporting inclusive recovery • High street recovery • Employment and jobs, and resident support schemes including employment and skills • Ethical debt policy • Ethical procurement 	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council Cllr Shama Tatler - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning	Peter Gadsdon – Strategic Director Customer and Digital Services Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment	WLA, DWP
Budget Scrutiny (substantive item) To review Brent Council budget draft budget proposals and budget task group report.	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council	Minesh Patel, Director of Finance	
Violence Against Women Scrutiny Review To review of the implementation of the Violence Against Women Scrutiny Report and recommendations	Cllr Promise Knight – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement	Alan Lunt - Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment	

Wednesday 9 February 2022

Agenda item	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External
Fire safety (substantive item) The Fire Safety Act 2021 and Building Safety Bill will introduce a new regulatory regime, which will have significant implications for the Building Control service and its relationship with the new 'Building Safety Regulator', particularly in respect of buildings over 6 storeys or 18 metres high. Report to consider the implications of the Bill and Brent's response to the implications for the Building Control service.	Cllr Shama Tatler - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning	Alan Lunt, Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment	
Communications and public engagement (substantive item) The new campaigns model, including current campaigns and ways of working, plus analysis of effectiveness of new model so far. To cover public engagement and consultation mechanisms as part of the report.	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council	Shazia Hussain - ACE	
Annual complaints report A review of statutory complaints.	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council	Shazia Hussain - ACE	

Wednesday 9 March 2022

Agenda item	Cabinet Member/s	Strategic Director/s	External
Workforce Strategy (substantive item) 6 month review of the new workforce strategy.	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council	Debra Norman, Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations	
Budget Oversight Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quarter 3 Financial Report 2021/22	Cllr Margaret McLennan - Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council	Minesh Patel, Director of Finance	

	Full Council 20 th September 2021
	Report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations
Update Report from the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee	

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

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Council's Audit & Standards Advisory Committee (ASAC) and the Audit & Standards Committee (ASC) since the last update provided on 12 July 2021. 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. The ASC 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 and the ASC have met once since the last full Council meeting. This was on July 26 2021. At this meeting the following business was undertaken.

Audit & Standards Advisory Committee

3.2 Standards Report (including Gifts and Hospitality)

An update was provided gifts and hospitality registered by members, and the attendance record for members in relation to mandatory training sessions. The report also provided a briefing concerning a recent legal case involving the Freedom of Information Act and an Independent Person.

3.3 Draft Statement of Accounts

The committee considered the Council's draft 2020/21 Statement of Accounts prior to this being submitted to external audit.

3.4 Annual Governance Statement

The committee considered the Council's draft Annual Governance Statement, prior to this being put before the ASC for decision.

3.5 CIPFA Financial Management Code

This report informed the ASAC of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Financial Management Code and outlined how the Council will work towards full compliance with the code in 2021/22.

3.6 Emergency Preparedness Update

This provided an outline of the progress made since the last emergency preparedness update provided in 2020, including details of the type and number of incidents in Brent along with information around initiatives and programmes of work under way to enhance our resilience and emergency response arrangements.

3.7 Corporate Risk Register

An update was provided on the Council's Risk Management position including an updated Corporate Risk Register.

3.8 External Audit's Enquiries of Management

An update was also provided on the changes made by The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) in relation to its expectations for how local authorities are audited. In accordance with these new expectations the committee was asked to review the responses provided by management to external audit Enquiries of Management relating to the council and the pension fund.

3.9 External Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

An update was provided on progress in delivering Grant Thornton's responsibilities as the Council's external auditors, and a summary of emerging

national issues and developments that may be relevant to Brent as a local authority.

Audit and Standards Committee

3.10 Annual Governance Statement

The committee approved, following its consideration by the preceding meeting of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee, Brent Council's 2020-21 Annual Governance Statement.

Forward Plan Items

3.11 Listed below are the reports that are due to be presented to the next Audit & Standards Advisory Committee meeting on 22 September 2021:

1. Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Reports
2. Standards Report (including gifts and hospitality).
3. External Audit progress report
4. LB Brent 2020/21 Audit Findings Report (including Value for Money update)
5. Statement of Accounts & External Auditor's Report
6. CIFPA Financial Management Code & Assessment
7. To review performance & management of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations

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Full Council – 20 September 2021

Motion for Non Cabinet Member debate

Cuts to Universal Credit

This council understands how hard this borough has been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of the tragedy that is the loss of more than 720 lives, the uncertainty of a local economy put on hold, and the hardship of tens of thousands of Brent's residents either furloughed or out of work and reliant on an inadequate Universal Credit.

Therefore, the announcement of this government plans to cut Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit later this year comes with serious implications, especially in light of the furlough scheme coming to an end in September.

This council is concerned at the soaring figures of food bank usage in the borough coupled with the increase in gas prices as we wind down into the colder months forming a perfect storm. One which emerging research has shown will force thousands of families into severe poverty.

This council notes its efforts to shield its residents from the full impact of the economic downturn in recent years, particularly in anticipation of the furlough scheme ending. Thus far this council has:

- Set up significant monetary support through the Brent Resident Support Fund which has been access by thousands of residents.
- Contributed a further £500k to Brent works to extend this scheme as furlough ends.
- Organised two Job Fairs to help connect residents with potential employers.
- Worked with businesses to place young people into 'kick start', a new youth work placement scheme, helping to provide a much needed boost to youth employment in the borough.
- Employed an ethical approach to financial inclusion which is reflected in Brent's Ethical Debt and Debt Write Off policy.
- Supported private renters to sustain tenancies and avoid eviction.


However this council recognises the limits of its abilities to mitigate the economic downturn for its most vulnerable residents and calls upon the government to step up to its duty to protect those most at risk.

This council points out, that families most at risk of deepening poverty will not benefit from the increases because they are subject to the benefits cap. Migrants without recourse to public funds, many of whom work in industries hardest hit by the lockdown, have also been left out in the cold and millions of families reliant on the legacy benefit system did not receive the uplift channelled through Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit.

This council therefore calls upon the Government to:

- Continue the £20-a-week increase to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit early contributions which was brought in to help households deal with the impact of COVID-19.
- Extend this to other benefit schemes to help residents who are most in financial need and have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- Support Councils through better funding to help them up skill and retrain residents at risk of unemployment as furlough ends.

Councillor Elliot Chappell
Willesden Green Ward

	Full Council 20 September 2021
	Report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations
Continuation of Temporary Delegations	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix 1 Delegations to the Chief Executive
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Debra Norman, Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations Tel: 020 8937 1578 Email: debra.norman@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Following the expiry of Regulations enabling Local Authority meetings to be held on a remote or hybrid basis during most of the pandemic period, the Leader and Council agreed additional delegations to the Chief Executive to reduce the number of such meetings required. This report proposes that these additional delegations be continued for a further period.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree that the delegated powers set out in Appendix 1 remain in place until the 2022 Annual Council meeting.
- 2.2 To note that delegated powers 1 – 4 in Appendix 1 have also been agreed by the Leader for the same period in respect of executive functions.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 At its April 2021 meeting Council agreed additional delegations for the Chief Executive, following the expiry of Regulations enabling Local Authority meetings to be held on a remote or hybrid basis, to reduce the need for such

meetings. Council agreed in July that these additional delegations would be extended to the date of this September Council meeting.

- 3.2 The government has undertaken a consultation calling for evidence in relation to remote local authority meetings. This process ran for 12 weeks from 25 March 2021. There has as yet been no response from the government to that process.
- 3.3 This means at the present time it is still not possible to hold fully virtual local authority meetings to take decisions or to hold hybrid meetings in which those attending remotely have equal participation rights. This means substantial physical attendance is required for such meetings, both for members and for officers.
- 3.4 Despite the successful vaccination programme the level of infections is still of concern and this is likely to be the case in particular over the winter period. It is therefore proposed that the additional delegations remain in place until the 2022 Annual Council meeting in order to continue to reduce the requirement for (and length of) meetings which require personal attendance.

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 These are contained in the body of the report

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 No specific financial implications arise from this report.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 9.1 No equalities implications arise from this report.

10.0 Background Papers

- 10.1 None

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations

Appendix 1

Delegations to the Chief Executive

Decisions which are normally reserved to members meeting because they meet the following criteria:

1. The exercise of that function or the making of that decision would or would be likely to conflict with or result in a change or departure from any decision or policy agreed by the Council or the Cabinet or relevant Cabinet Member
2. The exercise of that function or the making of that decision would or would be likely in the opinion of the relevant Strategic Director or the Chief Executive to result in a very significant change in the model of service delivery.
3. The exercise of that function or the making of that decision would or would be likely to expose the Council to a significant or unusual level of risk, financial or otherwise, as determined by the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance or the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations.
4. The exercise of that function or the making of that decision would result or would be likely to result in the permanent closure of a facility used by the public or a permanent and significant reduction in the level of services or facilities provided to the public.
5. Decisions usually reserved to the General Purposes Committee in respect of staff related matters.

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Item 16.1

Full Council – 20 September 2021

Conservative Group Motion

Illegal use of E-Scooters

This Council is concerned at the rise in the illegal use of E-scooters which are often dangerously ridden and ridden on pavements without insurance.

This Council is especially concerned that it is only a matter of time before a pedestrian, cyclist or other vulnerable person is seriously injured or killed as a result of the illegal actions of the E-scooter rider.

This Council will not take part in any plans to join a scheme, whereby riders can hire these scooters as there is no guarantee that they will be ridden safely.

This Council notes and praises the Police for taking action against illegal scooter riders by confiscating the scooter and charging the rider with driving without insurance and driving not in accordance with a licence.

This Council would also like to see those individuals who are caught riding E-scooters on the pavement, charged with dangerous driving as well as having no insurance.

Having given consideration to the above, this Council agrees to lobby the Government to ban the sale, importation and use of these dangerous machines in the UK.

Councillor Michael Maurice
Kenton Ward

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Full Council – 20 September 2021

1st Labour Group Motion

End the Fire and Rehire Practice

This council notes the unethical use of the fire and rehire tactics by certain employers, forcing their staff to accept unfair terms and conditions, leaving many having to work longer hours and for lower pay.

While the Prime Minister has called this “unacceptable” he has continually refused to take action to outlaw the practice, raising concerns that he will not intervene in this race to the bottom by some employers.

This council notes that this practice has been rejected here at Brent as is specifically outlined in the procurement strategy. Furthermore, we have ensured all our service providers abide by these terms.

This council stands with the campaign that has been promoted by our local member of parliament, Barry Gardiner MP who has spotlighted this unsavoury practice, working with trade union partners to defend the right of workers against unscrupulous employers.

Workers should not be scapegoated to carry the burden of lost profits.

This council therefore believes action is required to ensure local residents are protected against such unethical practices and agrees:

- (1) To request that the Leader of the Council write to the Prime Minister demanding the full protection of employees subject to these terms and conditions.
- (2) To continue to encourage fellow councils to exclude from their authorised list of suppliers any business’ using these Fire and Rehire Tactics and to update their procurement and social value policy to reflect that of ethical practices. Furthermore we call upon them to update existing contracts with suppliers in accordance with this commitment.
- (3) To continue to foster good working relationships with Trade Unions here at Brent.
- (4) To work with our anchor institutions and key partners to bring forward plans for the introduction of a local employer charter for companies to work toward with

Trade Unions. This should include worker rights, support for the TUC Great Jobs' agenda and with the real living wage campaign at its heart.

Brent council notes its records as a good and ethical employer, and truly believes that all workers deserve well-paid secure and meaningful work.

Councillors Daniel Kennelly & Gwen Grahl
Preston & Brondesbury Park Wards

Full Council – 20 September 2021

2nd Labour Group Motion

Refugee Support

This Council notes with deep sadness the unfolding and ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

This Council profoundly regrets the developments over the last few months following two decades of progress towards a more stable, and prosperous Afghanistan. Our thoughts are with the Afghan people and our residents who have family there at this time.

This Council is therefore ashamed at the slow and inadequate efforts this government has pledged for the near quarter of a million displaced Afghan people, the number which continues to grow rapidly.

As a Council we call on the UK government to stand by what should be a non-negotiable obligation to provide sanctuary to those in need, not least our British Nationals and Afghan partners who remain in-country desperately awaiting evacuation.

Thus far, this government has pledged to home 5000 Afghan refugees this year who have supported the Armed Forces through the 'Afghan locally employed scheme', with a view to increase this number to 20,000 in the coming years. This would equate to a meagre six people rehomed per constituency in the UK, falling extremely short of our humanitarian duty as a nation.

Focussing on the humanitarian crisis, the Council remains committed to providing as much direct and immediate help and support as possible to inbound refugees, and is determined – highlighting the need for adequate resources to be made readily available by government – to enable our newest residents to regain control of their lives and, in time, build for themselves real and lasting futures.

As part of this approach, the Council is working closely with the Home Office and has provided shelter for two Afghan families, whilst planning a more cohesive welcome programme for further Afghan families arriving in Brent in the coming months.

Furthermore, this Council notes the lobbying efforts it and other Councils have launched to highlight the needs of its migrant communities and the necessity to appropriately resource Councils in this endeavour. In terms of the wider picture, this

Council also notes the support and shelter it has provided for refugees from other parts of the world and is committed to continuing to lead these efforts for our new residents.

The Council recognises that the scale of the refugee crisis will require an international response and urges the UK to lead that effort by committing to a much more extensive and balanced Afghan resettlement scheme. Along with the creation of safe and legal routes for those suffering at the hands of the Taliban.

The Council therefore reiterates its call:

- (1) For open safe and legal routes for all those seeking a sanctuary from danger.
- (2) To increase the number of families given asylum and the need for a balanced refugee resettlement across the UK. Not just a heavy focus on London.
- (3) To increase funding to support councils such as our own, in further more extensive resettlement schemes as well as humanitarian aid.

This Council is proud that it is able to give sanctuary to the thousands of refugees that call Brent home. We want to be able to offer a brighter future for families through a chance at a proper education, good employment opportunities and a safe place to call home.

Cllr Faduma Hassan
Kilburn Ward