



SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 11 July 2022 at 6.00 pm

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

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

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: 1st July 2022 (republished 7 July 2022, 8 July 2022 & 11 July 2022)

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

Limited space will be available at the meeting for the press and public to attend or alternatively it will be possible to follow the meeting via the live webcast. The link to follow proceedings via the live webcast is 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 a 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

Apologies for absence.

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 14

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 18 May 2022.

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 of an Independent Person

15 - 16

To agree any appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies in accordance with Standing Order 30(g). In addition Council is also being asked to confirm the appointment of an Independent Person.

(Updated list of appointments republished 7 July 2022)

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 & Brent Youth Parliament

17 - 20

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

Members are asked to note that one public question has been received, which has been attached along with the written response.

7.2 To receive questions submitted from Brent Youth Parliament to Cabinet Members, in accordance with Standing Order 33(c).

One question has been received under this item, which has been attached along with the written response 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 Rules and Standing Order 66.

9 Reports from the Leader and Cabinet

21 - 44

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 any matter within the responsibility of the Cabinet.

(Agenda republished to include this item on 7 July 2022)

10 Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members

45 - 54

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

Under the new arrangements agreed as part of the changes to the Constitution at the Annual Council meeting five 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.

11 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:

11.1 Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

55 - 70

11.2 Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

71 - 78

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

(Agenda republished to include Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee update report on 8 July 2022)

12 Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee 79 - 84

To receive a report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 37.

13 Non Cabinet Members' Debate 85 - 88

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:

Leaving No One Behind: Declaring a Cost-of-Living Emergency

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

14 Changes to the Constitution in relation to the Members' Allowance Scheme (Dependants' Carers' Allowance) 89 - 96

To receive a report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations proposing an update to the Council's provision for councillors with dependants through revisions to the relevant sections in Part 6, Members' Allowance Scheme, of the Brent Constitution.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

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

15 General Dispensations under the Code of Conduct 97 - 100

To receive a report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations proposing that a general dispensation be granted to all councillors in relation to a limited range of interests that they may have in matters coming before the council's decision-making bodies. This will enable them to participate in meetings where these interests may be thought to arise but their position is shared with a significant proportion of other members of the council and/or in the community and transaction of council business might otherwise be impeded.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

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

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 along with proposed amendments of which notice has been received.
- Where a motion concerns an executive function, nothing passed can be actioned until approved by the Executive or an officer with the relevant delegated power.

(Agenda republished to include the motions on 7 July 2022 and subsequent notice of proposed amendments on 11 July 2022)

17 Urgent Business

At the discretion of the Mayor to consider any urgent business, in accordance with Standing Order 37 (r).



Please remember to switch your mobile phone to silent during the meeting.

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public. Alternatively it will be possible to follow proceedings via the live webcast [here](#)



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held in the Grand Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 5.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor

Councillor Abdi Aden

The Deputy Mayor

Councillor Orleen Hylton

COUNCILLORS:

Afzal	Agha
Ahmadi Moghaddam	Ahmed
Akram	Bajwa
Begum	Benea
M.Butt	S.Butt
Chan	Chappell
Chohan	Choudry
Collymore	Conneely
Crabb	Dar
Dixon	Donnelly-Jackson
Ethapemi	Farah
Fraser	Gbajumo
Georgiou	Grahl
Hack	Hirani
Johnson	Kabir
Kansagra	Kelcher
Knight	Long
Lorber	Mahmood
Matin	Maurice
Miller	Mistry
Mitchell	Moeen
Molloy	Nerva
M.Patel	Rubin
Shah	Ketan Sheth
Krupa Sheth	Smith
	Tatler

Also present: Lia Colacicco (as outgoing Mayor)

1. **Welcoming Statement**

Prior to formally opening the meeting, the outgoing Mayor Lia Colacicco took the opportunity to welcome all new and returning councillors following the local borough elections at the start of May 2022 and all guests present to the Annual Council meeting and invited Carolyn Downs, as Chief Executive, to provide a brief outline of the arrangements for the conduct of the meeting and Mayor Making ceremony. Having noted the outlined provided, the Mayor then moved on to formally open the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor advised that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Jayanti Patel.

3. **To elect the Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2022/2023**

Prior to handing over to the Chief Executive for the conduct of the election process, Lia Colacicco began by asking members for nominations to the office of Mayor of the London of Borough of Brent for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

Councillor Muhammed Butt proceeded to nominate Councillor Abdi Aden. In moving the nomination, he took the opportunity to welcome all new and returning councillors following the election and to thank Lia Colacicco and her family for their hard work and dedication during her time as Mayor. In nominating Councillor Aden, he highlighted the work and strong relationships developed across the local communities he had represented whilst serving as a ward councillor, which he felt would assist Councillor Aden, as Mayor, in being able to continue providing strong civic leadership for the borough.

Councillor Mili Patel seconded Councillor M.Butt's nomination of Councillor Aden for the office of Mayor of the London of Borough of Brent for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

There were no other nominations and it was therefore **RESOLVED** that Councillor Abdi Aden be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Brent for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

Councillor Aden then proceeded to sign the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor.

4. **To appoint a Councillor of the Borough to be Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Aden, as newly appointed Mayor, thanked members for his nomination and appointment as Mayor. He then announced that he had appointed Councillor Orleen Hylton to serve as Deputy Mayor for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

At this stage in proceedings the Mayors Chain of Office and robes were exchanged between the outgoing and newly appointed Mayor.

Councillor Aden then formally returned thanks for his appointment and began by commenting on his pride and honour in being nominated as Mayor and thanking all

members for their trust, confidence and faith in appointing him to take on the role as first citizen of the borough.

The Mayor then went on to share some information about his background. Having been born and educated in Somalia he advised that he had moved to the UK and settled in Brent in 1990, where he had lived and worked ever since as an employee of the Royal Mail. It was during this time he became interested in community development and cohesion, having worked as a volunteer at the Stonebridge Somali Centre, which had also deepened an interest in local politics. This led to him standing in the local elections in 2010 and having the honour to represent Stonebridge as a councillor since 2018 with him serving as Deputy Mayor during 2021/22.

Having advised how delighted he was to have been joined by so many guests and relatives from all over the UK and abroad he then moved on to express his gratitude to his predecessor Lia Colacicco for her outstanding work as Mayor during such a difficult and challenging period in the recovery from the pandemic. Recognising the challenges this had placed on the Mayor being able to undertake her full range of activities he congratulated her on the work undertaken to support local communities across the borough and to continue promoting Brent at so many events and functions. In addition he also took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Tim Evans, as the Mayor's consort, for the support her had provided the Mayor over the previous year.

The Mayor then moved on to congratulate Councillor Hylton on her appointment as Deputy Mayor and advised how much he was looking forward to working with her over the coming year in order to continue delivering positive outcomes for the borough.

Referring to teamwork, the Mayor outlined how he intended to continue working closely with fellow members, the Chief Executive, Council Management Team and Mayor's Office to capitalise on their strengths and experience in order to continue the hard work of previous Mayors in seeking to achieve the best results for the borough.

Councillor Aden then outlined his aims for his Mayoralty in terms of continuing to support the Council's vision and objectives. In this role he advised that he also intended to support the following three charities:

- Hilltop Circle – a Brent-based charity focussed on providing training, education and support to young people with the aim of instilling values, self-esteem, skills and confidence to help them build a successful and fulfilling life.
- SUFRA NW London - a local charity established to address both the causes and consequences of poverty in the community with a Community Hub providing support for people in crisis, including families living in extreme poverty and people who were vulnerable, homeless and socially isolated.
- The Jason Roberts Foundation – an organisation established by former professional footballer Jason Roberts to provide a support programme including mentoring, life skills, education and training projects focussed around wider sports activities working with young people at risk of offending,

those excluded from school or struggling in the school curriculum, and young people with physical and learning difficulties.

Highlighting the important work undertaken by each of the charities in terms of supporting some of the most vulnerable members in society he hoped all members would support him with his fund raising efforts during his year in office.

Reflecting on the level of diversity within communities across Brent, the Mayor ended by once again highlighting how proud he was to have been elected as Brent's First Citizen and how he hoped it would be possible to use the office of Mayor to continue supporting the work being undertaken to unite communities and address the uncertain times and challenges being experienced by so many across the borough.

Taking the opportunity to thank his family and friends for their support over the coming year, Councillor Aden advised that with the support of such a passionate and dedicated intake of councillors he was committed to working hard over the year ahead in order to exceed and achieve excellent results for all communities across Brent.

5. Vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor

The Mayor then invited Councillor Mili Patel, as newly appointed Deputy Leader, to propose a vote of thanks to all co-opted and other members serving on the Council's committees.

Councillor Mili Patel began by thanking the outgoing Mayor, Lia Colaccico, for the example she had set in undertaking her civic duties under such difficult and challenging circumstances during the recovery from the pandemic.

As this was the Annual Meeting of the Council, she also advised it was an ideal opportunity to highlight again the valued work of the Council's co-opted and independent committee members, given the core role they played as critical friends in the Council's democratic process. She advised that their independence and objectivity were highly valued and integral to the role of the bodies on which they served including Scrutiny, Audit & Standards and the various health and education bodies. She ended by thanking all of the co-opted Members for their work in supporting the Council's drive towards continuous improvement.

The opportunity was also taken to recognise and thank the previous Deputy Leader (Margaret McLennan) for her work, dedication and the commitment shown to local residents, the Council and its staff in her role and in helping to steer the Council through such challenging recent times.

Councillor Kansagra, as Leader of the Conservative Group, was then invited to speak and advised that he would like to second the vote of thanks moved by the Deputy Leader to all co-opted and other members on the Council's committees. He also took the opportunity to welcome all new and returning members and to congratulate the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their appointment before ending by thanking Lia Colaccico, as the outgoing Mayor, for the way she had conducted herself in her civic role during such challenging times as the Council sought to recover from the pandemic as well as for the way she had chaired the Council

meetings both in person and online. He ended by wishing her well in her retirement from the Council and in her ongoing work and involvement with the local community.

The Mayor then invited Councillor M.Butt to formally propose a vote of thanks for the outgoing Mayor, Lia Colacicco. In doing so, Councillor M.Butt began by congratulating the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their appointment and by highlighting the honour in serving as First Citizen of the Borough and in being able to advocate and serve as a champion for Brent. These were roles he felt Lia Colacicco, supported by her consort Tim Evans, had fulfilled to the maximum whilst also bringing a unique style and passion to the role, which had been much needed as the borough sought to recover from the pandemic. Recognising her passion for the environment and sustainability he advised the Council would continue to build on the work already undertaken and to ensure, given the wide range of events attended during her year in office that the work in raising Brent's profile continued. Highlighting the work also undertaken in her role as ward councillor and in supporting other members on the Council, Councillor M.Butt ended by advising how much she would be missed given the valued contribution made not only in her role as a local advocate but also in being such a strong representative of the borough during her Mayoralty.

The Mayor then invited comments from other members in recognition of the role undertaken by the outgoing Mayor.

Councillor Grahl opened the tributes by recognising and thanking Lia Colacicco for the work undertaken in representing Cricklewood, highlighting in particular her support for Cricklewood Library along with her work around climate change and how much she would be missed by those she represented within the local community.

Following on Councillor Lorber also took the opportunity to thank Lia Colacicco for her work in support of community libraries across Brent, which had been recognised and appreciated.

Councillor Kelcher also spoke, taking the opportunity to highlight Lia Colacicco's passion in relation to addressing local issues alongside green and environmental concerns. Referring to the support from her family during her time as Mayor he felt there was also a need to recognise her style and humour and how much she would be missed by other colleagues on the Council.

Councillor Maurice also commended the outgoing Mayor on her hard work in representing Brent as well as her warm and friendly nature and took the opportunity to wish her well for the future.

Councillor Dixon also took the opportunity to thank Lia Colacicco for her hard work during her time as Mayor. Referring to the flair, passion, skill, kindness and effectiveness she had demonstrated in representing the local community within Cricklewood, including her support for Gladstone Park, she ended by pointing out how much she would be missed by all colleagues.

Councillor Dar then spoke as a friend and associate of Lia Colcaccio over the previous 20 years including her time as a ward councillor and also local community

activist in the Cricklewood and Mapesbury areas. Highlighting her work in support of a range of local community organisations specific reference was made to her involvement with Cricklewood Community Library as well as the Friends of Gladstone Park, Ashford Place and local foodbanks. Referring to her quietly determined nature, Councillor Dar also outlined the role Lia Colacicco had played as a community champion and advocate in assisting to raise significant funds for local projects, including the community library and park and in organising and supporting local residents in the establishment of a community garden. He ended by wishing Lia Colacicco all the best for the future following her decision to step back from the Council and to also highlight how much she would be missed by her fellow ward councillors and colleagues.

In concluding the tributes, Councillor Nerva reflected on the previous comments made and how much Lia Colacicco would be missed as a colleague, friend and valuable supporter and advocate for Brent. Recognising her achievements not only as a ward councillor but also as a local community activist he outlined what he felt had been the impact in terms of the improvements made to the quality of life for local communities in Willesden and the surrounding area as a result of her work to support the community library, Gladstone Park and to champion environmental issues and advised that he looked forward to this work being continued as part of her ongoing involvement with the local community.

The Mayor then invited Lia Colacicco to return thanks and review her time in office.

Lia Colacicco, in returning thanks, began by expressing her pride at having been elected as Mayor and being able to serve the people of Brent during the previous year. Reflecting on the honour in being able to serve the borough, particular thanks were extended to Kim Gordan & Brian Kennedy in the Mayor's Office along with Katie Smith and Fatema Limbada within Executive and Member Services for their support during her time as Mayor, particularly given the challenges involved in undertaking her role during recovery from the pandemic.

Highlighting some of these challenges, she outlined the difficulties this had created in being able to fundraise and also attend various events, given the restrictions in relation to social gatherings that had remained in place for a significant part of her time in office. As a result her focus had been targeted around her role as a roving ambassador putting people in contact in order to achieve her aims. This had included work:

- To pass on invaluable skills to a Parkinson's UK pilot project, which included addressing community diagnosis in BAME and South Asian groups.
- In support of Cricklewood Community Library, which was now due to officially open on 3rd June 3rd with a long term relationship with a local history group, whose walks had raised hundreds of pounds for her Mayoral charities.
- To support the provision of outreach support via the Brent Hubs to the South American community within the borough.

In terms of specific activity undertaken by the Mayor during her time in office, Lia Colacicco referred to the following as particular highlights:

- Visits to Covid vaccination centres set up across the borough including in Sports Centres, Mosques, libraries and the vaccine bus.

- Visiting a state of the art film studio facility in Harlesden which could be used to recreate any large city in the world via satellite.
- Attending two 100 year old birthday celebrations.
- Visiting and supporting the work being undertaken by foodbanks across the borough.
- Visiting the Kilburn State cinema to see the Wurlitzer organ.
- Meeting Raheem Sterling.
- Seeing families being rehoused, streets repaved and trees planted.
- Being lucky enough to have won an assortment of raffle prizes and to have learned to love public speaking.

At the same time she had also been saddened to see the extent and real impact of poverty across the borough both in terms of rents, wages and standard of living accommodation. Whilst also disappointed and angry at the spread of fake news, she had also been encouraged to witness the kindness and extent of support being provided for more vulnerable members of society, particularly during the pandemic, and overjoyed to have been able to support a particular family rehoused in a more suitable sized property with a garden.

Reflecting on her year in office, Lia Colacicco felt that local communities across Brent had a wonderful attitude of live and let live which were reflected in it having been rated by the ONS as one of the happiest boroughs in which to live and the outcome of a recent resident satisfaction survey which had shown the Council's approval rating as holding its own compared to others nationally. This included around 8 in 10 Brent residents surveyed having stated they were satisfied with the local area, significantly higher than 2018; 7 out of 10 being satisfied with the way the Council ran things and 8 out of 10 feeling they had adequate social contact.

Highlighting how much she had enjoyed her time as Mayor, Lia Colacicco ended by taking the opportunity to thank all members, council staff, local community groups and residents for their support and to thank Councillor Aden for his support as her Deputy Mayor and to wish him along with his family all the best for the coming year as Mayor.

The Mayor thanked Lia Colacicco for her comments and highlighted how much he had personally enjoyed working with her and her family during their time as Mayor. He ended by wishing her well for the future and then advised that as this now concluded the ceremonial part of the meeting he would move on to deal with the remainder of the agenda.

6. **Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- (i) Death of Former Councillors Francis Eniola, Nkechie Amalu Johnson and Alan Johnston

The Mayor announced it was with much sadness he had to begin by advising members of the death of three former councillors Francis Eniola, Nkechie Amalu Johnson and Alan Johnston.

On behalf of Brent council he expressed deepest sympathy to the family and friends of all three former councillors and thanked them for the service to the local communities they had represented and the borough as a whole.

(ii) Award of Councillor Development Charter Plus Award

The Mayor then took the opportunity to congratulate all those involved in the Council once again having been awarded the Councillor Development Charter Plus Award.

He advised the award followed an external assessment of the Council's Member Learning and Development function undertaken in December 2021, with the Assessment Panel having concluded that Brent continued to meet the standard of their Charter Plus as the highest award.

As a result, the Mayor invited the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and Councillor Knight, as Chair of the Member Learning and Development Steering Group to come forward in order to be presented with the Charter Plus Award and Certificate with members taking the opportunity to thank and congratulate those involved with a round of applause.

The Mayor then advised that this concluded his announcements and moved on to the next item.

7. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared by Members at the meeting.

8. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 24 February 2022 be approved as a correct record.

9. Appointment of the Leader of the Council

As this was the first meeting of the new Administration following the local borough elections on 5 May 2022 the Mayor invited nominations for the office of Leader of the Council which would be for a term of office to expire in May 2026.

Councillor Afzal proceeded to move and Councillor Mili Patel seconded the nomination of Councillor Muhammed Butt to the office of Leader of the Council.

There were no other nominations and on being put to the vote it was therefore **RESOLVED** that Councillor Muhammed Butt be elected Leader of the Council for a term of office to expire in May 2026.

10. Annual Review of Constitution

The Mayor invited Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce the report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations.

Councillor M.Butt began by thanking members for his re-appointment as Leader of the Council and outlined his aim to ensure the Council continued to do everything within its power to support local communities across Brent and ensure those most in need received the necessary assistance. In presenting the report, he advised this detailed a number of proposed changes to the Constitution as a result of not only the usual annual review but also to reflect the outcome of the local borough election, change in size and the representation of political groups on the Council. The changes outlined included amendments to the Procedural Rules, Responsibility for Functions, Codes of Conduct and Protocols and the Members Allowance Scheme.

In introducing the report, Councillor M.Butt also moved an amendment to the Procedural Rules in Part 2 of the Constitution proposing the deletion of Standing Order 49 (iii) (Appointments to chairs and vice chairs of Council Committee and Sub Committees) which required that the Vice Chair of each Scrutiny Committee was appointed from a different political group as the Chair and also the waiving of Standing Order 4 in Part 1 of the Constitution in order to enable the change to come into immediate effect during the meeting.

The Mayor then opened the debate inviting other members to speak on the report and amendment moved by the Leader of the Council, with the following contributions made.

Councillor Lorber in responding and expressing concern at the amendment moved by the Leader of the Council highlighted what he felt was the case for greater rather than more restricted participation by opposition councillors in the scrutiny process in order to maintain independence of the function and important role it played in being able to hold the Council's Executive to account. Highlighting a need for effective scrutiny to come prior to decisions being made by the Executive rather than after, he outlined what he considered to be the need for greater transparency, challenge and public accountability in the decision making process and to provide scrutiny with the necessary independence and power to achieve that, which it was felt the amendment moved by the Leader of the Council would undermine. Given the views expressed, Councillor Lorber moved a further amendment at the meeting which sought to retain Standing Order 49 (iii) and amend it by requiring the Chair of each Scrutiny Committee to be allocated to the opposition group(s) with Standing Order 4 also waived to enable the change to come into immediate effect during the meeting. In moving the amendment he pointed out this reflected existing practice in a number of other local authorities and what he believed was also the intention of the original legislation which had established the scrutiny arrangements within local government.

Councillor Kansagra also spoke on behalf of the Conservative Group to express concern at the amendment moved by the Leader of the Council and in support of the alternative amendment moved by Councillor Lorber. In outlining his concerns, Councillor Kansagra pointed out that the change proposed by Councillor M.Butt had not be subject to prior consideration at the Constitution Working Group and failed to recognise the increase in size of the Opposition Groups on the Council following the local election. As such he urged members to reject the amendment moved by the Leader.

As a final contribution to the debate, Councillor Georgiou then spoke (as Leader of the newly formed Liberal Democrat Group on the Council) to highlight his concerns at the amendment moved by the Leader of the Council and the need identified to seek more collaborative and less combative ways of working in order to deliver the best results for local communities across the borough, recognising the feedback received on key issues identified during the election campaign. Whilst congratulating Councillor M.Butt on his re-appointment as Leader of the Council and recognising the mandate provided for the new Administration as a result of the local election he felt it was also important to recognise that the election had delivered an increase in the number of opposition members on the Council. As a result, he felt the alternative amendment moved by Councillor Lorber in relation to the arrangements for securing more effective and democratic scrutiny was reasonable, fair and proportionate and would deliver improved scrutiny along with better outcomes for all. He therefore urged members to reject the amendment moved by the Leader of the Council in support of the alternative amendment moved by Councillor Lorber.

As no further members indicated they wished to speak the Mayor then invited Councillor Lorber to exercise his right of reply in relation to the amendment moved at the meeting.

Councillor Lorber in summing up once again urged all members to reject the motion moved by the Leader of the Council and for the reasons he had outlined, to support the alternative proposal requiring the Chair of each scrutiny committee to be allocated to the opposition group(s).

The Mayor then invited Councillor M.Butt to exercise his right of reply in relation to the report and amendment he had moved at the meeting.

In summing up and responding to the comments and further amendment moved at the meeting Councillor M.Butt began by highlighting the Council's well established and accredited offer in terms of member learning and development opportunities, which he felt also recognised the way in which scrutiny operated within Brent. Highlighting the clear mandate provided for the new Administration as a result of the local election, he also felt this covered member's participation in scrutiny and the wider democratic process with a reminder also provided as to how the scrutiny arrangements had been operated under previous Council Administrations. As a result he advised that the Labour Administration were not minded to support the amendment moved by Councillor Lorber at the meeting.

The Mayor thanked members for their contributions during the debate and moved on to put the amendments and recommendations within the report to the vote.

On firstly putting the amendment moved by Councillor Lorber to the vote this was declared **LOST**.

The amendment moved by Councillor M.Butt along with the waiver to Standing Order 4 to enable this change to take immediate effect during the meeting were then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

The substantive recommendations, as detailed below, were then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To agree the amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 1 of the report along with the following additional amendment moved by the Leader of the Council at the meeting:

To delete Standing Order 49 (iii) requiring that the Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committees shall be from a different political group as the Chair and waive Standing Order 4 in order to enable the change to come into immediate effect during the meeting.

- (2) To note that, to the extent the changes agreed under (1) above related to executive functions of the Council, they had been approved by the Leader.
- (3) To authorise the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations to amend the Constitution accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

11. **Representation of Political Groups on Committees**

The Mayor then moved on to invite Councillor M Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce the report from the Chief Executive.

Councillor M. Butt advised the report fulfilled the Council's duty to review and determine the representation of different political groups on certain Committees at its annual meeting and as soon as practicable following on from the local borough elections held on 5 May 2022.

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

It was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To agree the size of each Committee, as detailed within the report.
- (2) To approve the allocation of seats on Committees to each of the Council's political groups (where the rules of political balance applied) as set out within the report and to make appointments to those committees (under item below) giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats.
- (3) To note that the political balance on Council Sub-Committees would be reviewed at the first meeting of the General Purposes Committee and Licensing Committee to be held following the Annual Council Meeting.
- (4) To agree provision for the allocation of a political assistant to both the Labour and Conservative Groups, on the basis detailed within sections 3.13 – 3.15 of the report.

12. **Appointment to Committees and Outside Bodies including the appointment of Chairs & Vice-Chairs**

The Mayor then invited Councillor M.Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce the report from the Chief Executive.

Councillor M.Butt advised the report set out the nominations for appointments to Committees, Joint Committees, Forums, Panels, Outside Bodies and nomination for Chairs and Vice Chairs, where necessary, for the 2022/23 Municipal Year. Following the decision taken as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution in relation to the vice –chair arrangements on scrutiny he confirmed that the Labour Group had nominated Councillor Collymore as Vice-Chair of the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Long as Vice-Chair of the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

The Mayor then opened the debate inviting other members to speak on the report, with the following contributions made.

Councillor Kansagra in highlighting the increase in Conservative Group members within Kenton and Kingsbury wards moved an amendment to the proposed membership of Brent Connects – Kingsbury & Kenton seeking to allocate the Chair of that body to a member of the Conservative Group.

Councillor Mistry also spoke in support of the proposed amendment moved by Councillor Kansagra, highlighting the need to recognise the increase in Conservative group members across both wards and mandate she felt this provided for those members in seeking to represent both areas.

As no further members indicated they wished to speak the Mayor then invited Councillor M.Butt to exercise his right of reply in relation to the debate on the report.

In summing up Councillor M.Butt again highlighted what he felt had been the clear mandate provided for the new Administration as a result of the local election, which he advised would be reflected and exercised to its fullest extent within the membership on each Council body and to ensure all local communities continued to be represented fairly. As a result he advised the Labour Administration were not minded to support the amendment moved by the Conservative Group in relation to membership of Brent Connects – Kingsbury & Kenton.

The Mayor thanked members for their contributions during the debate and moved on to put the amendment and recommendations within the report to the vote.

On putting the amendment moved by Councillor Kansagra regarding the chair of Brent Connects – Kingsbury & Kenton to the vote this was declared **LOST**.

The substantive recommendations, as set out in the report and detailed below, were then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To approve the appointments of members, co-opted members and substitutes to Council Committees and Outside Bodies for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report

- (2) To approve the appointments of Chairs and Vice Chairs to Council Committees for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report, subject to:
 - (a) Councillor Collymore being appointed as Vice-Chair of the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee; and
 - (b) Councillor Long being appointed as Vice-Chair of the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee
- (3) To note the appointments:
 - (a) of the Cabinet, Cabinet Committees and Joint Executive Committees and their respective Chairs and Vice Chairs for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.
 - (b) to be confirmed by the General Purposes Committee for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.
 - (c) to be confirmed by Licensing Committee for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.

(The full list of appointments can be found as part of the appendices to the main report republished prior to the meeting)

13. **Calendar of Council Meetings for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year**

The Mayor then invited Councillor M Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce the report from the Chief Executive which he advised presented the final calendar of meeting dates for Full Council and other meetings during the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

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

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) Members approve the dates for Full Council and other meetings to take place during the 2022/23 Municipal Year, as attached in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (1) The Head of Executive and Member Services be authorised to make any alterations deemed necessary to the Municipal Calendar during the course of the Municipal Year having consulted the Leader of the Council; the Leaders of the Opposition Groups and the Chair of the affected meeting.

14. **Urgent Business**

As there was no urgent business to be transacted the Mayor declared the Annual Meeting closed and advised that he looked forward to seeing all members at the next Council meeting on Monday 11 July 2022. He then invited all members and guests to join him at his reception.

The meeting closed at 6.35 pm

COUNCILLOR ABDI ADEN
Mayor

FULL COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2022

AGENDA ITEM 5 – APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, OUTSIDE BODIES & OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

Standing Order 30(g) states that, if necessary, Full Council is required to agree appointments to committees and outside bodies. In addition to the changes listed Council is being asked to confirm the appointment of an Independent Person

Such appointments are set out below:

Committee Membership

Please note: Any changes notified will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

Outside Bodies

1. Young Brent Foundation – to confirm the appointment of Councillor Grahl (as opposed to the 3 names listed - Councillors Afzal, Krupa Sheth & Kelcher at the Annual Council meeting).
2. Old Oak & Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) Planning Committee – to appoint Councillor S.Butt as Deputy.
3. London Housing Consortium – to appoint Councillor Knight as Full Council representative and Councillor Farah as Deputy up to disbandment of the existing governance arrangements in December 2022.
4. Capital Letters – to appoint Councillor Knight as the Council representative.
5. London Councils Greater London Employment Forum – Councillor Muhammed Butt to replace Councillor Eleanor Southwood as the Council's full representative.

6. Edward Harvist Trust – to confirm the appointment of Councillor Afzal as the Council’s nominated Trustee having noted the clarification provided that the Council was only entitled to nominate one Trustee with no provision for substitute/reserve Members.

Independent Person

The Independent Persons fulfil a statutory role and are appointed for the purpose of being consulted by the Monitoring Officer, the Audit & Standards Committee and members in relation to any Code of Conduct complaints. They also have to be consulted as part of the dismissal procedures relating to certain senior officers with their role defined by section 28(8) of the Localism Act 2011 as follows:

- has not been a member or employee of the Council within the five years before the date of appointment;
- is not a Member or officer of that or any other relevant authority;
- is not a relative or close friend of a Member or employee of the Council;
- has submitted an application for the appointment;
- has been approved by a majority of the members of the Council.

As a result of one of the Council’s three Independent Persons term of office having come to an end (following a one year extension) a successful recruitment process has now been completed and Council is therefore asked to:

- (1) confirm the appointment of Julie Byrom to fill the vacant position as an Independent Person until 2026.
- (2) note and agree the two existing Independent Persons - William Goh and Kier Hopley, will continue in post until 2025.



Item 7.1: Questions from Members of the Public

Full Council – 11 July 2022

1. Question from M. Whiteley to Councillor Donnelly Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities & Culture

Please can you confirm how much debate has taken place as to whether Brent will remain members of Stonewall's Diversity Champions scheme?

I know the Council paid & £2.5k in the last financial year and am concerned that since the publication of the Nolan investigation relating to the BBC this does not represent a good decision on behalf of local residents.

Response:

Brent Council has been a member of the Stonewall Diversity Champions scheme, for the last few years.

We last paid our subscription to Stonewall early on in the last financial year 2021/2022. Being a member over the past few years has provided us access to LGBTQ+ support and resources.

This year, although there was some discussion surrounding the press coverage, for example involving Stonewall's advice to various organisations, the discussion at Brent Council which involved the LGBTQ+ network to not renew our membership has been one based solely on the practical benefits versus money spent.

This was the key consideration in not maintaining our membership of the Stonewall scheme at this time. We are absolutely committed to tackling LGBTQ+ inequality across Brent and improving equality, diversity and inclusion within our own workforce and community.



Item 7.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament

Full Council – 11 July 2022

1. Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools

The Brent Youth Strategy recognises the importance of youth engagement forums and the high demand for youth spaces. What support and funding is being offered by the Council to help develop these?


Response:

The Council's ambitious youth strategy, developed with the support of over 500 young people across the borough, recognises the need to make sure we continue to listen and respond to young people so that their views are taken into account as the strategy is delivered. A number of practical steps have been taken to ensure this happens, including:

- Young people being involved as members of a steering group that also involves a number of partner organisations, whose role is to review, challenge and take forward each part of the strategy delivery plan. The establishment of youth activities within Family Wellbeing Centres has been based on co-design work with young people in schools. For example, there are sports activities that can lead to the possibilities of coaching qualifications as well as art workshops in video, painting and animation.
- The Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) providing a key forum for young people to express their views - BYP has been involved in the Youth Strategy Steering Group. There are a number of separate places for young people's voices to be heard: a Youth Panel has been meeting regularly since the end of 2020 as part of the Youth Justice Board funded Pathfinder project – ensuring the voices of young people from diverse backgrounds are heard and services/projects co-designed with them; The Black Community Action Plan Youth Forum provides an opportunity for young people to ensure the commitments within the plan are met; The Local Cultural Education Partnership has a young voices group who have attended the Youth Strategy Steering Group and are gaining feedback from other young people on their current priorities.
- A role being created (Youth Service Transformation Lead), responsible for the delivery of the Youth Strategy and supporting the steering group, identifying funding opportunities, working with the Young Brent Foundation and other youth organisations to develop the youth offer across Brent.

The Council is also committed to working with the voluntary and community sector to develop more spaces for young people to meet and take part in positive activities. Discussions are ongoing with national charity Onside to consider how an Onside Youth Zone could be established within the borough.

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 Brent	Full Council 11 July 2022
	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: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix 1 Cabinet Member Update reports
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	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.

Leader – Cllr Muhammed Butt

It is a great privilege to start a report once again to full Council with Leader next to my name; it's an honour that never gets old.

There are many people to thank from the last few months, firstly my wife and children for putting up with another long campaign and a car-boot full of leaflets for weeks on end.

Secondly, I would like to thank all my Labour colleagues in the Council Chamber; I am so excited to work with fresh faces and old to ensure that Labour values are at the heart of everything this Council does.

We cannot and will not stand still in this next administration. We can all feel that a general election is on the horizon and the pathway back to a Labour Government is through responsible custodianship of Councils like Brent.

Third, I want to thank the many thousands of residents that voted Labour at the ballot box this May. My colleagues would not be here without you, and we are indebted to you for your trust in us all.

I recognise that in my political lifetime even, Brent has not always been a Labour borough; and all politicians will tell you that political fortunes can rise and fall very quickly. So, to our residents I want to say: whether you voted Labour or not, we will not let you down

To my colleagues in opposition, some new and some returning; again, I wish you a warm congratulations on your election. We will need your commitment too, if we are to speak with one voice for Brent; in the challenging months ahead.

We know these are tough times for many people across Brent with the cost of living going through the roof. We will do everything in our power to support those who need our help and provide a springboard so that everyone has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

Finally, I want to welcome my new Cabinet. I am proud to lead such a diverse Cabinet, drawn from many different walks of life. They will be my team to see our Labour Manifesto transform our borough and ensure no one is left behind.

I have provided below a full list of responsibilities for each Cabinet Member.

I am also delighted to have several backbenchers in a brand-new role as Cabinet Champions, supporting our work and continually pushing us to do more.

In our first few weeks in this administration, we have got straight to it; passing reports on bike hangers, purchasing new affordable homes, and working with the corporate management team to strengthen the structure of this council around our priorities.

In the meantime, until our next meeting in September, I want to take this opportunity to wish every colleague a restful summer holiday with friends and family when it gets to them.

Contact: Cllr.Muhammed.Butt@brent.gov.uk

- 1. Leader**
Cllr Muhammed Butt
Communications
Brent representative on regional and national bodies
Strategies, priorities and plans
- 2. Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform**
Cllr Mili Patel
Finance, Audit and Pensions
Procurement
HR
Legal
Capital projects
IT and Digital Strategy
Corporate Performance
Property and assets
Invest 4 Brent & First Wave Housing
Members Services
Brent Black Community Action Plan
- 3. Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning**
Cllr Shama Tatler
Estate Regeneration
Inclusive Growth Strategy
Planning
Emergency Planning
Local Plan
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
West London Economic Prosperity Board (WLEPB)
- 4. Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection**
Cllr Harbi Farah

Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour
Liaison with Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)
VAWG
Neighbourhood Security
Prevent
Building Control Enforcement
Planning Enforcement
Regulatory Services and Trading Standards
Noise Nuisance and Pest Control

5. Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care

Cllr Neil Nerva

Public Health
Mental Health
Brent Health Matters
Adult Social Care
Health and Wellbeing Board
Liaison with health partners

6. Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience

Cllr Eleanor Southwood

Council Tax and Business Rates
Customer Services and Accessibility
Food Poverty
Customer Promise
Citizenship and Registration
Community Wealth Building
Poverty Reduction
Community Hubs
High-streets and improvement
Living Wage Borough
Brent Start and Brent Works

Affordable Workplace Strategy

Inward Investment

7. Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action

Cllr Krupa Sheth

Transport Strategy and operations

Roads and pavements

Sustainable Travel

Waste Collection and street cleaning

West London Waste Authority

Clean Air and Environmental Health

Climate Emergency Strategy

Parking, Street Lighting

Trees and Ecology

Parks and green spaces

Mortuary and funeral services

8. Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security

Cllr Promise Knight

Homelessness and Rough-Sleeping Strategy

New Council Housing Programme (NCHP)

Brent Housing Management

Liaison with Registered and Social Providers

Private Rented Sector regulation

9. Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools

Cllr Gwen Grahl

Early Years Learning

Family Wellbeing Centres

Children's Safeguarding and Social Care

Looked after Children and Corporate Parenting

Social Work

Youth offending
Brent Youth Strategy
Brent Youth Parliament
Pupil referral units
SEND provision and strategy
Brent Family of Schools
School Admissions and school place planning
Schools Forum and schools' improvement
Further Education and Skills Centres
Apprenticeships

10. Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Culture

Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson

Equality and Disability Strategy
Community Engagement
Consultation
Participatory Budgeting
Neighbourhood CIL (NCIL)
Metroland, Borough of Culture Legacy
Leisure and sports facilities
Brent Libraries
Heritage and Archives
Voluntary Sector and Social Enterprise

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform – Cllr Mili Patel

I am immensely pleased to table my first report of many more to come, as Deputy Leader.

It is such an exciting time to be serving Brent, it is the place I was born, raised and educated.

I have worked right here in this borough as a youth worker, and I know first-hand the effect that Labour-run local councils can have on residents that need help the most.

It is these experiences that I will be carrying into the office of Deputy Leader – and I will work on behalf of every member to ensure that this Council operates in the interests of all our residents.

I know the immense weight of responsibility on my shoulders; and I will make it my mission to listen to as many voices from around this borough as possible.

All of this has been thanks to former Councillor Margaret McLennan, a trailblazer in her own right – and whose steady hand and radical heart kept this authority in safe hands.

In my previous role I was Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. Working with the Corporate Management Team, I watched our Children and Young People's Department achieve the best results in the borough's history.

I want to pay tribute here to Gail Tolley in these final few months of her service to Brent. Although I only worked as Cabinet Member with Gail for a fraction of her 42 years of incredible public service: I cannot thank her enough for her leadership, stewardship and advocacy of every young person in this borough.

Although I am no pessimist, it would be remiss of me not to warn this council of the stormy horizons ahead.

We all know that the cost-of-living crisis follows some of the toughest years this borough has ever known. I feel this particularly in Kensal Green and Harlesden, with many of our residents still traumatised by the impact of the pandemic.

With inflation showing no signs of abating your council will also be unable to escape the increased costs of running the services you rely on. In fact, the LGA estimates that without adequate long-term funding to offset inflation, local government will be faced with pressures of up to £2.4bn in this year alone.

As Deputy Leader I will be working with our finance team and officers across this building to think creatively about, we can make every £1 count. Cuts from government have never stopped us fighting for our residents; and they will not this time either.

Creativity is at the heart of what comes next for this administration.

We will need to harness every ounce of creativity if we are to meet each of the many challenges that await Brent: from the climate emergency to the cost of living.

Let the hard work begin.

Contact: Cllr.Mili.Patel@brent.gov.uk

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning – Cllr Shama Tatler

Top news since my last report:

Planning Committee

Our June Planning Committee was fully 'in person' with all participants present. Hybrid option remains for speakers if required. 2 residential schemes were approved:

- 66 Cavendish Road – 21 homes
- 30 Brondesbury Park – 9 homes

Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill

The bill is proposing changes to the planning system with a new infrastructure levy, mandatory design codes and tighter changes to local plans

Other news:

Alperton Housing Zone

Alperton Sports Ground NCIL playground and parks improvement works are due to complete by the end of 6/2022.

A more detailed report will be tabled for September, but if any constituent has any queries, please contact me on the below:

Contact: Cllr.Shama.Tatler@brent.gov.uk

Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection – Cllr Harbi Farah

Top news since my last report:

Violence against Women and Girls Project

Brent is taking part in a tri-borough culturally sensitive domestic violence programme called CIFA (Culturally Informed Functional Assessment). Barnet and Enfield are the other two boroughs engaged in the programme.

The programme is unique in that it addresses and challenges cultural practices that may cause domestic abuse to go unchallenged. The specialist provider offers direct support to the victim, as well as the perpetrator, to help unpick behaviours that might be rooted in unchallenged culturally based beliefs.

Recently, I attended a briefing on this project on the 23rd June. The meeting was called by Sophie Linden, Deputy Head of MOPAC who wanted to hear more about the programme.

Other news:

Residents' views sought to shape new rules to tackle anti-social behaviour

Please share far and wide with your constituents that Brent residents are being asked to tell the council if there are any problems causing a nuisance in their area.

Feedback will help shape the renewal of the borough's Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) that give council key workers and the police the powers to crack down on anti-social behaviour

There are three PSPOs currently in place in Brent. Each has varying rules and applies to different areas but includes bans on things like street drinking, littering, irresponsible dog owners, public urination and much more.

While we hope officers rarely need to use these powers, it is vital they exist so residents and visitors can feel safe and enjoy the borough.

We know all areas are different, so please have your say to make sure the new PSPOs reflect what is going on in your neighbourhood

To take part in the survey please visit the council's website.

Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board (TSJAB):

I attended the first meeting of TSJAB between Brent and Harrow where three papers on the Annual Report, New legislation and Tackling Illicit tobacco were presented and agreed. This was the first meeting attended by the new administration in Harrow.

Safer Neighbourhood Board

I attended a SNB meeting on 8 June 2022 where we were updated on local investigations such as reducing the sanctioned reports from SNB subgroups and representatives.

Date for your diary: the next SNB meeting will take place on Wednesday 28 September 2022.

St Raphael's Murder Update

An important Community Safety Meeting took place on St Raphael's Estate on the 13th June. This action was part of a community listening and reassurance exercise after the tragic murder of Devon Jenson-Wallace. A plea date has been set for two men charged with murder.

The community were concerned about on-going safety issues in the area.

Given the variety of concerns raised – an action plan was created. Partners will trouble shoot and provide updates on the action plan at the next community meeting in 6 weeks' time.

If anyone wish to discuss any matters relating to my Cabinet portfolio, then please get in touch.

Contact: Cllr.Harbi.Farah@brent.gov.uk

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care – Cllr Neil Nerva

Top news since my last report:

Brent Health Matters (BHM)

BHM is making a significant impact on challenging entrenched inequalities – please visit the council's website for more details:

- 11 large scale Diabetes events completed at various venues. 1,318 people attended 1,079 health checks done. Commitment to deliver at least 2 Diabetes events a month.
- £250,000 awarded this year to community organisations to carry out health and wellbeing projects using You decide process.
- Built network of Community Champions (43 currently), building and strengthening engagement with 284 community groups and organisations.
- In the last year, team provided support for patients in 10 GP practices from areas most affected by COVID. 2,300 patients seen by the team, which led to 323 flu vaccinations, 1,865 health assessments, 685 patient care plans updated and 560 patients receiving bespoke health education.

NHS Funding

The creation of the North West London Integrated Care System (ICS) provides an opportunity for services across NHS Brent to be levelled up and make use of local knowledge from our Brent Health Matters programme.

Social Care Reforms

There is continued uncertainty about government funding to ensure successful implementation of social care reforms.

Other news:

Covid-19

With the scaling back of testing, it is difficult to know accurately the level of infection. However there are clear indications that infections are rising. So while new variants remain a concern, the vaccination programme continues to break the link between infection and severe illness.

Vaccination continues at the Civic centre for adults and children. Numbers have fallen but are steady at 30 to 50 a day.

Monkey Pox

Monkeypox cases continue to rise. The overwhelming majority of these are in men who identify as GBMSM. The risk to the general population remains very low, transmission requires close contact. Targeted communications remain key so as to

not alarm those who are at low risk but appropriately inform higher risk populations at the same time as avoiding stigma.

Brent Health Bus

The bus will be offering oral health promotion, nutritional advice after school at sites around the borough during June and July. Publicity is via our schools network.

Relaunch of Cobbold Road

In the light of the new National Drug Strategy, additional funding has been made available from Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) for:

- Action to tackle drug related deaths.
- Strengthen links for the criminal justice system into treatment.
- Dual diagnosis.
- Increase service user involvement.

OHID have approved our plan for 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25 which means that just under £2.2 million pounds will be coming into the local treatment and recovery system over the next 3 years. In turn we are expected to increase the numbers in treatment by 20%.

WDP New Beginnings will be relaunching the newly refurbished Cobbold Road Treatment and Recovery Centre in Willesden.

Note in addition to these direct Public Health and Adult Social Care related activity I will be liaising with Cabinet colleagues to create opportunities for health gain to be woven into work plans to implement other borough national policy initiatives.

Contact: Cllr.Neil.Nerva@brent.gov.uk

Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience – Cllr Eleanor Southwood

Top news since my last report:

Cost of living crisis – how are we helping residents

Last week, Cabinet agreed to invest a further £3m into our Resident Support Fund (RSF) for 22/23.

Since August 2020, the RSF supported 2,658 applicants with a total of £5.2m. In 2021/22, the average RSF grant was £1,380 and 55% of grants were to help with household expenditure and utility costs.

More detail, including breakdown by ward is available in our most recent Cabinet report.

Brent Council has:

- Distributed £2,490 worth of food vouchers and £5,507 worth of fuel vouchers issued via the hubs (Oct 21 - Mar 22): over 5,000 residents approached us for food support (Apr 19 - Jan 22).
- Provided financial inclusion training for up to 340 residents and community leaders.
- Provided digital Inclusion support for over 900 households, including access to digital devices for 400 pupils: supporting 100 businesses with digital skills training: and 3 hubs host digital cafes.
- Distributed £5.5m of government grants, including holiday supermarket vouchers for families of approximately 12,000 children: a one-off payment of £50 (Feb 21) to eligible families to help with utilities: £125k funding to Brent food banks.

Supporting our residents is about being there when families are in crisis and also finding ways to help longer-term, not least because economic recovery in Brent is slow: we have the 6th highest number of unemployment claimant rates in the country, compared to 77th highest back in March 2020.

We'll be conducting a review of how we assist with the cost of living, including looking at systems (council and more widely), what support is needed and how we have the most impact. I look forward to your engagement in this work over the summer. More information is in the Cabinet report from earlier this month.

Other news:

Date for your diary – Brent Works jobs fair confirmed for 21st July at Wembley Stadium with over 100 employers, including HS2, Ikea, and Heathrow. We're expecting over 2,500 residents: please do come along.

Contact: Cllr.Eleanor.Southwood@brent.gov.uk

Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action – Cllr Krupa Sheth

Top news since my last report:

Jubilee Street Parties

We've been successfully processing applications, arranging the necessary road closures and drop-off and pick up of signs and cones. Our Highways team were involved in the arrangements for the Jubilee Beacon lighting ceremony in Wembley Park too.

Injection Patching Programme

Since 10th January, around 5000 defects have been repaired to date in over 200 roads. The programme is due to continue to the end of August.

CCTV Camera Enforcement for School Streets

Policy agreed by Cabinet June 2022 with new CCTV cameras for 26 permanent school streets to be introduced from September 2022. The team will work closely with the schools and develop a communications plan for engagement with residents, parents and carers.

Public Realm Recovery

Provision of enhanced cleansing services including hotpot cleansing, clear as you go fly tip removal, mechanical pavement sweeping, enhanced pavement and street furniture cleansing and additional graffiti and fly poster removal – we are now in month 5 of active operation with significant visible differences in evidence.

Phase 1 ends on 30th June with Phase 2 to commence on 1st September to 31st March 2023.

We are also replacing all old litter bins in town centres with a move to newer duo bins – phase 1 (damaged and missing) complete, phase 2 (old single aperture bins) currently in the planning stage.

Other news:

Climate Emergency - Two year delivery plan

A two year delivery plan was recently passed at Cabinet which will look at delivering sustainable neighbourhoods.

Contact: Cllr.Krupa.Sheth@brent.gov.uk

Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security – Cllr Promise Knight

Top news since my last report:

Affordable homes

125 local families will benefit from new Council homes at Watling Gardens, Mapesbury Ward, after construction was given the go ahead by Cabinet on Monday 20 June 2022. Following close on the heels, is the much needed investment in 155 new homes at the Alpertons Bus Garage Development. This marks a leap forward towards the aim to create 1,700 new council homes by 2028.

The Poverty Commission clearly set out that a safe, secure home is the foundation for every family to build upon. We are on track to deliver the target of 1,700 homes (broken down into 1,000 homes to be delivered by the Council and a further 700 by other providers) earlier than the proposed 2028.

Other news:

Stock Maximisation

This initiative was set up in September 2021 to work with tenants in large properties, who are no longer in need of such large properties. We are currently offering incentives to these tenants to down size and release the larger family housing:

- There have been 9 completed downsizing cases.
- Currently dealing with 61 downsizing cases.
- Currently dealing with 4 cases where tenants are terminating their tenancy to buy their own property.
- There are currently 19 cases yet to downsize.

Proactive Damp and Condensation Approach

Over the last year, issues with damp and mould in social housing have been highlighted in the national press.

BHM have taken a proactive approach by reviewing all historical data to identify which residents had reported damp and mould issues over the last seven years. We have written to:

- 880 households to ask if they are still experiencing issues.
- Gone through a triage process so inspections can be prioritised for the worst cases.
- Prepared a standard specification, which will cover most properties still suffering from damp and mould.
- Specification includes the installation of data logging humidistat extractor fans to both the kitchen and bathroom, mould washes using proprietary fungicidal mould wash and full room redecoration.

Private Housing Services

For the past 6 months, the team have been collaborating with Camden and Westminster Councils with regards to a criminal landlord who has a property network that spans all three boroughs and the three Councils. Last week the accused was sentenced to two years in prison for contempt of court in that he had misled the court with regards to the ownership of his properties.

Increase in demand

Over the past 4 weeks, there has been a 20% increase in applications from homeless households, compared to the same period last year. The service is forecasting an increase in demand during 2022/23, following the lifting of the private sector eviction ban and the impact of the cost of living crisis.

Contact: Cllr.Promise.Knight@brent.gov.uk

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools – Cllr Gwen Grah

Top news since my last report:

Recruitment of a new Director of Children's Services

Nigel Chapman, one of the current Operational Directors, has been appointed as the new DCS following the announcement of Gail Tolley's retirement after 42 years of public service, including eight years in Brent. Under Gail's leadership the department has been transformed, achieving positive inspection results including a 'good' rating by Ofsted with outstanding features. Nigel has over 20 years' experience as a social worker and a complex understanding of the challenges facing Brent.

Update on the Skills and Holiday Activities (HAF) Programme

The summer HAF programme has 43 providers approved to deliver activities across more than 50 locations in 16 wards. Providers have been informed if they have been successful or unsuccessful in their bid to deliver activities for summer 2022.

It is anticipated that the programmes will offer approximately 2100 places across the summer holidays with most programmes running between 25th July and 31st August. Grant agreements have gone out to all approved providers and bookings will be live either w/c 4th or 11th July for families to register for a programme place.

The HAF co-ordinator is working closely with Family Wellbeing Centres (FWC) to develop additional offers alongside the core HAF programme, for example, work with The Felix Project to make available food for families to take home with them – I visited Preston Park FWC recently to see work in this area.

Consultation on SEND Green Paper under way

The government's Green Paper outlining proposed changes in SEND provision has now been published. It includes some positive proposals, including streamlining the provision of SEND via councils, improving focus on mainstream inclusion, and providing additional funding for Council High Needs budgets. Discussions are ongoing with officers about these changes, and how we can continue to provide high quality support for our SEND young people. The consultation is currently open for those interested in SEND provision to contribute.

Other news:

Schools White Paper

The White Paper includes the option of setting up a council-established multi-academy trust. I am currently in discussion with officers about whether we can deliver this for Brent, and the wider implications of the White Paper for our schools.

Everyone Active Memberships

Together with Public Health we have ensured Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People can access free swimming and sport membership across the borough, in addition to providing this for Ukrainian refugees.

Contact: Cllr.Gwen.Grahl@brent.gov.uk

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Culture – Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson

Top news since my last report:

Community Engagement & Equalities

Significant Community Engagement Programme to deliver the NCIL Participatory Budgeting You Decide Programme. The aim of the programme is to engage residents in local decision making with the added attraction of allocating resources. We received 142 applications for funding totalling £5m – with £2m to spend in this round shared across the five Brent Connects areas (Willesden, Harlesden, Wembley, Kingsbury and Kenton, and Kilburn).

Metroland Cultures Brent Biennial

We will be delivering the first Brent Biennial ‘In the House of my Love’ between the 8 July – 11 September in three cluster locations in the south of the borough; Kilburn, Willesden and Harlesden.

The Biennial will present a series of artworks and will feature work from Brent based and international artists as well as four new community led commissions in collaboration with Asian Womens Resource Centre, SUFRA Foodbank and Kitchen, Young Roots and Mosaic LGBT+ Young Persons Trust. The opening reception for the biennial is on Friday 8 July at civic centre and everyone is welcome to attend.

Women’s Euros

Wembley Stadium will host the UEFA Women's EURO final on Sunday 31 July 2022. To tie in with this we have a range of activities to celebrate women in football.

- ‘Women of the Match’ exhibition celebrating local women and girls involved in football at the Civic Centre.
- The Heritage Service will also be delivering the installation One Two, One Two: Inspirational Stories from Brent’s Women of Football - Sit on historic seats from Wembley Stadium and listen to local football stars speak about their experiences in the sport. Taking a seat on Olympic Way, you can absorb the iconic view of Wembley Stadium, home of English football. These will be installed in Wembley Park on 4th July 2022.
- Key stage 1 and 2 resource pack for teachers with information on local Brent legends and women’s football related activities covering history, maths, nutrition, mental wellbeing and team work.
- Local clubs and players have opportunity to be part of Fan zone programme.
- Holiday Activity Fund Girls football camps.
- Football coaching course.
- Saturday 30 July will see Brent host the final day of the national arts and heritage programme in Wembley Park which will feature the Emma Smith installation and up to 100 Brent dancers and up to 20 local musicians performing the Brent Host City Anthem with musicians from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The plan is for there to be audio description of the art work and the anthem will have a BSL interpreter.

Other news:

Library Services

- We have a home library service, supported by 6 volunteers. In 2021/22 the service delivered 5,460 items. Anyone unable to visit a library can self-refer. Volunteers always welcomed.
- The Pandemic sparked an increase in e-borrowing: compared to 2019/20, in 2021/22 we saw 77% increase in active users.
- For Ukrainian arrivals, the service is promoting **Odilo** – a free app available across Europe, includes 3000 e-books and audiobooks in a variety of genres, including 1,700 Ukrainian titles and 500 in English.
- In the last quarter, 300 people attended ESOL classes in the libraries, run in conjunction with Brent Start.

Leisure

- The 3 sports centres are recovering well, Vale Farm and Willesden are back to 70% of pre-pandemic, which LGA benchmarking suggests is very good. Bridge Park, however, is slower to recover.
- 1Life's Willesden Sports Centre offered free swimming and lifeguard courses to Brent residents. Sessions ran every day throughout May half term with each course taking five days to complete.
- Everyone Active who run the Vale Farm Leisure Centre are offering free memberships to "Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People" referred by Council LAC team.

Contact: Cllr.Fleur.Donnelly-Jackson@brent.gov.uk

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Questions from the Opposition and Other Non-Cabinet Members

Full Council – 11 July 2022

1. Question from Councillor Long to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action.

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action set out the criteria for painting yellow lines, parking bays and zebra crossings?

Some lines are worn, zebra crossings dangerous and parking breaches unenforceable.

Response:

The condition of road markings are assessed during planned and reactive inspections. For road markings our investigation level for reactive repair is 30% or more missing, faded or worn over a 1m length. Most local roads get inspected annually and road markings can change greatly over this period for various reasons. We welcome Customer reports of faded markings and will prioritise stop lines, pedestrian crossings, mini roundabouts etc. for refreshing as they are considered safety criteria. There is a £50,000 annual road marking refresh programme delivered as part of our Planned Maintenance work and we will use real time video surveys to prioritise locations with the greater densities of worn markings. This maximises the efficiency of the return in improving the asset.

The Parking Service also has a £100,000 budget which is set aside for maintaining line markings and signage in controlled parking zones, parking bays and waiting loading (yellow line) restrictions. Locations are prioritised at controlled locations where there are significant complaints or concerns raised from Civil Enforcement Officers and work is programmed where line markings are faded and prioritised where we are unable to effectively enforce restrictions.

New waiting and loading restrictions are provided using funding available from Transport for London (TfL) and s106 developer funds for implementing schemes and for a short sections programme. Changes require statutory consultation and are implemented where parking issues are causing road safety concerns, or obstructing the movement of traffic which can also have a negative impact on bus journey times. There is usually an allocation of £80,000 from TfL funding for short sections of waiting and loading restrictions each year. We currently have an allocation of £25,000 for the short sections programme and we are awaiting confirmation of further funding that will be made available for this financial year as TfL continue negotiations with the Department for Transport (DfT) on a longer term capital investment for London.

2. Question from Councillor Mitchell to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action.

As the Active Travel champion supporting our Cabinet, I very much welcome the installation of CCTV cameras to reinforce Brent's twenty-six school streets and the renegotiation of the bike hangar contract to reduce the cost to residents of bike storage.

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action please provide details on how the Council will carry out community and school engagement on the importance of healthy and safe streets alongside the installation of CCTV, to ensure that families are engaged and motivated to support the school streets initiative?

Response:

We are planning to start installation of CCTV cameras for School Streets in September 2022. We will take this opportunity to relaunch the School Streets initiative and remind parents and carers of the benefits that to the school environment including improved safety, air quality and health and wellbeing of the pupils attending the school.

A communications plan is being developed for activities and key messages for the relaunch and introduction of CCTV cameras. Schools will be provided with information to pass on to parents to encourage them to walk or cycle to school and these schools will also be given priority for cycle training lessons. Parents and carers that drive will also be informed of the restriction and penalties for entering a school street during the hours of operation.

To raise awareness we plan to install banners/signs near the schools and new signs will include the winning logo from our recent schools competition.

Letters will be sent to local residents to inform them of the introduction of CCTV cameras together with a list of exemptions and details on how to apply for a permit.

Information will be made available on our website and also on the schools portal.

All schools are encouraged to develop a school travel plan which aims to reduce car use and encourage more sustainable travel. Schools with travel plans regular send messages to parents and carers and arrange events and assemblies promoting walking and cycling to school. Schools are required to submit an annual travel survey as part of their travel plan, which enables us to monitor progress. More information about the TFL school travel plan initiative STARS can be found here: [TfL STARS - Getting young London moving](#)

3. Question from Councillor Choudry to Councillor Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care.

Brent is a diverse and multi-cultural borough - home to hundreds of cultures, languages, traditions and nationalities. The pandemic exposed the health inequalities present in our communities particularly the black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and it is more pertinent now than ever before that our focus and emphasis is tackling health inequalities through localised strategies.

Could the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care outline what steps the council is taking to tackle health inequalities and how it will be working with multi-faith organisations, charities, businesses, organisations, residents' associations and other members of the community to address these concerns?

Response:

COVID highlighted pre-existing health inequalities, particularly with regard to the worse outcomes experienced by residents of Black and South Asian heritage but also by those in more deprived communities and those with disabilities, pre-existing health conditions and learning disabilities. In response the Council and the NHS have developed Brent Health Matters (BHM), working to co-produce solutions with local communities.

Significant investment has been made in BHM: £750k has been secured in grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) / Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUCH) and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), we have secured over £1m of additional investment from the NHS, and the Council has invested £500k from the public health grant.

Brent Health Matters combines a new model of health service delivery with extensive community engagement. The Community Co-ordinators employed by the Council and their networks of Community Champions are working with GPs and other health professionals to take health promotion and health care to the communities most impacted by health inequalities. A regular programme of outreach events is in place which includes places of worship, housing estates, high streets and factories.

The initial focus of this work was mental wellbeing and COVID vaccination. Since November, the focus has widened to include diabetes with twelve Diabetes Events being held reaching 1408 residents, of whom 1169 have received their health check in a community setting.

This work is supported by a cadre of Health Educators commissioned by the Council from the local third sector.

The programme has also provided over £500k in two rounds of grants to small community organisations for innovative and local action to address health inequalities.

Central to the effectiveness of our work to address health inequalities has been engagement with community leaders including ward councillors, with the voluntary and community sector and with faith organisations. These community organisations are essential to ensuring that the BHM offer can be effectively targeted and delivered

The work and early learning from Brent Health Matters was key in developing the new community led Brent Health and Wellbeing Strategy that was approved earlier this year. It is expected that the Brent Integrated Care Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board will consider further learning, not least, specific examples about how levelling up NHS spend in Brent will reduce health inequalities and improve wellbeing.

4. Question from Councillor Mistry to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action.

In view of concerns previously raised about the quality and monitoring of repairs and upgrades to footways and highways (particularly in Kingsbury) can the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action please:

- Advise whether the Contractors involved in these works provide a guarantee
- Advise whether any claims have been made by the Council against the contractors (including in relation to the quality of work on the cycle lanes on both sides of Kingsbury Road) and if so how many?
- Provide an assurance that Brent Council has not had to pay anything towards rectifying these any repairs or replacement work required.
- Provide an assurance about the action being taken by the Council to prevent and address damage being caused to footways by the use of heavy goods vehicles by businesses whilst loading and unloading outside of their premises; and

Advise of the reasons why what appear to be perfectly good footways in Preston Road, Wembley High Road, Kingsbury Road and other locations are being replaced when the money spent on this could be used to repair other more seriously damaged pavements?

Response:

A study was carried out by independent consultants into the footway and cycle lane surfaces in Kingsbury High Road. Faulty batches of “green” paving slabs and need for expansion joints to allow for thermal movement was the cause of early defects forming and not the fault of workmanship by the contractor.

Meetings were subsequently held with the material supplier, contractor and officers to discuss replacement of the substandard paving slabs at no cost to the council. The defective slabs have been replaced and expansion/contraction joints introduced to the footway structure to allow for thermal movement. Sections of the cycle lane surface that bowed under stress from the footway have also been replaced.

With regards to goods vehicles mounting the footway to load and unload, officers will deploy a range of education, enforcement and engineered measures to address the specific issue. Our Town Centre and Neighbourhood Managers work with local business to encourage their supply chain vehicles to park considerately when loading and unloading. At locations where consistent vehicle overrun occurs we will increase enforcement patrols and also, if suitable, consider the installation of physical measures to prevent vehicles mounting the

footway. An example of this are the white cubes that have been installed along Kingsbury High Road.

Preston Road was included in the Footway Investment Programme as one of our secondary shopping areas that required planned maintenance. When identifying locations for planned maintenance our primary consideration is condition, however we will also take account of other factors such as usage, past reactive repairs, road classification, member nominations etc. that can move locations up the final priority list.

With regards to footway upgrades to Wembley High Road and Kingsbury Road, being town centres these are considered exemplar schemes to help these high streets prosper and evolve to ensure that they benefit from increased footfall and continue to provide the range of services that will be required from local communities in the future. They are intended to be transformational and not simply a means to repair existing footway defects. Feedback received from local communities indicates a general satisfaction with the works and support for the 'transformational' designs and materials used.

5. Question from Councillor Georgiou to Councillor Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning.

Five years on from the Grenfell Tower disaster, which highlighted to many the safety issues associated with tall buildings, developers with issues in their existing stock (including in Brent) continue to be let off the hook. With building regulations still nowhere near clear enough, what assurances can the Cabinet Members for Regeneration & Planning, give to residents that:

- Tall buildings are safe for local people?
- Tall buildings are suitable as family homes, particularly for young children?
- About the number of families (including how many) Brent currently place in flats above the 5th floor?
- In view of the 2019 UCL (University College London) study into the energy efficiency of such buildings that allowing so many buildings, higher than 6 storeys, is not making the Climate Emergency in Brent much worse?

Response:

Safety of Tall buildings

The Building Safety Act 2022 contains a series of reforms to building safety and is the most substantial legislative response to the Grenfell Tower fire of 2017.

A Building Safety Regulator (BSR) has been established within the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Their role relates to buildings with 7 or more storeys or that are 18 metres high and have at least two residential units, or are hospitals or care homes. These are known as higher risk buildings (HRB).

The BSR is likely to rely on council building control services (and fire and rescue services) to deliver the building control regulations for HRBs, which is expected to involve multi-disciplinary teams.

The BSR has three main functions:

- (1) To implement a new regulatory regime for higher-risk buildings, and to be the building control authority for these buildings.** This includes building work on existing HRBs and enforcing the regime in terms of their occupation, as well as new HRBs. The BSR looks at all aspects of the Building Regulations not just fire related provisions. The BSR uses a multi-disciplinary team, which is likely to include local authority building control teams. There are three gateway points where details must be approved before progressing to the next stage:

- *planning gateway* (in place since August 2021); the planning application must demonstrate that fire safety requirements have been considered and incorporated into the construction proposals;

- *construction* – pre construction, the regulator must approve the design as compliant with the building regulations;
- *completion* – at pre-occupation stage, a completion certificate will only be issued by the BSR once they are satisfied that the work is compliant with the building regulations.

Only once Gateway three has been passed (either for partial or full completion) can the new building be registered with the Building Safety Regulator for occupation. The BSR will then be responsible for carrying out checks to ensure that the people responsible for managing HRB's are managing Building Safety risks, complying with their duties and keeping residents safe through the Building Assessment Certificate process.

- (2) **To oversee the safety and performance of all buildings.** This involves collecting data on the performance of local authority building control services, and external approved inspectors.
- (3) **To support the competence of those working in the built environment industry, and to manage the register of accredited building inspectors.** This involves establishing an industry led competence committee and establishing competence requirements for building control professionals (who need to be in place when the system becomes operational). Brent Building Control will ensure it complies with the requirements.

The BSR will be responsible for holding local authorities and building inspectors to account, with the power to suspend or remove inspectors from the register where necessary.

The Fire Safety Act 2021 became law in April 2021. It introduced changes to fire safety law for buildings containing two or more sets of domestic premises in England and Wales. The aim of the Fire Safety Act is to clarify who is responsible for managing and reducing fire risks in different parts of multi occupied residential buildings. It has introduced new fire safety obligations to some leaseholders, building owners and managers for the building structure, external wall, common parts and doors between domestic premises and common parts.

Suitability of Tall buildings as family homes

Fire safety requirements are for all people and types of household not just families with young children. The above sets out details on the changes that are being implemented.


Number of families Brent currently place in flats above the 5th floor

According to our household records there are 179 children across 108 households living on the fifth floor or above. These 108 households sit across 31 blocks.

Energy efficiency of buildings and impact on Climate Emergency in Brent

Both the London Plan and Brent Local Plan have been the subject of Sustainability Appraisals and in themselves include a range of policies to ensure that development including tall buildings respond to climate change and environmental efficiency requirements. Brent Policies for example include minimising greenhouse gas emissions, energy infrastructure, urban greening and sustainable drainage. Tall buildings allow for an effective use of land in highly accessible locations and have advantages of minimising car travel and support infrastructure being delivered in a sustainable way such as waste management and energy.

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	Full Council 11 July 2022
	Report from the Assistant Chief Executive
Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A – 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: Committee Work Programme 2022/23
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Lorna Hughes, Head of Strategy and Partnerships Strategy & Partnerships Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present Full Council with the 2022/23 Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee work programme, and to provide an update on meetings and activities by the scrutiny committee during the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the report and the committee's 2022/23 work programme.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 It is required by the council's constitution that the annual work plan for an overview and scrutiny committee is agreed by Full Council. The work plan outlines the policy areas that the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will review, including the task groups the committee will oversee during the municipal year. Appendix 1 outlines the committee's work plan for 2022/23.

- 3.2 Part of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's remit as set out in the constitution is to scrutinise and review the provision and operation of NHS services in the borough, it can also make reports and recommendations to NHS organisations. Areas of external scrutiny of the NHS are explicitly set out in the work programme.
- 3.3 A scrutiny committee can look at any issue, within its remit under its terms of reference that affects the borough or people inhabiting it. Statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny recommends that for scrutiny to be effective, scrutiny committees focus on conducting fewer in depth reviews of highly significant topics¹. A key part of developing this work plan was a work programming meeting convened for the committee. It was attended by relevant Cabinet members, strategic directors and representations were made on behalf of NHS partners. At this session members prioritised items for inclusion in the work programme based on a set of criteria. This helped to ensure items included in committee reports were either a strategic priority as set out in the Borough Plan 2019-23; of concern for a significant number of the borough's residents; a significant cabinet decision or form part of a forthcoming policy review or new strategy being developed by the Cabinet. Prioritisation is considered best practice by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and is an effective tool for helping members set coherent work plans.²
- 3.4 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is set to meet on 5 July 2022. It was decided at the work programming session on 6 June 2022 that the majority of this meeting would focus on adult social care, members are due to hear from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health and the Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing who will be presenting a substantive report on Adult Carers and the current support mechanisms in place for them in the borough. There will also be two update reports. The first is on adult day care services, which will include an overview of current services in Brent, the commissioning process and to what extent service demand has returned to pre-pandemic levels. The second update will be centred on Brent's shared lives scheme and Tudor Gardens, two services that are monitored by the Care Quality Commission. The other substantive report at this meeting will be brought by NHS partners and concerns current end of life care services in the borough, and how the 2019 independent review of palliative care has informed a change of the NW London CCG's end of life care strategy going forward.
- 3.5 The committee has proposed the setup of a task group as part of its scrutiny activities during the municipal year. The committee has decided that social prescribing in health will be its first task group of the year. A scoping paper will be brought to the committee meeting on 22 September where members will decide what direction the task group will take in its investigation.
- 3.6 At the meeting on 14 March 2022 in the previous municipal year, the committee reviewed current care home provision, the council's approach to commissioning

¹ *Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities* (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government), p21

² *The Good Scrutiny Guide* (Centre for Public Scrutiny, June 2019), p26

and ensuring quality within care homes in the borough, members questioned the role of adult fostering services in keeping people in the community. The committee also reviewed the transformation of community health services in Brent, focusing on the reasoning and vision behind the transfer of community services from the London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust to the Central London Community Healthcare Trust. Members reviewed the current community engagement and communications plans for patients in the borough. Members also reviewed an update report on community engagement for homeless families. They questioned how the council uses a proactive approach to ensure that demographic challenges were tackled effectively and that a 'one size fits all' approach is not used in regards to homelessness.

- 3.7 On 9 March 2022 a joint committee meeting was convened to review the recommendations of the Baroness Casey review of events surrounding the UEFA Euro 2020 Final 'Euro Sunday' at Wembley. The meeting was co-chaired between Councillor Ketan Sheth, Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and former Councillor Mashari, former Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. Members of both committees focused on the partnership response to the events of 'Euro Sunday', the partners were; Football Association, Wembley Stadium, the Metropolitan Police and Brent Council. Members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee used the meeting to focus on the public health aspects of the review. The committee focused on how the Covid-19 national research programme contributed to the planning and preparation of the event, and also reviewed the impact the events of 'Euro Sunday' had on the transmission of Covid-19 following the event. The following recommendation for an area of improvement was made by the joint committee that falls within the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's remit: *For the FA / Wembley to ensure better engagement and communication with local health partners, including London Ambulance Service and Brent Council's Public Health Team to ensure that health and wellbeing is a key focus at events.*
- 3.8 At the 22 February 2022 committee meeting members received the final reports from the GP Access task group; chaired by former Councillor Mary Daly and the Transitional Safeguarding Task Group; chaired by Councillor Ketan Sheth. These final reports were the culmination of numerous months' work by the task groups, in both cases the task group final reports made meaningful recommendations which have added real value to the policy areas in question.
- 3.9 Councillor Ketan Sheth is Brent's representative on the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Sheth has been nominated to continue as chair of the committee for 2022/23. Councillor Dan Crawford the London Borough of Ealing's representative has been nominated to continue as the committee's vice-chair for 2022/23. The first meeting of the year will be hosted by Brent on 20 July and will review reports from health partners on Integrated Care System Governance, a pre consultation business case on an elective orthopaedic centre at Central Middlesex hospital for NW London, community diagnostic hubs, and a health inequalities framework for NW London.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Non-executive members were involved in developing the work plan as part of their membership of the committee, as were health partners in the local NHS.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 There are no human resources or property implications arising from this report.

Report sign off:

Shazia Hussain

Assistant Chief Executive

Appendix 1: Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

5 July 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External participants
Update on Adult Day Care Services	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		
Update on Shared Lives Scheme & Tudor Gardens	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		

Adult Carers	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		
End of Life Care	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing	NHS	Carolyn Regan – Chief Executive West London NHS Trust Andrew Pike, Assistant Director of Communications NW London CCG

21 September 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Directors
Implementation of SEND Review and High Needs Block	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People Minesh Patel, Director of Finance	Health	TBC

Early Help & Family Wellbeing Centres	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People		
Scoping Paper on Social Prescribing	Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Lead Member for Community Engagement, Equalities & Culture	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing Shazia Hussain, Assistant Chief Executive Tom Shakespeare, Director of Health and Social Care Integration		Robyn Doran, Borough Director Brent Integrated Care Partnership

22 November 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet - Members/Non-executive Member	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-2023 *with a particular focus on cuckooing	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing	Brent Safeguarding Adults' Board	Independent Chair, SAB
Brent's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People Carolyn Downs Chief Executive, Brent Council	Metropolitan Police Health	Safeguarding Lead, North West London BCU Director of Quality, North West London CCG Independent Convenor, SCF

Transitional Safeguarding Task Group 6 Months' Update	<p>Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools</p> <p>Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People</p> <p>Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing</p>		
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25 January 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members/Non-Executive Member	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations	External Participants
Brent Housing Management Update to include: Fire Safety, Resident Engagement, Housing Inspection Framework	Cllr Promise Knight, Lead Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		
Mental Health	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		Carolyn Regan, Chief Executive West London NHS Trust
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7 March 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations	External Participants
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Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Including CAMHS	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director, Children and Young People		Trish Davies, Central North West London CAMHS Service manager
Update on School Attainment including for Black British Boys of Caribbean Heritage	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director, Children and Young People		Head teacher from primary & secondary school in Brent
Northwick Park NHS Trust Maternity Improvement Plan Progress Update				Pippa Nightingale, Chief Executive for London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust. Lisa Knight (Chief Nurse NWL ICS)
GP Access Task Group 1 Years' Update	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		Dr Muhammad Haider, Primary Care Lead Officer Fana Hussain, Head of Planned and Primary Care Jonathan Turner, former Borough Lead Director (Brent), CCG
Immunisation	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health Tom Shakespeare, Director of Health and Social Care Integration		Jonathan Turner, former Borough Lead Director (Brent), CCG

18 April 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Casey Review 1 Years' Update		Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, Brent Council Chris Whyte, chair of stakeholder panel	Metropolitan Police Football Association	Tom Legg, Head of Operations, The Football Association Chris Bryant, Head of Tournament Delivery, The Football Association Jim Brockway, Metropolitan Police
Diagnostic Hubs in North West London		Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing Tom Shakespeare, Director of Health and Social Care Integration		Jonathan Turner, former Borough Lead Director (Brent), CCG
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Appendix 1: Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
5 July 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External participants
Update on Adult Day Care Services	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		
Update on Shared Lives Scheme & Tudor Gardens	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		

Adult Carers	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		
End of Life Care	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing	NHS	Carolyn Regan – Chief Executive West London NHS Trust Andrew Pike, Assistant Director of Communications NW London CCG

21 September 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Directors
Implementation of SEND Review and High Needs Block	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People Minesh Patel, Director of Finance	Health	TBC

Early Help & Family Wellbeing Centres	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People		
Scoping Paper on Social Prescribing	Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Lead Member for Community Engagement, Equalities & Culture	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing Shazia Hussain, Assistant Chief Executive Tom Shakespeare, Director of Health and Social Care Integration		Robyn Doran, Borough Director Brent Integrated Care Partnership

22 November 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet - Members/Non-executive Member	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-2023 *with a particular focus on cuckooing	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing	Brent Safeguarding Adults' Board	Independent Chair, SAB
Brent's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People Carolyn Downs Chief Executive, Brent Council	Metropolitan Police Health	Safeguarding Lead, North West London BCU Director of Quality, North West London CCG Independent Convenor, SCF

Transitional Safeguarding Task Group 6 Months' Update	<p>Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools</p> <p>Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Gail Tolley Strategic Director, Children and Young People</p> <p>Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing</p>		
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25 January 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members/Non-Executive Member	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations	External Participants
Brent Housing Management Update to include: Fire Safety, Resident Engagement, Housing Inspection Framework	Cllr Promise Knight, Lead Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		
Mental Health	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		Carolyn Regan, Chief Executive West London NHS Trust
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7 March 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations	External Participants
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Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Including CAMHS	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director, Children and Young People		Trish Davies, Central North West London CAMHS Service manager
Update on School Attainment including for Black British Boys of Caribbean Heritage	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director, Children and Young People		Head teacher from primary & secondary school in Brent
Northwick Park NHS Trust Maternity Improvement Plan Progress Update				Pippa Nightingale, Chief Executive for London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust. Lisa Knight (Chief Nurse NWL ICS)
GP Access Task Group 1 Years' Update	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing		Dr Muhammad Haider, Primary Care Lead Officer Fana Hussain, Head of Planned and Primary Care Jonathan Turner, former Borough Lead Director (Brent), CCG
Immunisation	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health Tom Shakespeare, Director of Health and Social Care Integration		Jonathan Turner, former Borough Lead Director (Brent), CCG

18 April 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Casey Review 1 Years' Update		Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, Brent Council Chris Whyte, chair of stakeholder panel	Metropolitan Police Football Association	Tom Legg, Head of Operations, The Football Association Chris Bryant, Head of Tournament Delivery, The Football Association Jim Brockway, Metropolitan Police
Diagnostic Hubs in North West London		Phil Porter, Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing Tom Shakespeare, Director of Health and Social Care Integration		Jonathan Turner, former Borough Lead Director (Brent), CCG
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	Full Council 11 July 2022
	Report from the Assistant Chief Executive
Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non Key Decision	N/A - Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
Appendices:	One Appendix 1: Committee Work Programme 2022-2023
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officers:	Lorna Hughes, Head of Strategy and Partnerships 020 8937 5068 lorna.hughes@brent.gov.uk Meenara Islam-Pillar, Strategic Partnerships Manager 020 8937 1479 Meenara.islam-pillar@brent.gov.uk

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 and draft work plan 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.

2021/22 update

- 3.5. Since the last update to Full Council on 22 November 2021 the previous Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee met three times.

18 January 2022

- 3.6. The committee considered an item on Healthy Neighbourhoods, presented by Councillors Krupa Sheth (then Lead Member for Environment) and Shama Tatler (then Lead Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning), as a topical item. The committee considered funding of the scheme and the consultation and engagement process.
- 3.7. At this meeting the committee went on to consider how the council was supporting residents, communities and businesses in the borough to recover

¹ Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.

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

from the impact of Covid-19. The committee also received a Q3 financial update and agreed the budget scrutiny task group report. Before closing the meeting committee members reviewed the implementation of the recommendations that had been made by the Violence Against Women and Girls Task Group, chaired by Councillor Donnelly-Jackson.

9 February 2022

- 3.8 The topical issue examined by the committee at this meeting was on flood management, jointly presented by Regeneration and Environment and Thames Water. Members received a report of fire and building safety in the borough and discussed the implications for the council's building control service of the Fire Safety Act 2021 and Building Safety Bill. The committee discussed an item on the council's communications and community engagement work and approach.

9 March 2022- joint meeting with the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

- 3.9 On 9 March 2022 a joint committee meeting was convened to review the recommendations of the Baroness Casey review of events surrounding the UEFA Euro 2020 Final 'Euro Sunday' at Wembley. The meeting was co-chaired between Councillor Ketan Sheth, Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Mashari, former Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. Members of both committees focused on the partnership response to the events of 'Euro Sunday', the partners were the Football Association, Wembley Stadium, the Metropolitan Police and Brent Council.
- 3.10 Members of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee scrutinised partners on areas including crowd management, policing, licensing and the increased pressure on the public realm.

9 March

- 3.11 Following the conclusion of the joint scrutiny committee meeting, the Resources and Public Realm continued with its committee meeting. The topical item of this meeting focused on TfL funding for 21/22 and the implications for schemes and initiatives to improve transport infrastructure in the borough.
- 3.12 Members received an update on the council's future workforce strategy, including that the strategy would be prepared in line with a refreshed Borough Plan. The committee received an update on the implementation of the Poverty Commission recommendations. Areas that the committee heard updates on included housing, business, employment, and enterprise, financial inclusion, health and wellbeing and poverty levels.
- 3.13 The chair accepted a deputation from Mr Phillip Grant relating to the Poverty Commission item. Due to technological difficulties the full deputation was not audible. A written version will be sent to the members of the 2022/23 Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

2022/23 update

- 3.14 Councillor Conneely was appointed as chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee at Annual Council on 18 May 2022. The committee had its first formal meeting on 9 June 2022 for a call-in relating to a Cabinet decision on Moreland Gardens.
- 3.15 At its next meeting on 19 July 2022 the committee will agree the work plan for 2022- 2023. The work plan was developed during a work planning session that took place on 8 June 2022 where Cabinet Members and senior officers presented topics for the committee's consideration. The work plan will be regularly reviewed by the committee and accordingly updated where necessary.
- 3.16 The committee will lead a task group in autumn 2022 scrutinising the council's budget. A second task group will be convened later on in the municipal year, the topic for which will be confirmed by the committee.
- 3.17 In accordance with the work plan, the agenda for the rest of the meeting will include the council's medium term financial strategy, digital inclusion strategy and an update on the work the council and partners have delivered to implement Louise Casey's recommendations on managing events in Wembley following the UEFA Euro 2020 Final 'Euro Sunday' match. The work plan of the committee is attached for reference at Appendix 1.

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 1: Draft Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2022-2023

13 July 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations
Committee Work Programme 2022/23 – formal agreement	<p>Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning</p> <p>Cllr Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action</p> <p>Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection</p> <p>Cllr Ellie Southwood, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience</p> <p>Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Culture</p>	Shazia Hussain, Assistant Chief Executive	
Digital inclusion strategy	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Peter Gadsdon, Strategic Director, Customer and Digital Services	
Wembley Events Review paper	<p>Cllr Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action (?)</p> <p>Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection</p>	Alan Lunt, Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment	Football Association, Metropolitan Police
Medium Term Financial Strategy – summer update	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel, Director of Finance	

14 September 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations
Budget Oversight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Outturn 2021/22 Quarter 1 Financial Report 2022/23 Medium Term Financial Outlook 	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel, Director of Finance	
Cost of living crisis – council's role in supporting residents	Cllr Ellie Southwood, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience	Peter Gadsdon, Strategic Director, Customer and Digital Services	
Annual complaints and members' inquiries report	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Shazia Hussain, Assistant Chief Executive	

10 November 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet -Members/Non-executive Member	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations
Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report	Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection	Carolyn Downs	Metropolitan Police Representatives of community organisations
Police liaison	Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection	Carolyn Downs	
Budget Oversight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 2 Financial Report 2022/23 	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel	

An update on Brent Council grants programmes	Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Culture	Lorna Hughes, Head of Strategy and Partnerships	
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18 January 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members/Non-Executive Member	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations
Budget Scrutiny	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel, Director of Finance	
Climate change	Cllr Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action	tbc	
<i>Spare slot</i>			


9 February 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations
Multi-Agency Flood Planning	Cllr Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action	tbc	Thames Water Environment Agency
Migration scheme	tbc	tbc	tbc
Spaces for community use n			

9 March 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations
Budget Oversight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 3 Financial Report 2022/23 	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel, Director of Finance	

<i>Spare slot</i>			
<i>Spare slot</i>			

	Full Council 11 July 2022
	Report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations
Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – Vice Chairs Report	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A - 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 22 November 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 has met four times since the last update, and the ASC has met twice.

3.2 **Audit & Standards Advisory Committee – 7th December 2021**

- 3.2.1 Standards Report (Including update on Gifts and Hospitality)

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on gifts and hospitality registered by members, and the attendance record for members in relation to mandatory training sessions.

3.2.2 Review of the Constitutional Working Group

In a response to a recommendation from the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, this report provided a review of the current role and operation of the Constitution Working Group. It provided some information about practices elsewhere, highlighted steps already taken in response to the Scrutiny Committee recommendations, and proposed a further review be undertaken following the Local Elections.

3.2.3 Review of the Financial and Procedural Rules governing the Mayor's Charity Appeal

The purpose of this report was to update the Committee on a recent review of the financial and procedural rules for governing the Mayor's Charity Appeal.

3.2.4 Cyber-Security Strategy implementation update

Following a request by the Committee at the September 2021 meeting, it was agreed that a report be brought back regarding the actions that the Council were taking in relation to cyber-security. The report provided an update on the progress in implementing the Brent and Shared Technology Service cyber-security strategies.

3.2.5 CIPFA Financial Management Code and Redman Review – Progress Report

This report updated the Committee on progress to implement the CIPFA Financial Management Code and the Redmond Review of Audit and Transparency in Local Authority Financial Reporting.

3.2.6 Treasury Management Report

This report provided an update on treasury activity for the first half of the financial year 2021-22. The report also presented the draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2022-23 for consideration by the Committee, with the final version incorporating the view of the Committee being included in the annual budget setting report presented to Cabinet in February 2022.

3.2.7 Internal Audit Charter

The purpose of this report was to set out the revised Internal Audit Charter for Committee's consideration and approval.

3.2.8 External Audit Progress Report

This report provided the Committee with an update on Grant Thornton's progress in delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external auditor.

3.3 Audit and Standards Committee – 7th December 2022

3.3.1 Review of the Financial and Procedural Rules governing the Mayor's Charity Appeal

The Committee approved the proposed changes to the Financial and Procedural Rules governing the Mayor's Charity Appeal, following its consideration by the preceding Audit and Standards Advisory Committee.

3.4 Audit & Standards Advisory Committee – 31st January 2022

3.4.1 Internal Audit Progress Report

This report provided the Committee with an update on progress against the Internal Audit Plan for the Period October to December 2021.

3.4.2 Counter Fraud Progress Report

The purpose of this report was to provide a summary of the Council's counter fraud activity for the period 2021-22 to Q3.

3.4.3 External Audit Appointment for 2023/24 to 2028/29

This report set out proposals for appointing the external auditor to the Council for the accounts for the five-year period from 2023/24. The report recommended that the Council accepts the Public Sector Audit Appointments' invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1 April 2023.

3.4.4 External Audit Progress Report

This paper provided the Committee with a report on Grant Thornton's progress in delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external auditor.

3.5 Audit & Standards Advisory Committee – 15th March 2022

3.5.1 Standards Report (Including update on Gifts and Hospitality)

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on gifts and hospitality registered by members, and the attendance record for members in relation to mandatory training sessions.

3.5.2 Annual Standards Report

This paper was the Monitoring Officer's Annual Report to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee for 2021. It provided an update on Member conduct issues and the work of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee, the Audit and Standards Committee, and the Monitoring Officer during 2021.

3.5.3 Review of the Member Development Programme and Members' Expenses

The purpose of this report was to provide members of the Committee with a summary of the Member Learning Development Programme since the last report to the Committee in March 2021. The report also provided information regarding the Members' Expense Scheme.

3.5.4 Review of the use of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)

This report explained the Council's use and conduct of surveillance techniques in accordance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000; and complied with its annual reporting obligations as set out in the Council's RIPA policy and procedures.

3.5.5 To review performance & management of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd

The Committee received a report on the performance on i4B Holdings and First Wave Housing Ltd, including their accounts outturn, risk register and audit arrangements.

3.5.6 Draft Internal Audit Strategic Plan and Counter Fraud Plan for 2022/23

This report set out the draft Internal Audit Strategic Plan, and the Counter Fraud Plan, for 2022-23. Both reports summarised how and where Internal Audit and Counter Fraud resources would be deployed in 2022/23.

3.5.7 External Audit Update – Verbal Report

This item provided the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee with a verbal update on Grant Thornton's progress in delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external auditors.

3.6 **Audit & Standards Advisory Committee – 7th June 2022**

3.6.1 Standards Report (including Gifts and Hospitality)

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on gifts and hospitality registered by Members, and the attendance record for members in relation to mandatory training sessions. The report also updated the Committee in respect of the provisional appointment of an Independent Person for the purposes of Code of Conduct complaints, the Governments response to the Committee on

Standards in Public Life review and a Standard's case involving a Maldon Councillor being removed from Office.

3.6.2 Annual Governance Statement

This report set out the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

3.6.3 Strategic Risk Register

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the Strategic Risk Register, which summarised the Council's corporate risk profile as at the end of 2021-22.

3.6.4 Treasury Management Outturn Report

This report provided an update to the Committee on treasury management activity and confirmed that the Council complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2021/22

3.6.5 CIPFA consultation on temporary changes to infrastructure assets accounting

The purpose of this report was to update Members on how local authorities account for infrastructure assets, following the CIPFA consultation on temporary changes to infrastructure assets accounting.

3.6.6 Internal Audit Annual Report, including Annual Head of Audit Opinion

This report outlined the work undertaken by Internal Audit in respect of delivery of the 2021-22 Internal Audit Plan. The report also included the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the Council's system of internal control.

3.6.7 Annual Counter Fraud Report

This report summarised the counter fraud activity undertaken in 2021/22. The report also referenced the refresh of related policies covering anti-fraud and bribery, anti-money laundering and whistleblowing.

3.6.8 External Audit Plan

The Committee received and considered Grant Thornton's External Audit Plan for both the Council and the pension fund for the year ending 31 March 2022.

3.7 Audit & Standards Committee – 7th June 2022

3.7.1 Annual Governance Statement

The Committee formally approved the Council's 2021-22 Annual Governance Statement, following its consideration by the preceding Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.

4. Forward Plan Items

4.1 Listed below are the reports that are due to be presented to the next Audit & Standards Advisory Committee meeting on 26 July 2022:

1. Standards Report (including gifts & hospitality)
2. Planning Code of Practice Review
3. Emergency Preparedness
4. Statement of Accounts
5. CIPFA Financial Management Code and Assessment
6. Internal Audit Progress Report
7. External Audit Progress Report

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations



Full Council – 11 July 2022

Motion for Non Cabinet Member debate

Leaving No One Behind: Declaring a Cost-of-Living Emergency

This Council notes:

That Brent and its residents are struggling due to the cost-of-living crisis. For many residents this will have been the most difficult decade they have ever experienced.

In April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25%; this is projected to cost the average Brent resident an additional £295 per year.

On 1 April 2022 Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent, with the average standard tariff energy bill set to increase by up to £693 per year.

Inflation is now confirmed at 9% with the fastest rate of increase for 40 years. Inflation has been higher in London than the national average.

In the meantime, at least 25% of the people who work in Brent earn less than the real Living Wage for London.

The LGA estimates that without adequate long-term funding the collective increase in inflationary costs faced by English councils this year will be £2.4bn, growing to £3bn in 2023-24 and £3.6bn in 2024-25.

Local councils up and down the country are the last line of defence in supporting residents during the cost of living crisis.

Figures show that over 5,000 residents presented at Brent Hubs in need of food aid between April 2019 to January 2022.

Between December 2020 and March 2022, the Council distributed £5.5m through grants to Brent residents, supporting the families of approximately 12,000 eligible children and young people with supermarket vouchers during each of the school holidays.

The Brent Resident Support Fund (RSF), has been in place since August 2020: it has supported 2,658 applicants with a total of £5.2 million in cash grants.

This Council believes:

Many of the services we all rely on are in a state of managed decline, starved of sustainable funding.

Inflation is not going to come down overnight and the impact on our local services could be disastrous. In Brent, our council has already cut nearly £200m from our budget, severely curtailing the services offered to residents.

In our local NHS Trust there are over 50k residents on the waiting list for care.

Residents are seeing tax hikes, energy bills soaring and petrol and food prices rising drastically.

Beneath the cost of living crisis, there is a mounting mental health crisis and a housing crisis that never went away.

The average home in Brent costs more than 16 times the average annual salary in the area, 9 times above the English average.

Given the seriousness of the situation this council believes it should speak with one voice to those in power and raise the alarm on behalf of residents across each and every one of our 22 wards and declare a “Cost of Living Emergency”.

This Council therefore resolves:

To declare a “Cost of Living Emergency”.


As part of this, to call on the Government to take the following practical steps in order to help our resident’s incomes stretch further.

- To stabilise the foundations of our economy by providing emergency support for business, reducing their costs and limiting the price rises they pass on to consumers.
- To reverse the planned increases to National Insurance, protect our residents by reducing the burden of VAT on everyday goods; and increase welfare support in-line with the rate of inflation.
- To immediately use revenue from a windfall tax on oil and gas producers to help Brent families with their energy bills.
- To provide security for the winter and beyond by providing the financial support necessary to retrofit and insulate homes, while looking to the future with commitments to utilise more renewable sources of energy in the National Grid.
- To put in place a longer-term approach to economic growth and security, underpinned by an industrial strategy.

To conduct a full review into what the council can offer Brent families struggling with the cost of living emergency and ensure that the voice of local people is at the centre of its response.

Councillor Ishma Moeen
Wembley Hill Ward

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	Full Council 11 July 2022
	Report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations
Changes to the Constitution in relation to the Members' Allowance Scheme (Dependants' Carers' Allowance)	

Wards Affected:	N/A
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A - Council Decision
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: Dependants' Carers' Allowance Scheme
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Debra Norman, Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations Email: Debra.norman@brent.gov.uk Tel: 0208 937 1578

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report proposes updating the Council's provision for councillors with dependants through revisions to the relevant sections in Part 6, Members' Allowance Scheme, of the Brent Constitution.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

Full Council is asked to:

- 2.1 Consider and approve, with effect from the start of the current financial year, the changes to the Members' Allowance Scheme proposed in Appendix 1 which update and clarify the Council's support for councillors with caring responsibilities in relation to dependants' carers' allowance.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Council is committed to supporting councillors with caring responsibilities, and makes provision to do so through the Members' Allowance Scheme, Part 6 of the Council's Constitution:

Dependants' Carer's Allowance – which sets out how councillors can claim for child care costs and which activities are eligible. The meetings and activities where councillors can claim for such costs are determined by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

- 3.2 Substantive changes to both the Council's Dependants' Carers' Allowance and the Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Sickness Pay policy were agreed at Full Council on 24 February 2022. Following the new intake of Members from May 2022, the issue of being able to claim dependants' carers' allowance to take account of travel time to and from meetings has been raised. A 2022 survey of 16 London boroughs showed that Brent Council, along with nine other boroughs, pay the London Living Wage for the Dependants' Carers' Allowance. Other boroughs pay less, voted not to support it, or apply certain restrictions (e.g. a cap to the number of hours paid).
- 3.3 In summary, the suggested revision (shown in red) at Appendix 1 would ensure that Brent has a family-friendly policy with regards to claiming for dependants. It is suggested that Councillors will be able to claim for dependants' carers' allowance to cover their 'reasonable' travel time to and from meetings up to the maximum of an hour each way. This policy will be applied retrospectively from the beginning of the 2022 financial year. As what is reasonable will depend on where the councillor lives and the method of travel used, what amounts to 'reasonable' travelling time will be agreed by the Head of Executive and Member Services in respect of each claim.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 This policy change may lead to a small increase in the value of claims made per Member.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council's Member Allowance scheme must be in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003, Local Government Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2000. In adopting or amending the scheme the Council is required to have due regard to the report published by its Remuneration Panel, which is the Panel appointed by London Councils.
- 5.2 Section 10(6) of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provides that where an amendment affects an allowance payable for the year in which the amendment is made, the scheme may provide

for the entitlement to such allowance as amended to apply with effect from the beginning of the year in which the amendment is made.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising their functions to have 'due regard' to the need:

- a) to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity; and
- c) foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.

This is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

6.2 In terms of this policy, since women are more likely to be caregivers than men, and are more likely to take maternity and parental leave, this policy will particularly support women.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to consultation with the Constitution Working Group.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 N/A

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations

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Appendix 1: Dependants' Carers' Allowance (Part 6, Members' Allowance Scheme)

5 Dependants' Carers' Allowance

- (1) A dependants' carers' allowance may be claimed by a councillor in respect of such expenses of arranging for the care of their children or dependants as are necessarily incurred in the attendance at meetings or the performance of functions of a type specified in Schedule 2.
- (2) For the purposes of 5(1) above:
 - A Councillor's dependants are defined as children aged 15 or under, elderly, disabled or unwell relatives who cannot be left alone (either temporarily or permanently).
 - Payments will not normally be made to carers who are family members or person's resident at the Councillor's home.
 - Carers must be aged 18 or over.
- (3) The Carers' Allowance can also cover costs associated with Councillors who themselves need the help of a carer in order for them to fulfil their duties as a Councillor.
- (4) The maximum rate for this allowance is based on the Living Wage Foundation's 'real living wage' (unless specialist care is required and approved) to meet, or contribute towards, the actual costs incurred in arranging care. The maximum period from which any one claim can be made is the duration of the meeting/duty, plus 'reasonable' travel time to and from meetings up to the maximum of an hour each way. What equates to reasonable travel time will be agreed with the Head of Executive and Member Services.
- (5) Payments will only be made where:
 - i) receipts are produced for any claim; and
 - ii) written/email approval of the claim has been obtained from the Head of Executive and Member Services prior to the meeting.
- (6) Any queries on expenses or claims should be referred to the Head of Executive and Member Services.
- (7) For the purposes of regulation 7(1)(h) of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (see Schedule 2), the following are approved duties in respect of which councillors are entitled to claim a dependants' carers' allowance:
 - i) all approved internal and external learning and development sessions as part of the Council Member Learning and Development programme;
 - ii) meetings with government departments and other official bodies;

- iii) meetings and/or briefings convened or authorised by Chief Officers provided that councillors of at least two political groups have been invited;
- iv) Cabinet member/officer meetings;
- v) formal inspections and site visits authorised by the Council;
- vi) conferences that a councillor is appointed to attend;
- vii) formal joint meetings with members of other authorities; and
- viii) meetings of all other bodies to which councillors are appointed as a representative of the Council or a Committee. These include:
 - a. joint committees with staff;
 - b. working panels;
 - c. steering groups; and
 - d. advisory groups and outside bodies (appointed to by the Council).
- ix) the carrying out of any other duty approved by the authority, or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the authority or any of its committees or subcommittees.

Summary: Care costs can be claimed for all formal Council work including attending Council meetings, committees and sub-committees, meetings for other bodies for which councillors have been appointed by the council, as well as attending internal and external learning and development sessions.

Care costs cannot be claimed for ward work, constituency meetings, meeting preparation or

*

SCHEDULE 2

Extract from The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 Dependants' carers' allowance

7(1) A scheme may provide for the payment to members of an authority of an allowance ("dependants' carers' allowance") in respect of such expenses of arranging for the care of their children or dependants as are necessarily incurred in—

(a) the attendance at a meeting of the authority or of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or of any other body to which the authority makes appointments or nominations, or of any committee or sub-committee of such a body;

(b) the attendance at any other meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the authority, or a committee or sub-committee of the authority, or a joint committee of the authority and at least one other local authority within the meaning of section 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee, provided that—

(i) where the authority is divided into two or more political groups it is a meeting to which members of at least two such groups have been invited; or

(ii) if the authority is not so divided, it is a meeting to which at least two members of the authority have been invited;

(c) the attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the authority is a member; (d) the attendance at a meeting of the executive or a meeting of any of its committees, where the authority is operating executive arrangements;

(e) the performance of any duty in pursuance of any standing order made under section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened;

(f) the performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the authority conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises;

(g) the performance of any duty in connection with arrangements made by the authority for the attendance of pupils at any school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996 (approval of nonmaintained special schools)(1); and

(h) the carrying out of any other duty approved by the authority, or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the authority or any of its committees or subcommittees.

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 Brent	Council 11 July 2022												
	Report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations												
General Dispensations under the Code of Conduct													
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Wards Affected:</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key or Non-Key Decision:</td> <td>N/A – Council Decision</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small> </td> <td>Open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of Appendices:</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Background Papers:</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small> </td> <td> Debra Norman, Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations E: Debra.norman@brent.gov.uk T: 0208 937 1578 </td> </tr> </table>		Wards Affected:	N/A	Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A – Council Decision	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 E: Debra.norman@brent.gov.uk T: 0208 937 1578
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1.0 Summary

- 1.0 This report proposes that a general dispensation be granted to all councillors in relation to a limited range of interests that they may have in matters coming before the council's decision-making bodies. This will enable them to participate in meetings where these interests may be thought to arise but their position is shared with a significant proportion of other members of the council and/or in the community and transaction of council business might otherwise be impeded.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.0 To agree the dispensations contained in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of this report, in respect of participation in discussion and voting at meetings, with effect until the annual meeting following the next full local elections.

3.0 Background

- 3.0 Section 31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 provides that a Member who has a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered at a meeting may not participate in any discussion, or vote on the matter. However, by virtue of section 33, an authority may, on a written request by a Member, grant a dispensation relieving the member from either or both of the restrictions in Section 31(4) if criteria set out in section 33(2) of the Act are satisfied. Dispensations may

also be granted in relation to the personal interests set out in the Code of Conduct.

3.1 The relevant criteria are that:

- (a) without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business;
- (b) without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business;
- (c) granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area; or
- (d) it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

3.3 Although this has not been the case previously in Brent, it is common practice in many other local authorities for a set of general dispensations for all members to be agreed for each administration, based on those that were included in the nationally applicable Code of Conduct that applied prior to the Localism Act 2011. These applied in respect of matters where the interest arose in the following circumstances:

- (i) housing, where you are a tenant of your authority provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;
- (ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
- (iii) statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;
- (iv) an allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;
- (v) any ceremonial honour given to members; and
- (vi) setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

3.4 A review of practice elsewhere suggests that it may also be appropriate to provide dispensations in respect of the following additional circumstances.

- (vii) Setting of Council Housing rent levels and approving the Housing Revenue Account (HRA): where the Councillor (or spouse or partner) holds a tenancy or lease with the Council [by way of clarification as these may be regarded as financial rather than Housing matter];

- (viii) Housing Benefit in relation to overarching budget reports: where the Councillor (or spouse or partner) receives housing benefit;
 - (ix) Adult Social Care in relation to overarching budget reports: where the Councillor (or spouse or partner) receives adult social care support.
 - (x) For a Member in receipt of Council Tax Benefit in relation to Local Council Tax Support.
- 3.5 Guidance issued by DCLG in September 2013 (Openness and Transparency on personal interests) states that the DCLG view is that Members do not need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting the council tax or precept or local arrangements for council tax support because this is a decision affecting the generality of the public in the area rather than Members as individuals. Nonetheless, it seems prudent to include these matters in the proposed general dispensations.
- 3.6 The dispensation for Council Tax relates to a Member's DPI and does not affect a Member's obligation under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to declare and not vote if they are 2 months or more in arrears with their Council Tax when voting on setting the Council's budget.
- 3.7 It is proposed that any dispensation agreed be agreed until the Annual Meeting following the next local elections.
- 3.8 Each Member will need to make a written request to the Monitoring Officer that the dispensation be applied to them.
- 3.9 This proposal has been the subject of discussion at the Constitution Working Group and was given the support of the group.

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

- 6.1 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising their functions to have 'due regard' to the need:
- a) to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity; and
 - c) foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.

This is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation

6.2 No diversity implications arise from this report.

7 Background Papers

7.1 None

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Director of Legal, HR, Audit and
Investigations



Item 16.1

Full Council – 11 July 2022

Conservative Group Motion

Pollution of the Wealdstone Brook

The Wealdstone Brook, which runs in open water, starts in Harrow, runs through Woodcock Park in Kenton and then into Wembley past all the new developments around the stadium before reaching the River Brent, has been heavily polluted with untreated human sewage and toxic chemicals for some considerable time.

The Wealdstone Brook has nothing living in it – it is effectively a dead river. The toxic smells which have come from liquids evaporating at low temperatures from the Brook water are nauseating and residents who live close to the Brook or have been walking close to the Brook in Woodcock Park, have been feeling physically sick as a result of these noxious odours.

Thames Water, who have been investigating the sources of the pollution, have admitted liability for cleaning up the pollution. They have agreed that the pollution of the Wealdstone Brook is one of the worst they have come across but as a result of the shared responsibility for the maintenance of the Brook as it passes through Brent, Brent Council and the Environment Agency must also share some of the responsibility.

As a result the residents living nearby have expressed their disgust at the state of the Brook and consider that Brent Council should have declared this to be a 'Major Incident' once it had reports of untreated human sewage, toxic gases and smells vaporising from the water of the Wealdstone Brook.

This Council therefore resolves:

To do whatever is necessary and within the Council's power to ensure that the water in Wealdstone Brook is cleaned up.

To do what the Council can to ensure that the agencies concerned take the necessary steps to detect and rectify all wrongly connected foul sewers which run into the Brook and to put them right at no cost to Council tax payers, in Brent.

To seek legal opinion as to whether legal action can be taken against the agencies that have responsibility for ensuring that the Wealdstone Brook is free of pollution if there is no immediate rectification of the problem.

To ensure in light of a serious risk to public health and as a matter of urgency the necessary actions are taken as soon as possible to put the foregoing into practice.

Councillor Michael Maurice
Kenton Ward

Full Council – 11 July 2022

Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Conservative Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To add the wording underlined and delete the wording indicated

Pollution of the Wealdstone Brook

The Wealdstone Brook, which runs in open water, starts in Harrow, runs through Woodcock Park in Kenton and then into Wembley past all the new developments around the stadium before reaching the River Brent, has been heavily polluted with untreated human sewage and toxic chemicals for some considerable time.

The Wealdstone Brook has nothing living in it – it is effectively a dead river. The toxic smells which have come from liquids evaporating at low temperatures from the Brook water are nauseating and residents who live close to the Brook or have been walking close to the Brook in Woodcock Park, have been feeling physically sick as a result of these noxious odours.

Thames Water, who have been investigating the sources of the pollution, have admitted liability for cleaning up the pollution. They have agreed that the pollution of the Wealdstone Brook is one of the worst they have come across but as a result of the shared responsibility for the maintenance of the Brook as it passes through Brent, Brent Council and the Environment Agency must also share some of the responsibility.

As a result the residents living nearby have expressed their disgust at the state of the Brook and this council considers that ~~Brent Council~~ Thames Water should have ~~declared this to be a 'Major Incident'~~ acted with greater urgency once it had reports of untreated human sewage, toxic gases and smells vaporising from the water of the Wealdstone Brook.

This council notes that almost £19bn was paid out in dividends to shareholders in the nine major water companies operating in England between 2010 and 2021.

This Council therefore resolves:

To do whatever is necessary and within the Council's power to ensure that the water in Wealdstone Brook is cleaned up.

To ask the Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the Opposition Groups to write to the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency; to call for additional support for Brent Council to respond to the pollution in Wealdstone Brook and enforce the principle, of the 'polluter pays'.

To support the Labour Party pledge of common ownership of water services to unlock the desperately needed investment in water infrastructure and create services that are run on behalf of consumers, not shareholders profit.

To do what the Council can to ensure that the agencies concerned take the necessary steps to detect and rectify all wrongly connected foul sewers which run into the Brook and to put them right at no cost to Council tax payers, in Brent.

To seek legal opinion as to whether legal action can be taken against the agencies that have responsibility for ensuring that the Wealdstone Brook is free of pollution if there is no immediate rectification of the problem.

To ensure in light of a serious risk to public health and as a matter of urgency the necessary actions are taken as soon as possible to put the foregoing into practice.

Full Council – 11 July 2022

Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

This Council notes:

That refugees and asylum seekers are human beings who deserve our full respect and support.

The way in which Boris Johnson's government talks about and presents refugees, who face their plight through no fault of their own, is deeply un-British, offensive and shameful.

Our own borough is home to people from all corners of the world and all wish to make a valuable contribution to our international community.

Brent must remain welcoming of refugees and asylum seekers and offer required leadership from a local government level by ensuring refugees who arrive in our community have access to needed support and are given the basic opportunities afforded to all in order that they can make a contribution to society.

Organisations like Care 4 Calais, English for Action, Salusbury World, Young Roots, amongst others, are doing crucial work in our community to help settle refugees and offer basic support, whether through English classes that they run or by seeking to address the immense mental trauma many refugees have and are experiencing.

This Council therefore calls on the government to:

1. Drop its shameful, un-British Rwanda policy.
2. End the hostile environment that seeks to criminalise people who have been forced to flee their homelands through no fault of their own.
3. Acknowledge asylum seekers are making dangerous, tragically, all too often, fatal journeys across Europe to seek sanctuary and safety and therefore must allow asylum seekers the legal right of passage into the UK.
4. Give refugees and asylum seekers the ability to play a full part in our society and economy by giving those who arrive in the UK a right to work quickly under defined and reasonable terms.

This Council also resolves to:

1. Immediately establish and publish a directory of ESOL provision within our borough on the Council website and also provide easy access benefit and other advice to those who need it.
2. Extend free bus travel to asylum seekers through the existing payment card system.
3. Organise a Brent Refugee Summit by the end of this year (2022), bringing together organisations, mainly in the voluntary sector, who are currently working to support refugees and asylum seekers locally. This will show a united and concerted effort from this Council that people who arrive locally are welcome here and that Brent will play our part in helping to settle people who given the tools will make hugely valuable contributions to our borough - as those who came before them always have.

Councillor Anton Georgiou
Alperton Ward

Full Council – 11 July 2022

Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To add the wording underlined and delete the wording indicated

Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

This Council notes:

That refugees and asylum seekers are human beings who deserve our full respect and support.

The way in which Boris Johnson's government talks about and presents refugees, who face their plight through no fault of their own, is deeply un-British, offensive and shameful.

Our own borough is home to people from all corners of the world and all wish to make a valuable contribution to our international community.

Brent ~~must remain~~ is welcoming of refugees and asylum seekers. ~~and offer required leadership from a local government level by~~ The collective leadership of every councillor is essential in ensuring that refugees who arrive in our community have access to needed support and are given the basic opportunities afforded to all in order that they can ~~make a contribution~~ contribute to society.

Organisations like Care 4 Calais, English for Action, Salusbury World, Young Roots, amongst others, are doing crucial work in our community to help settle refugees and offer basic support, whether through English classes that they run or by seeking to address the immense mental trauma many refugees have and are experiencing.

The Brent Labour Manifesto promised that under Labour leadership, Brent Council will stand "ready to support refugees fleeing war in any way we can". With the help of our outstanding voluntary sector and local residents, Brent has already given sanctuary to 154 people under the Homes for Ukrainians Scheme.

This Council believes:

In the UN Refugee Convention statutes that give right to any individuals seeking asylum. We believe that Brent has a moral duty to help those fleeing war and

persecution. We continue to support the Alf Dubs amendment to the 2016 Immigration Act to allow unaccompanied child refugees in Europe to reunite with family members here in the UK after Brexit.

This Council therefore calls on the government to:

1. Drop its shameful, un-British Rwanda policy. The Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has set out the Labour Party position that “it is not a long term plan; it is a short term stunt and government gimmick.”
2. End the hostile environment pursued by successive Conservative Governments that seeks to criminalise people who have been forced to flee their homelands through no fault of their own.
3. Reverse the cuts to legal aid that have disproportionately affected those on lower incomes, BAME groups and women as well as refugees. The legal aid and family reunion system requires urgent reassessment and significant reform, with refugees denied justice due to drastic legal aid cuts.
- 3.4. Acknowledge asylum seekers are making dangerous, tragically, all too often, fatal journeys across Europe to seek sanctuary and safety and therefore must allow asylum seekers the legal right of passage into the UK.
- 4.5. Give refugees and asylum seekers the ability to play a full part in our society and economy by giving those who arrive in the UK a right to work quickly under defined and reasonable terms.

This Council also resolves to:

1. Immediately establish and publish a directory of ESOL provision within our borough on the Council website and also provide easy access benefit and other advice to those who need it.
2. Continue the award winning work of Brent Start which provides affordable training, including ESOL and English Language courses to over 8,000 learners a year. This Council continues its commitment to investing £43m into creating a new state of the art adult education centre at Morland Gardens – enabling many more ESOL learners to benefit from the Brent Start service.
- 2.3. Make representations to London Council as the body responsible for the Freedom Pass, to consider ~~Extend~~ extending free bus travel to asylum seekers through the existing payment card system.
3. Organise a Brent Refugee Summit by the end of this year (2022), bringing together organisations, mainly in the voluntary sector, who are currently working to support refugees and asylum seekers locally. This will show a united and concerted effort from this Council that people who arrive locally are welcome here and that Brent will play our part in helping to settle people who given the tools will make hugely valuable contributions to our borough - as those who came before them always have.

Full Council – 11 July 2022**1st Labour Group Motion****A Food Justice Strategy for Brent****Full Council notes that:**

We are seeing a national food poverty emergency borne out of political choices and systemic failings from successive governments since austerity began in 2010. Recent Food Foundation data has recorded 7.3 million adults and 2.6 million children in UK households going without food or physically unable to get food in the past month

- a) Food poverty should never be seen as inevitable: from 1997 to 2010 poverty reduced significantly,¹ showing that with sufficient political willpower these issues can be tackled.
- b) The UK is in the midst of an economic recession, compounded by a cost-of-living crisis as energy bills soar, and the end of the £20 uplift to benefit payments. Food aid organisations are already far busier than before the pandemic, and they are braced for a steep rise in demand in the months ahead.
- c) The result is an increasingly institutionalised food aid infrastructure, effectively now part of the welfare system. This system is subsidised by the public to the tune of hundreds of thousands of pounds in Brent alone. Food aid organisations act as a critical safety net for anyone unable to make ends meet – including those receiving all the benefits they are entitled to and many who are in work and still experiencing crisis.
- d) The long-delayed Government Food Strategy was lauded as the plan to help address this growing crisis. It was supposed to lay out a vision for how we create, enhance, and protect sustainable food supplies. However, even the government's own lead advisor Henry Dimbleby, whose review of Britain's food system formed the basis for the document, said the White Paper did not amount to a strategy and could mean even more children going hungry.
- e) The pandemic disproportionately impacted Black and racially minoritised communities in Brent. It underscored the injustice of food poverty for thousands of residents across the borough who were dependent on food banks and other forms of charitable food aid (including food parcels and vouchers from the

¹ (for instance the Institute for Fiscal Studies notes that the number of children in relative poverty fell by over 1.1 million from 1997-2010)

council) for their day-to-day survival. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a mushrooming of newly established food banks, and other forms of food support for vulnerable people provided by mutual aid groups, businesses and faith groups many of which still remain active.

- f) Brent Labour stood on a local election manifesto to develop a 'Right to Food' pledge to confront spiralling food poverty by bringing together existing food aid organisations, growers, and other stakeholders to address rampant inequalities in accessing affordable, culturally appropriate, nutritious food in Brent.
- g) A Brent Right to Food Summit was held in March 2022 at Cardinal Newman Catholic College with the participation of multiple Borough stakeholders, including Sufra NW London, Granville Community Kitchen, Brent Growers and Brent CVS. The Summit clearly reflected widespread concern over the urgency of tackling the ongoing food emergency, both nationally and locally in Brent.

Full Council also notes the work that is already being done to address food insecurity across Bent, including:

- a) The appointment of Brent Council's Food Justice Cabinet Champion.
- b) The commitment in Brent Council's recent Health and Wellbeing Strategy to 'work with partners on a food strategy' for our Borough.
- c) The identification in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy of potentially positive food-related initiatives, ranging from healthier catering commitment to rolling out Incredible Edible schemes; diabetes prevention programmes, and guaranteeing a fair job for a fair wage across the food sector.
- d) The publication in July 2020 of the Brent Poverty Commission's Report which included sections on food poverty, recommending that the Council 'supports the future sustainability of food aid agencies in the borough including by further developing community garden schemes'.
- e) The continuing efforts by local mutual aid groups, the Brent Food Aid Network, Growing Brent, among countless others to mitigate food insecurity across our Borough.
- f) The celebration in March 2022 of a Brent Food Summit aimed at identifying the various solutions and coordinating effective responses to the food injustices in the Borough.

Full Council therefore resolves to:

- a) Declare Brent a Right to Food Borough, joining other local authorities across the country calling for the Right to Food to be enshrined into national law.
- b) Request the inclusion within a Cabinet Member portfolio of responsibility for co-developing a Brent Food Justice Strategy with representatives of local food

security stakeholders, aimed at addressing the structural causes of food poverty and inequality in Brent.

- c) Strive toward a Brent without food banks, where food aid is drastically reduced to an emergency response to crises through 'cash first' solutions such as the scaling up of welfare advice services across the borough, as well as improved access to welfare assistance grants, school meals and supermarket vouchers for anyone in need. We want an end to normalising emergency food aid as a routine form of addressing food insecurity.
- d) Support existing food aid providers through the allocation of land and suitable premises to establish or improve access to urban agriculture, community food gardens, social supermarkets and community kitchens among other initiatives; and ensure market space is available – especially in or near areas of deprivation – to distribute nutritious, affordable and culturally-appropriate food to local residents
- e) Work towards a 'Right to Food' dimension when formulating policy so that food becomes part of the Council's decision-making equation.

Councillor Ryan Hack
Brondesbury Park Ward

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Full Council – 11 July 2022

2nd Labour Group Motion

Zero Hours Justice Campaign

Full Council notes:

1. The use of zero-hour contracts has risen over the last decade, meaning there are an increasing number of workers who do not have a guaranteed number of working hours each week.
2. In Brent, it is estimated that of our residents in employment, nearly 30% are in roles which are low-paying and earn less than a living wage.
3. There are very few roles in which zero hours contracts suit the worker. For the majority, such contracts nearly always provide one-sided flexibility in favour of the employer.
4. Workers on zero-hour contracts face financial insecurity as a result of:
 - a. the insecurity of not knowing how many hours they are working from week-to-week and, sometimes, from day-to-day;
 - b. getting too few hours to financially make ends meet;
 - c. spending money to be able to work and then being out-of-pocket when hours are cancelled (travel costs, childcare costs etc.);
 - d. getting hours at the last minute and having to make urgent arrangements for childcare or other caring responsibilities, or cancel social plans; and
 - e. the fear of refusing hours lest it results in fewer hours being offered, or bullying and harassment from the employer.
5. Brent Labour stood on an election manifesto pledge to campaign for a new deal for workers' rights, including the cessation of fire and rehire and the right to regular hours of work.
6. Brent Council uses the commissioning process to ensure that providers never need to make use of exploitative zero hour contracts. Like most local authorities

though we make use of time limited contracts to bring in specialists or agency workers with specific skills when we need to boost our workforce.

Full Council believes:

That despite the government promising on numerous occasion new legislation to provide better security for workers on zero-hour contracts, it has failed to do so. At present, the council is unable to legally enforce against such working practises.

That good work should equal good pay and the right to regular hours of work. As an anchor institution Brent Council is proud to be a local employer that does not and will not use zero-hour contracts.

That this Council should support the work of Zero Hours Justice, an organisation which seeks to end exploitative zero-hours contracts by providing help for workers on such contracts, and supporting businesses and other organisations that either do not use zero-hours contracts or only do so in accordance to minimal criteria.

Full Council therefore resolves:

- (1) To lead by example, reaffirming our commitment to our workforce to provide security, prosperity and respect in our employment; and work towards a Zero Hours Justice Accreditation.
- (2) Never to unilaterally impose any Zero Hour contracts on our directly employed staff.
- (3) To continue working with our suppliers and providers to ensure employment rights are followed; and discourage any indirect zero-hour contracts via agency or third-party contractor.

Councillor Jumbo Chan
Harlesden & Kensal Green Ward