

**London Borough of Brent**  
**Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 6**  
**February 2023**

PRESENT: Councillor M Butt (Chair), Councillor M Patel (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Farah, Grahl, Knight, Nerva, Southwood and Tatler.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Afzal, Conneely & Georgiou.**Error! No document variable supplied.**

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence		Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Donnelly-Jackson and Councillor Krupa Sheth along with Carolyn Downs (Chief Executive) with Phil Porter (Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health) in attendance as her representative.
2.	Declarations of Interest		Councillors Nerva and Grahl declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 16 (New Repayment Framework for Major Works Billing for Leaseholders in Brent) as they were leaseholders in the borough.
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting		Cabinet RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday 16 January 2023, be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
4.	Matters Arising (if any)		None.
5.	Petitions (if any)		None.
6.	Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)		There were no references from Scrutiny submitted for consideration at the meeting.
7.	Budget & Council Tax 2023-24	All Wards	Cabinet NOTED the following comments made in advance of

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			<p>considering the main report on the Budget &amp; Council Tax 2023-24:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councillor Afzal, providing the economic context in which the budget had needed to be developed recognising the impact of a decade of austerity and the detrimental effect on the poorest in society. As a result, he highlighted the importance in the engagement and consultation process which had been undertaken in seeking to finalise the budget proposals for consideration.</li> <li>2. The written representations submitted by Councillor Kennelly, highlighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the budget proposals given their focus in seeking to protect the most vulnerable against the rising costs of living.</li> <li>• The challenging nature of the decisions forced upon the Council as a result of the stance taken and measures introduced by central government, whilst recognising the positive initiatives and support which the budget proposals had been designed to continue supporting such as the Resident Support Fund and strategic goals such as reducing carbon emissions and tackling the climate emergency.</li> <li>• The regressive nature of Council Tax as a means of ensuring (particularly as a result of rising costs and demand in relation to adult social care and children’s services) the Council was able to continue supporting</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
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			<p align="center">and protecting the most vulnerable in society.</p> <p>3. Councillor Georgiou who, whilst outlining the regressive nature of Council Tax, also expressed concern at the fairness of the proposed increase in Council Tax given the impact on local residents, particularly those living within Alperton and the surrounding area. Whilst recognising the macroeconomic context since 2008 and impact of austerity, stemming from the financial crash in 2008 on local government finances, compounded by Brexit and recent central government interventions, concerns were raised about the increases in Council Tax given the reduction in services locally. Concerns were also highlighted in relation to the impact of the Mayor for London’s precept and change in Government policy to move responsibility for funding Adult Social Care to local authorities, again through Council Tax. Given the concerns expressed Councillor Georgiou felt there was a need for the Council to ensure that funding collected locally was refocussed and prioritised on the local areas of improvement including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state of roads and pavements – with a call for additional capital investment.</li> <li>• Street Cleansing – with concerns highlighted in relation to the new intelligence-led approach to street cleaning.</li> <li>• Investment in young people – with concerns highlighted regarding the reduction in funding over the last decade and impact on the most underprivileged young people. The Council were called upon to deliver a new Youth</li> </ul>
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			<p align="center">Offer that would dedicate funding to youth services in Brent.</p> <p>4. Councillor Conneely, as Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and Budget Scrutiny Task Group, summarising the main recommendations from the Task Group in relation to the budget process. In introducing the report, Councillor Conneely highlighted that the Task Group in undertaking their review had recognised the challenging financial environment in which the Council was operating given the long-term reduction in Government funding, level of savings already achieved, current economic challenges and increasing complexity of demand for Council services. Taking these issues into account the Budget Scrutiny Task Group had been impressed with the Council’s attempts to focus investment on the most vulnerable, particularly in relation to the Resident and Council Tax Support Fund and in seeking to address housing demand and reduce the use of temporary accommodation. Highlighting the recommendations made as a result of their review, the Task Group had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Been keen to ensure that the budget proposals were clearly presented with clarity provided regarding cuts and investment proposals.</li> <li>• Emphasised the importance of ensuring a holistic approach to residents care including ensuring that an effective collaborative mechanism was established between the Council, NHS and other relevant</li> </ul>
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			<p>stakeholders to agree patient discharge/step down plans and to leverage sufficient financial contributions from the NHS and other stakeholders to improve the Health and Social Care function in Brent in order to avoid the main cost burden falling on the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported the need to seek additional funding in order to support Brent Schools through the Dedicated Schools Grant</li> <li>• Supported the need for additional investment in highways infrastructure and to further explore the development of income generation opportunities as a means of supporting strategic priorities.</li> <li>• Recognised the importance of the ongoing support for the Council Tax Support Scheme, given the support being provided for those most vulnerable in society and lack of alternative viable options to raising Council Tax as a means of addressing the current financial pressures and challenges on the Council.</li> </ul> <p>In concluding, Councillor Conneely advised that the Task Group had also been keen to ensure the budget proposals clearly set out how the spending proposals were aligned with agreed strategic priorities for the borough and to support the need for continuing lobbying for Local Government funding reforms, including the regressive nature of Council Tax. On this basis the recommendations made by the Budget Scrutiny Task Group were commended to Cabinet for consideration as</p>
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			<p align="center">part of the budget setting process.</p> <p>Having noted the comments provided, and welcoming and supporting the approach taken and recommendations made by the Budget Scrutiny Task Group, Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To agree to recommend to Full Council an overall 4.99% increase in the Council’s element of Council Tax for 2023/24, with 2% as a precept for Adult Social Care and a 2.99% general increase.</li> <li>2) To agree to recommend to Full Council the General Fund revenue budget for 2023/24, as summarised in Appendices A and B of the report.</li> <li>3) To agree to recommend to Full Council the savings proposals for 2023/24 and deferral of savings to 2024/25 as set out in Appendix C (i) of the report.</li> <li>4) To note the report from the Budget Scrutiny Task Group in Appendix D of the report.</li> <li>5) To agree to recommend to Full Council the HRA budget for 2023/24 and business plan, as set out in section seven and Appendix Q of the report.</li> <li>6) To agree the HRA rents for council dwellings, tenant service</li> </ol>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 6 February 2023 (continued)**

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>charges and garages, as set out in section seven of the report.</p> <p>7) To agree the rents set under the Housing General Fund for Brent Housing PFI and traveller’s site pitches and to note the rents for Hillside dwellings as set out in section seven of the report.</p> <p>8) To note the Dedicated Schools Grant, as set out in section eight of the report.</p> <p>9) To agree to recommend to Full Council the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to additions of new schemes and reprofiling, as set out in section 10 of the report and Appendix E, and note the Capital Pipeline Schemes in Appendix F.</p> <p>10) To agree to recommend to Full Council the Capital Strategy, the Investment Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement as set out in Appendices G, H, I and J of the report.</p> <p>11) To agree to recommend to Full Council the Reserves Strategy and schedule of reserves, as set out in Appendix K of the report.</p> <p>12) To agree the action plan to implement CIPFA’s Financial</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 6 February 2023 (continued)**

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>Management Code and conduct a Financial Resilience Assessment, as set out in Appendix L of the report.</p> <p>13) To agree, and where relevant agree to recommend to Full Council, the schedule of fees and charges for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix M report.</p> <p>14) To note the results of the budget consultation, as set out in section six and detailed in Appendix N of the report.</p> <p>15) To note the advice of the Corporate Director of Governance, as set out in Appendix O of the report.</p> <p>16) To note the decision of the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources to continue as part of the Eight Authority Business Rates pool in 2023/24 as set out in Section five of the report.</p> <p>To also note and approve the specific recommendations identified for consideration by Full Council as detailed in section 2.17 – 2.36 of the report.</p>
8.	Acquisition of 294 Homes at Fulton Road, Wembley	Wembley Park	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>1) To approve a budget of £85.6m plus VAT (if any) to purchase the long leasehold interest in 294 homes from Crown Wembley LP, subject to contract and subject to a) clean and marketable</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 6 February 2023 (continued)**

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>title b) financial and legal due diligence and c) vacant possession, with a target completion date in March 2023.</p> <p>2) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Finance &amp; Resources in consultation with the Finance, Resources &amp; Reform to negotiate and agree the terms and thereafter enter a development sale and purchase contract with the vendor for the purchase of these homes by way of a long lease of 999 years (less 3 days).</p> <p>3) To note the Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources using powers delegated under the Constitution would tender and award relevant contracts for professional services relating to the construction supervision of the 294 homes that would be transferred to Brent Council.</p> <p>4) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Resident Services to enter into a grant agreement with the Greater London Authority (GLA) for purchase of the Section 106 block of apartments at Fulton Road in the sum of £8.2m.</p> <p>5) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Finance &amp; Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform to secure the necessary pre-requisite consents and thereafter agree the terms for entering a lease of the 118 units to a Council owned subsidiary.</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 6 February 2023 (continued)**

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
9.	Airco Close Lease Assignment	Kingsbury	Cabinet RESOLVED to agree a transfer of a 999-year lease from the Developer of 399 Edgware Road to the Council for a concrete podium above a basement car park as part of a s106 agreement for the development.
10.	Borough Plan 2023-27	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To endorse the following to be progressed to Full Council for finalisation and adoption:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Borough Plan Engagement and Consultation Findings 2023-27 (attached as Appendix A to the report)</li> <li>b. Brent Borough Plan 2023 – 27 (attached as Appendix B to the report)</li> <li>c. Borough Plan evidence base (attached as Appendix C to the report)</li> <li>d. Equality Impact Assessment (attached as Appendix D to the report)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
11.	Draft Sustainable Environment and Development Supplementary Planning Document	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To approve consultation on a Sustainable Environment and Development draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as set out in Appendix A of the report.</li> </ol>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 6 February 2023 (continued)**

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			2) To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Communities and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning to consider consultation responses, along with any necessary changes, and the decision on whether to adopt the final SPD.
12.	Draft Residential Amenity Space & Place Quality Supplementary Planning Document		Cabinet RESOLVED to approve the Draft Residential Amenity Space and Place Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), as set out in Appendix A of the report, to be issued for statutory public consultation.
13.	Authority to Award a Contract for Services relating to the Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Electric Vehicle Charging Points	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>1) To approve the award of the call off contract for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of electric vehicle charge points for 10 years with an option to extend for a further 5 years (up to 15 years) to Zest Eco Ltd following completion of the further competition from the Crown Commercial Services' Dynamic Purchasing System and note that, depending on charge point models used, the value of the Contract was estimated to range between circa £952,000 and £1,936,000 plus a total revenue share projection over 10 years of £200,678.53.</p> <p>2) To approve a maximum capital budget of £1.04m for supply and installation of the electric vehicle charging points.</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 6 February 2023 (continued)**

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14.	Improving the Customer Experience in Brent Civic Centre	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To approve the plans to redesign customer spaces in Brent Civic Centre.</li> <li>2) To approve a budget of £1.96m for the redesign work and inclusion within the Capital Programme.</li> <li>3) To support the Libraries, Arts and Heritage Service to submit a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid and delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Resident Services to make decisions regarding this funding bid on the Council's behalf.</li> </ol>
15.	Council Tax Support Fund 2023/24	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To approve the proposed discretionary reduction Policy pursuant to section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 1992 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.</li> <li>2) To note that the proposed Policy pursuant to section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 1992 links to council support for vulnerable residents alongside other support mechanisms such as Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) and Resident Support Fund (Local Welfare Assistance).</li> <li>3) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Resident Services in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance</li> </ol>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 6 February 2023 (continued)**

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			and Resources in respect of decisions on individual applications for reducing Council Tax payable pursuant to the proposed policy under section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
16.	New Repayment Framework for Major Works billing for Leaseholders in Brent	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To extend the interest free periods in respect of major works for resident leaseholders from 2 years (currently) to 5 years.</li> <li>2) To agree the repayment offer as set out in section 8 of the report.</li> <li>3) To promote the option to all resident leaseholders (in those blocks scheduled for major works as set out in 5.1 of the report) for the Council to 'Buy Back' their home at market value (reduced to 75% of market value, if they choose to become secure tenants), and for non-resident leaseholders of those same blocks to have the option for the Council to buy back their leasehold property at 100% of the market value.</li> </ol>
17.	Authority to award contract for the provision and management of bike hangars in Brent	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To approve the award of a contract for the purchase and management of future bike hangars and the transfer of the management and maintenance of current bike hangars to Lock</li> </ol>

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			<p>It Safe Ltd for an initial contract period of three (3) years, with an option to extend for up to a further two (2) years on an annual basis.</p> <p>2) To note that the value of the contract referred to in section 2.1 of the report was estimated to be £90,000 for year 1 but that this value may increase if further funding was made available through S106 developer funding and Transport for London Local Implementation Plan funding in future years.</p>
18.	Determination of Brent Council's School Admission Arrangements for Community Primary Schools 2024-25	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>1) To note the consultation outcomes on the proposed amendments to the Admission Arrangements.</p> <p>2) To agree the proposed admission arrangements for Brent community schools and the scheme of co-ordination for maintained schools in Brent for the 2024/2025 academic year (as detailed within Appendices 2 and 3 of the report).</p>
19.	Exclusion of Press and Public		There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.
20.	Any other urgent business		None.