



## SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 6.00 pm**

Conference 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: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (republished 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022)

**For further information contact:** James Kinsella, Governance Manager  
Tel: 020 8937 2063; Email: [james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk](mailto: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](https://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 or trade union).
- (b) The interests of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward affected by the decision, the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who employs or has appointed any of these or in whom they have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000, or any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are a director
- any body of a type described in (a) above

# Agenda

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

## **2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1 - 36

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Monday 11 July 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**

To agree any appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies in accordance with Standing Order 30(g).

## **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**

37 - 48

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

Members are asked to note that the eight public questions received along with their written responses have now been republished with the agenda.

(Agenda republished to include Public Questions and responses on 13 September 2022)

## **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 Annual Report from the Leader of the Council**

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

## **10 Reports from the Leader and Cabinet** 49 - 70

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.

## **11 Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members** 71 - 78

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. The questions along with written responses provided have now been republished as part of the agenda.

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.

(Agenda republished to include Advance Notice Questions and responses on 16 September 2022)

## **12 Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees**

To receive reports from the Chairs of the Council's Scrutiny Committees in accordance with Standing Order 36. The reports have been attached as follows:

### **12.1 Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee** 79 - 164

(Agenda republished to include Resources & Public Scrutiny Committee Update report on 13 September 2022)

### **12.2 Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee** 165 - 176

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

## **13 Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee** 177 - 180



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

#### **14 Non Cabinet Members' Debate**

181 -182

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:

##### **One Hour Free Parking on Brent's High Streets**

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

(Agenda republished to include subject of debate and accompanying motion on 13 September 2022)

#### **15 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2021-22**

183 - 204

To receive a report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources updating members on Treasury Management activity and confirming that the Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2021/22.

Members are asked to note that this report was received and noted by the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 7 June 2022 and Cabinet on 18 July 2022. It has been forwarded to Council in compliance with CIPFAs Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

**Ward Affected:**  
All Wards

**Contact Officer:** Amanda Healy, Head of Finance  
Tel: 020 8937 5912  
[Amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk)

#### **16 Changes to the Constitution**

205 - 214

To receive a report from the Corporate Director Governance seeking approval to a number of changes to the Constitution.

**Ward Affected:**  
All Wards

**Contact Officer:** Debra Norman, Corporate Director Governance  
Tel: 020 8937 1578  
[Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk](mailto: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 the 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 16 September 2022 and notice of amendments on 21 September 2022)

**18 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 ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**Held in the Grand Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 11 July 2022 at 6.00 pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**The Worshipful the Mayor**  
Councillor Abdi Aden

**The Deputy Mayor**  
Councillor Orleen Hylton

### **COUNCILLORS:**

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

### **1. Mayor's Introductory Statement**

The Mayor welcomed all those present to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

## 2. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Begum, Dar, Miller, Mistry, Southwood & Tatler.

## 3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 18 May 2022 be approved as a correct record.

## 4. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

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

The Mayor made the following announcements:

### (i) **Mayoral Engagements**

The Mayor advised he had been pleased to attend a number of events since the start of the Municipal Year. Highlights had included:

- The lighting of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon on 2 June on the steps of Wembley Stadium, which had included the Shree Muktajeevan Swamibapa Pipe Band, who were thanked for their performance in leading the celebrations. The Mayor reported he had also been pleased to have attended many of the street parties across the Jubilee weekend and seen so many residents enjoying the celebrations.
- Marking the start of Pride month with the LGBTQ+ Flag Raising ceremony, which he was pleased to report had been well attended by staff and other councillors.
- Attending the Brent Refugee Week celebrations at Newman College, where a number of local organisations had received sanctuary awards.
- Being invited to attend a celebration of achievement event for Brent Looked After Children which had recognised not only their achievements but also the ongoing commitment from Brent Council to support them towards fulfilling their individual aspirations and ambitions.
- Hosting the Rolling Stones fan club in presenting a bronze bust of the late Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts to the Council.
- The Mayor advised he had also been honoured to attend the Srebrenica Memorial Event, which had marked 27 years since the genocide at Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- The Mayor had also been delighted to attend the recent Pride of Brent Awards, where he had been pleased to be able to celebrate and recognise the many unsung heroes amongst Brent's staff and within the local community.

(ii) Death of former Councillor Angela Sheppard

The Mayor advised that it was with sadness he had to inform members of the death of former Councillor Angela Sheppard on 25 June 2022.

In remembering former Councillor Sheppard, members were advised that she had served as a Councillor in Preston ward during the 1980's and in the early 1990's had served as the Borough's Mayoress alongside Councillor Tom Taylor. The Mayor advised that she would be fondly remembered as someone focussed on serving her residents with a common sense approach and also as someone who served at a national level in the Towns Women's Guild, where she had been involved in the promotion of women and girls rights for over 50 years. In recognising how much she would be missed by her partner Craig, two sons David & Peter and four grandchildren, the Mayor ended by expressing condolences, on behalf of the Council to her family and friends.

(iii) Queen's Birthday Honours List

The Mayor then took the opportunity, on behalf of the Council, to congratulate those residents and local representatives who had received an honour in the Queens recent Birthday Honours list. These had included:

- Navin Shah the former Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow who had been awarded a CBE for his role in local politics and public service.
- Chunilal Kakad who had been awarded an MBE for four decades service to the community in Brent.
- Richard Webb-Stephens who had received the Queen's Ambulance Service Medal for Distinguished Service as the first deaf paramedic to work for London's Air Ambulance service.
- Christine Gilbert, the former Chief Executive of Brent, who (in addition to her CBE) had now also received the Order of the Companions of Honour distinction for services to young people and to charity.

The Mayor also took the opportunity to congratulate Councillor Eleanor Southwood in being awarded an MBE, which she had received earlier during the day. This honour had originally been announced in the Queen's Birthday honours list for 2021 in recognition of Councillor Southwood's outstanding services to charity and local government, as well as her leadership of, and campaigning with the Royal National Institute of the Blind.

All members joined the Mayor in a round of applause to congratulate Councillor Southwood in her achievement and well-deserved recognition.

(iv) 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

The Mayor advised he had been fortunate to be able to attend two recent milestone birthday celebrations for two local residents. Firstly he had been pleased to join Bhuliben Patel, a resident at Network Homes, in celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Secondly he had joined Nel Jones, a resident at Lawnfield House to celebrate her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday.

(v) Changes to Council Management Team

The Mayor then moved on to highlight a number of key changes to the Council's senior management team.

- Members were advised that Gail Tolley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People, had decided to retire with her final date confirmed as 31st August 2022. In paying tribute, the Mayor advised that Gail had been at Brent since April 2014 during which time she had made such a significant contribution to children and young people's services within the borough. This included Brent's Children's Services having achieved an Ofsted rating of Good overall and Outstanding for Children in Care and Care Leavers. Members joined the Mayor in thanking Gail Tolley for what was recognised as her lasting legacy.
- In addition the Mayor advised members that Alan Lunt, Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, would also be leaving Brent at the end of July. In paying tribute to Alan, the Mayor highlighted the part he had played in Brent's post-pandemic recovery alongside the work led in improving the experience for residents and visitors at event days in Wembley. In thanking Alan for his contribution the Mayor, on behalf of all members wished him well in his next steps.
- The Mayor also informed members that Shazia Hussain, Assistant Chief Executive, would also be leaving Brent in August, following her appointment as Deputy Chief Executive at Waltham Forest. In paying tribute to Shazia, members were reminded of the key role she had played in Brent's Covid response as well as in helping to drive the Council's equalities agenda and approach to participatory budgeting. In wishing Shazia success in her new role, the Mayor felt it important to recognise that this would make her one of the most senior women of Pakistani heritage in local government.

As a final change, the Mayor advised he was delighted to announce the appointment of Nigel Chapman as Brent's Corporate Director for Children and Young People. During his nine years working for Brent, the Mayor highlighted how Nigel had been able to develop significant experience along with a deep understanding of Brent's young people as well as the barriers that needed breaking down to help them achieve their full potential. Members congratulated him on his appointed and wished him well in his new leadership role.

The Mayor then invited comments from other members in recognition and tribute to those members of the senior management team who would be leaving the Council. He began by inviting Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to speak on behalf of the Labour Group.

Councillor Muhammed Butt opened the tributes by recognising and thanking Gail Tolley and her team for their efforts and hard work to ensure that services for children & young people in Brent had been left in such a good shape and strong position for Nigel to take over as her successor. Highlighting how much she would be missed, he took the opportunity to wish Gail well in her retirement and Nigel ever success in his new role. Referring to Shazia Hussain, he also took the opportunity to recognise and thank her for the important role played during her time at Brent, particularly in terms of the response to the pandemic and in supporting the essential partnership work with the Council's health and voluntary and community sector partners. In ending his tributes, the Leader also took the opportunity to thank Alan Lunt for his efforts, on behalf of the Council, recognising the work delivered to support communities and businesses as part of Brent's post-pandemic recovery and to improve the local environment and infrastructure. He ended by once again thanking all three officers for their service and wished them well for the future.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Kansagra to speak on behalf of the Conservative Group, who also thanked and paid tribute to Shazia Hussain and Alan Lunt for their work on behalf of the Council. He then took the opportunity to specifically thank Gail Tolley for her important and much valued work in support of children & young people within the borough and ended by also wishing her well in her retirement.

As a final contribution, the Mayor invited Councillor Georgiou to speak on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group. In endorsing the previous comments made, Councillor Georgiou also thanked all three officers for their public service whilst at Brent and wished them well in their future plans and roles.

(vi) Petitions

Finally, the Mayor referred members to the list of current petitions tabled at the meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders which also detailed the action being taken to deal with them.

6. **Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and of an Independent Person**

The Mayor referred members to the list of changes circulated in relation to appointments to Council Committees, Sub Committees and other bodies.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following changes in Committee and Outside Body membership:

- (1) To agree the following changes in appointments to Outside Bodies:
  - (a) 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).
  - (b) Old Oak & Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) Planning Committee – to appoint Councillor S.Butt as Deputy.

- (c) 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.
  - (d) Capital Letters – to appoint Councillor Knight as the Council representative.
  - (e) London Councils Greater London Employment Forum – Councillor Muhammed Butt to replace Councillor Eleanor Southwood as the Council’s full representative.
  - (f) 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.
- (2) 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) and successful completion of the resulting recruitment process it was agreed:
- (a) To confirm the appointment of Julie Byrom to fill the vacant position as an Independent Person until 2026.
  - (b) To note that the two existing Independent Persons (William Goh and Kier Hopley) would continue in post until 2025.

## **7. Deputations (if any)**

The Mayor advised that he had accepted a request for a deputation to be presented at the meeting from Mr John Poole (as a local resident) relating to pollution in Wealdstone Brook and the action being sought by residents in response.

The Mayor advised that unless otherwise indicated by members, he intended to allow Mr Poole up to five minutes to present the deputation. He would then allow Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, up to two minutes to respond to the deputation.

As no objections were raised on the approach outlined, the Mayor welcomed Mr Poole to the meeting and invited him to present his deputation.

Mr Poole began his deputation by reminding members about the course of the brook running through Harrow & Brent, and highlighted the detrimental impact on residents as a result of the current levels of pollution, including untreated sewage, within the brook. Highlighting the personal impact on his health as a result of the current levels of pollution and smell being created, he referred to the images provided as examples at the meeting. Concern was also expressed at what he regarded to be a lack of co-ordination between relevant agencies in seeking to tackle the issues and also that the Council had not sought to declare the current levels of raw sewage pollution as a major incident, given what he felt to be the detrimental impact on public health, safety and wellbeing. As a result he urged the Council to ensure those agencies responsible took the necessary steps to clean up the pollution within the brook and also rectify, as a matter of urgency, the cause of the problems.



In responding to the deputation, Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action advised that she recognised the frustrations and concerns expressed regarding current levels of contamination within the brook. As a result, she highlighted the work being undertaken with Thames Water and the Environment Agency (as the main regulatory bodies with shared responsibility for maintenance of the brook) in seeking to ensure the necessary action was taken to not only clear the pollution but also to detect and rectify the source, which it was understood had been linked to wrongly connected foul sewers and the unlawful discharge of toxic substances. In explaining the reasons for not seeking to declare a major incident, members were also advised of the work being undertaken with Public Health to monitor the impact on the local population, with no evidence of any specific associated health issues being highlighted to date. In concluding her response, Councillor Krupa Sheth thanked Mr Poole for his deputation with an assurance provided that work would continue with the relevant partner agencies to ensure the necessary action was taken to address and respond to the pollution within the brook.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Krupa Sheth for her response and advised as this now concluded consideration of the deputation he would move on to the next item.

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

### **8.1 Questions from the Public**

The Mayor advised that the following question had been received from a member of the public:

Question 1 from M.Whiteley to Councillor Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community, Engagement, Equalities & Culture regarding the Council's membership of the Stonewall Diversity Champions Scheme.

The Mayor advised that whilst the member of the public had been invited to the meeting in order to ask a supplementary question, they had unfortunately advised they were unable to attend. Members therefore noted the written response which had been provided, without further comment.

The Mayor then moved on to deal with a question submitted by Brent Youth Parliament.

### **8.2 Question from Brent Youth Parliament**

The Mayor advised that the following question had been received from Brent Youth Parliament:

Question 1 from Chris Mutombo-Ramazani (Brent's Member of the UK Youth Parliament) and Kenechi Ezeajughi (Brent Youth Parliament Media & Communications lead) to Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools regarding the support and funding available to help with the continued development of youth engagement forums and youth spaces.

Members noted the written response provided on the question with the Mayor welcoming Chris Mutombo-Ramazani and Kenechi Ezeajughi to the meeting in order to ask a supplementary question. The supplementary question from Brent Youth Parliament was as follows:

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

Having thanked Councillor Grahl for the written response provided, further details were sought on the funding available, moving forward, for ongoing investment in youth services and to assist in development of the Brent Youth Strategy and youth engagement forums.

In response, Councillor Grahl took the opportunity to thank the Brent Youth Parliament for the important role they played in representing young people across the borough and began her response by outlining the ambitious nature of the youth strategy and practical steps already taken to support its ongoing delivery, as set out in her written response. Highlighting the Council's commitment to continue working with the voluntary and community sector to develop more spaces for young people, she advised that discussions were also ongoing with a national charity to consider how an Onside Youth Zone could also be established within the borough. Amongst other initiatives, reference was also made to proposals being developed for the provision of an additional youth centre, with potential sites currently being identified. Whilst recognising that the level of investment available would need to take account of the Council's current and future budget position, Councillor Grahl ended by advising that she would be willing to meet representatives of the Youth Parliament outside of the meeting to update them further on the work being undertaken and plans moving forward to continue supporting development of the strategy

Having noted the response provided, the Mayor thanked Councillor Grahl for her response and Chris Mutombo-Ramazani and Kenechi Ezeajughi for the question and attending the meeting. As there were no further questions the Mayor concluded the public question session.

**9. Petitions (if any)**

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

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

The Mayor invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, to introduce the report updating members on the work being undertaken across each Cabinet portfolio in order to provide ongoing support and services to residents within the borough. As part of the update the Leader took the opportunity to thank the representatives from Brent Youth Parliament for their attendance and contribution at the meeting and to confirm the Council's commitment to continue supporting the work they were undertaking on behalf of young people across the borough. In addition, he highlighted the success and welcomed the level of local community engagement in the recent participatory budget process alongside the work being undertaken by the Council in terms of supporting those most in need with tackling the cost of living crisis.

In ending the update, members were also asked to note the list of Executive decisions tabled at the meeting which had been taken under the Council's urgency procedures.

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

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

Before moving on to consider the questions submitted by non-Cabinet members, the Mayor reminded Members that a total of 30 minutes had been set aside for this item, which would begin with consideration of the written questions submitted in advance of the meeting along with any supplementary questions. Once these had been dealt with, the remaining time available would then be opened up for any other non-Cabinet members to question Cabinet Members (without the need for advance notice) on matters relating to their portfolio.

The Mayor advised that five written questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for response by the relevant Cabinet Member and the written responses circulated within the agenda were noted. The Mayor then invited supplementary questions on the responses which had been provided:

11.1 Councillor Long thanked Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, for the written response in relation to her question regarding the criteria for the introduction of yellow lines, parking bays and pedestrian crossings. As a supplementary question, Councillor Long sought further details on the investment being made available to maintain and to improve the condition of these markings particularly where they had been worn or were in need of replacement given the impact in terms of safety and enforcement.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth highlighted the current assessment process undertaken in monitoring the condition of road markings and in maintaining line markings and signage in relation to controlled parking zones, parking bays and yellow lines. Where issues were reported in relation to worn or faded markings, these would be treated as a priority for stop lines, pedestrian crossings and mini roundabouts given associated safety issues with an annual road marking refresh programme also delivered as part of the Council's Planned Highways Maintenance work. Councillor Krupa Sheth advised she would be willing to arrange for concerns relating to specific sites to be investigated in more detail outside of the meeting in order for any necessary corrective action to be taken.

11.2 Councillor Mitchell thanked Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, for the written response in relation to her question on community and school engagement around healthy and safe streets and the installation of the accompanying CCTV. In welcoming the action outlined within the response, Councillor Mitchell, as a supplementary question, asked for further details on the work also being undertaken in partnership with other agencies, such as the NHS, to promote

more active modes of travel and engagement with families and schools to support the healthy and school streets initiative.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth highlighted the communication plan being developed in relation to the schools streets initiative and advised that she would liaise further with Councillor Nerva (as Cabinet member for Public Health & Adult Social Care) in order for a direct response to be provided outside of the meeting on wider partnership work with other agencies.

- 11.3 Councillor Choudry thanked Councillor Nerva, as Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care, for the written response to his question regarding the work being undertaken with multi-faith organisations, charities and other community organisations in seeking to tackle the level of health inequalities identified across the borough. In welcoming the action highlighted in the response Councillor Choudry, as a supplementary question, asked what additional support it was felt could be offered to these organisations in seeking to tackle the level of health inequalities identified across the borough, with a particularly focus on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

In response, Councillor Nerva thanked Councillor Choudry for highlighting the issue and work being undertaken to tackle health inequalities, in which it was recognised voluntary and other community organisations would continue to have an important and key role to play. In terms of specific engagement with multi-faith organisations, this had been key in responding to the pandemic and vaccine roll out and Councillor Nerva advised he would be keen to explore how this level of engagement and involvement could be developed further which would initially be focussed around discussions with the Multi Faith Forum.

- 11.4 As Councillor Mistry had submitted her apologies for the meeting, the written response provided to her question on footway and highway repairs in Kingsbury was noted with no supplementary question being raised.

- 11.5 Having noted the response to his question, by Councillor Tatler, as Cabinet member for Regeneration & Planning, Councillor Georgiou as a supplementary question referred to two further fires in high rise blocks across London and (in view of the written response provided) sought further assurance from the Cabinet member regarding the fire safety of tall buildings and their suitability in relation to providing family accommodation and. In view of the ongoing concerns identified, he asked whether further consideration would be given to the Council's policy in relation to the placing of families (particularly with young children) in properties above the 5<sup>th</sup> floor level in tall buildings.

As Councillor Tatler had submitted her apologies for the meeting Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) advised he would respond on the question raised. In response he highlighted the strong stance and work undertaken by the Council to support enforcement of the building safety reforms introduced through the Building Safety Act and the Building Safety Regulator in ensuring the necessary building control regulations were being delivered by developers and building owners, which it was felt reflected the importance placed on building and fire safety by the Council and in seeking to

protect residents. At the same time, Councillor Muhammed Butt also felt it important to recognise the extent of the current housing crisis, which he advised the Administration were committed to addressing through the provision of new affordable homes for local residents including the use of tall buildings, where appropriate.

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

- (i) Councillor Chan seeking to recognise the success of the local community campaign in Harlesden and Kensal Green to oppose an application for an Adult Gaming Centre in the area and to reaffirm the Council's opposition to these type of centres within the borough.

In response, Councillor Muhammed Butt (replying as Leader of the Council) thanked the ward councillors and local residents for their campaign to oppose the application. In reaffirming the Council's opposition to these centres within the borough, he felt it important to recognise the negative and harmful impact they created at a time when the Council was working hard to improve the quality of life for local residents across the borough.

- (ii) Councillor Kansagra regarding the decision made, as part of the changes to the Constitution approved at the Annual Council meeting, to remove the requirement for the Vice-Chair position on each of the Council's Scrutiny Committee's to be allocated to the opposition group(s).

In responding Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, reminded members of the comments made at the Annual Council meeting regarding the clear mandate provided for the current Administration following the local election, which he advised would continue to be exercised to its fullest extent. As a result he confirmed the Administration was not minded to reverse the decision made regarding the allocation of vice-chairs on each Scrutiny Committee, reminding the Opposition Groups of the seats already available to each of them on both Committee's which would ensure they continued to have the opportunity to actively engage in the scrutiny process.

- (iii) Councillor Kelcher seeking to recognise and congratulate the young people who had participated in the wayfinding competition run in Harlesden and Kensal Green for the posters they had produced for display to raise awareness around air quality and climate change and regarding the potential to extend the initiative in order to further engage young people across the borough.

In response Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, took the opportunity to commend and thank the young people involved for their active engagement and contribution in raising awareness around such an important issue as air quality. In terms of the potential for extending the initiative she advised she would also be willing

to consider how the work undertaken could be used as an exemplar for other areas throughout the borough.

- (iv) Councillor Afzal regarding the difference between the Council's and Governments approach towards tackling the pandemic, cost of living crisis and policy in respect of refugees and asylum seekers and stance being taken by the Council in welcoming and supporting diversity across Brent and providing opportunities for everyone, regardless of their background, to succeed.

In responding, Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, began by expressing concern at the divisions within society which he felt had been created as a direct result of the current Government's approach and policies, especially towards refugees and asylum seekers. As a contrast he highlighted the approach taken by the Council in seeking to make Brent such a welcoming borough, reflecting and embracing its diversity and striving to meet residents ambitions and provide them with every opportunity to succeed, which he agreed was an approach the Government could learn from.

- (v) Councillor Mahmood regarding the provision of enhanced public realm cleansing services and update on the consultation regarding the Redefining Local Services procurement arrangements.

In response Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, confirmed that further details regarding the process and consultation arrangements would be provided as part of the ongoing member briefing and engagement process.

- (vi) Councillor Kennelly regarding the action being taken to address long standing concerns raised in relation to waste collection, repair and maintenance works on a local housing estate in Eskdale Close within Preston ward.

In responding Councillor Knight, as Cabinet member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, also expressed concern at the apparent delays in the issues identified being fully resolved. Whilst highlighting the arrangements in place to address housing repairs and waste management issues Councillor Knight advised that she would be willing to follow up the issues raised outside of the meeting with the ward councillors in order to seek a resolution.

- (vii) Councillor Lorber seeking further clarification on consultation being undertaken in relation to the future use of Alperton Community Centre and engagement with local community representatives and ward councillors.

In responding Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, again highlighted what he regarded as the clear mandate provided for the current Administration following the local election with the Council, as a result, seeking to explore available options for the site which included discussions with a range of interested parties. As options were developed, he advised that local community representatives and ward councillors would be further engaged in order to ensure their views were also fed into the process for consideration.

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

## **12. Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees**

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

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

- Thanks were expressed on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee to both Gail Tolley and Shazia Hussain for their support of the Committee and scrutiny in general within Brent.
- The broad ranging nature of the Scrutiny Committee's work programme for 2022-23 which included items of strategic priority in terms of the Borough Plan; of concern to a significant proportion of the local community or which formed part of forthcoming policy reviews or new strategy being developed. The work programme also included sufficient flexibility to respond to other issues as they arose throughout the year. The first meeting of the new Municipal Year (held on 5 July 2022) had focussed on issues relating to adult social care including support for adult carers, updates on adult day care services and Brent's shared living schemes as well as a review of end of life care services.
- As part of its work programme for the year, members were advised that the Scrutiny Committee had also proposed to establish a Task Group focussed on social prescribing in health, on which a detailed scope was currently being prepared.
- Updates on progress against the work programme would continue to be provided, with reference also made on the positive impact which the recommendations agreed as a result of the Task Group reviews undertaken by the previous Committee in relation to GP Access and Transitional Safeguarding were also having in respect of the services and local community.
- Councillor Ketan Sheth ended by advising the Committee were looking forward to engaging with members across the Council as part of their work programme for the coming year to ensure scrutiny continued to add value and made a positive impact for residents across the borough.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Ketan Sheth for his update and then invited Councillor Connelly as the newly appointed chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee to introduce the update report on the work being

undertaken by that Committee. The following issues were highlighted as part of the update:

- In welcoming all new members serving on the scrutiny function, the broad ranging and dynamic nature of the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny work programme was also highlighted along with the lead being taken in establishing the Scrutiny Task Group to review the Council's budget proposals.
- Key issues already identified for review as part of the Committee's work programme had included the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, Digital Inclusion Strategy and Council's response to the cost of living crisis with updates to also be provided on implementation of the recommendations from the Baroness Casey review on managing events at Wembley following the UEFA Euro 2020 Final. As part of future reviews the Committee also planned to consider Flood Management as well as the ongoing impact and response in relation to Climate Change.
- Councillor Connolly ended by highlighting how the Committee were also looking forward and keen to encourage full participation and engagement in the scrutiny process as part of their work programme for the coming year.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Connolly and it was **RESOLVED** that the contents of both update reports be noted.

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

- (i) Following on from his earlier question Councillor Kansagra sought an assurance regarding the opportunities that would be made available to opposition group members on each Scrutiny Committee to contribute towards the scrutiny process.

In response, Councillor Ketan Sheth supported by Councillor Connolly, highlighted the intention to actively involve and engage all members on both committees (including those from the opposition groups) as part of the scrutiny process.

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

### 13. **Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee**

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

In terms of issues highlighted, Councillor Chan drew members' attention to the important role and work undertaken by the Committee in relation to monitoring and advising on various governance matters relating to audit activity, the Council's



finance, accounting and regulatory framework and members standards of conduct. As one of their key responsibilities, members were advised that the Committee at its last meeting in June 2022, had reviewed and agreed to recommend adoption of the Council's Annual Governance Statement. At the same meeting an update had also been provided on the Council's Strategic Risk Register which had included the recent addition of the impact arising from the cost of living crisis.

Councillor Chan advised the Committee were looking forward to continue working with members and other key stakeholders to ensure the necessary focus was maintained in relation to compliance and control of the Council's key governance arrangements.

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

#### 14. **Non Cabinet Members' Debate**

In accordance with Standing Order 34, the Mayor advised that the next item on the agenda was the non-cabinet member debate, with the subject chosen for consideration being the declaration of a cost of living emergency.

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

The Mayor then invited Councillor Moeen to introduce the motion. As context for the debate, Councillor Moeen highlighted the challenges that Brent and its residents were facing due to the cost-of-living crisis. Increases in National Insurance contributions, inflation and projected energy costs had already begun to impact on the Council's budgetary position and resident's household income with the position only predicted to worsen. In highlighting the essential role provided by local authorities and other public sector agencies in supporting residents during the current crisis, Councillor Moeen felt it important to recognise the struggles already being experienced by residents across Brent with at least 25% of those in work earning less than the real Living Wage for London. In addition, figures demonstrated that over 5,000 residents had presented at Brent Hubs in need of food aid between April 2019 to January 2022 with the Council, between December 2020 and March 2022, having 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. Since August 2020 members were reminded that the Brent Resident Support Fund (RSF) had also provided support for 2,658 applicants allocating a total of £5.2 million in cash grants.

Councillor Moeen expressed concern that given the lack of sustained funding from central government to support local authorities and other public services and the drastic increase in fuel, tax and food costs alongside the ongoing demand in relation to housing and health services there would undoubtedly be a detrimental impact upon residents. In recognition of the seriousness of the situation, Councillor Moeen urged members to support the council in challenging central government to act on the suggested initiatives detailed in the motion and in declaring a cost of

living emergency in order to enable the necessary practical support to be provided for local residents during such challenging times.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Moeen for introducing the motion and then drew member's attention to an amendment submitted by Councillor Georgiou on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group in relation to the motion moved as the basis of the debate, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Having been invited to move the amendment, Councillor Georgiou advised that Councillor Lorber would be speaking on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group.

In moving the amendment Councillor Lorber advised that whilst the Liberal Democrat Group fully supported the need for urgent action to be taken in addressing the Cost of Living crisis by the Government, especially in relation to energy prices, he felt there was also a need for the Council to review its own level of fees and charges and use of reserves and contingencies alongside the increase in level of Council Tax which had been set. On this basis he advised that the amendment being moved by the Liberal Democrat Group was as follows:

To add as additional actions under the following section of the original motion:

"This Council therefore resolves:

- To reinstate the upgrading of the Personal Tax Allowance and the basic rate tax band with inflation to avoid lower paid people falling into the tax net.
- To reinstate the £20 pw Universal Credit payment to those on low incomes.
- To introduce a Windfall Tax on Supermarkets making exceptional profits as a result of rising prices.
- To resolve the issue of Fair Funding for London Transport to avoid further cuts in public transport and above inflation rises in fares."

To add as additional actions at the end of the original motion:

"As part of the Review into what the Council can do specifically:

- To consider the use of Reserves (such as the £5.2 million no longer required for meeting past London wide Pension liabilities) to mitigate a 2023/24 Council Tax Rise.
- To look at all Council Charges such as Parking Permits, Toobig for the bin, Green bin collections and others with a view to reducing any which are generating income beyond the economic cost of providing the service.
- To provide additional resources to those Advice agencies which provide direct advice and support to residents in managing their debts, which assist residents in claiming additional benefits such as pension Credit and those which advise on how to reduce the use of their cars through more walking, cycling and use of public transport and reduce their domestic energy costs by switching of unnecessary appliances and gadgets.

Finally:

The Council also agrees to suspend free parking for Councillors (except those registered as disabled) using the Civic Centre Car Park and allocates all additional income generated from freeing up paid for parking spaces to a fund to assist local residents in most need.”

The Mayor thanked Councillor Lorber for moving the amendment on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group and then opened the debate for contributions from other members.

Councillor Mitchell in expressing her support for the motion shared concern at the strain being placed on local residents as a result of the crisis forcing them to make difficult choices regarding their household income including, in many cases whether they were able to heat their home or buy food. It was felt that the continued lack of adequate public funding from central government had exacerbated the impact felt by residents, who were having to deal with rising costs alongside changes in welfare benefits and for many what amounted to a real term reduction in wages as a result of the increasing rate on inflation. Highlighting the particular impact on more vulnerable residents, it was felt the current pressures would only serve to exacerbate existing levels of inequality within society. As an example reference was made to the increased use of energy by 85% of families with disabled children and the disproportionate impact of the crisis on BAME communities and families. In summing up Councillor Mitchell hoped that all members would support the actions identified in order to effect positive change.

Councillor Jayanti Patel, whilst acknowledging the challenging times faced by residents also felt it important to highlight the global factors impacting on the current situation and action being taken by the Government to ease the burden and provide a package of significant financial support. This was both in terms of one off support in relation to energy bills for all households and more targeted support for those on lower incomes alongside the change in National Insurance thresholds and wider package of proposed tax relief.

Councillor Afzal, in supporting the motion shared his disappointment at the response to the crisis by the government to date. Highlighting the need for a more progressive tax system he felt more needed to be done, as part of the wider response by Government, to ensure a fairer distribution of wealth, properly fund public services and restrict any future increase in the energy price caps taking account of the additional profits being generated by large energy corporations as a result of the increase in energy prices.

Councillor Georgiou also took the opportunity to highlight the extent of the difficulties and challenges faced by so many local residents and range of factors involved in the current crisis which he felt supported the need to declare a cost of living emergency as he pointed out Eastbourne (under liberal Democrat control) had been the first local authority to do. In support of the amendment moved, Councillor Georgiou felt it was important, alongside the action needing to be taken by the Government, to also consider what additional measures the Council could take in an attempt to mitigate the impact of the current crisis. This included seeking to maximise the allocation of additional resources to support advice services that

worked directly with those residents most in need and to consider removing free parking for councillors at the Civic Centre in order to generate additional resources that could be used to support residents most in need, whilst also encouraging greater use of public transport.

As there were no further contributions, the Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, to summarise and close the debate.

Councillor Muhammed Butt began by thanking Councillor Moeen for raising such an important issue for debate given the significant impact of the Cost of Living crisis on local residents as well as the Council. In addressing the amendment moved by the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Muhammed Butt felt it was important to highlight the financially prudent and sustainable approach adopted by the Administration in terms of managing use of the Council's limited resources alongside the direct and ongoing support already being delivered for those residents most in need, as evidenced through the ongoing support being provided by the Resident Support Fund, Council Tax Support Scheme and Community Hubs. In closing he urged all members to support the original motion moved as the basis of the debate, recognising the sensible and prudent approach adopted by the current Administration in relation to management of the Council's finances as opposed to the approach outlined in the amendment.

The Mayor thanked all members for their contributions and then moved on to put the amendment moved by the Liberal Democrat Group to the vote prior to seeking approval on the final substantive motion as an outcome of the non-cabinet member debate.

On being put to the vote the amendment moved by the Liberal Democrats Group (as set out above) was declared **LOST**:

As a result, the following substantive motion was put to the vote and **AGREED** as the outcome of the 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, under-pinned by an industrial strategy. "This Council notes:

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."

#### 15. **Changes to the Constitution in relation to the Members' Allowance Scheme (Dependants' Carers' Allowance)**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, to introduce a report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations detailing a proposed update to the Council's provision for councillors with dependants within Brent's Members Allowance Scheme (Part 6 – Constitution). In introducing the report the Leader highlighted the Council's commitment to supporting councillors with caring responsibilities, with the proposed update designed to further enhance this approach by extending the ability to claim dependants' carers' allowance to cover "reasonable travel time to and from meetings up to the maximum of an hour each way". In commending the change to Council the Leader advised that, subject to approval, the intention would be to apply the change retrospectively from the start of the 2022-23 financial year.

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

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

#### 16. **General Dispensations under the Code of Conduct**

The Mayor invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, to introduce a report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations outlining the proposal to grant a general dispensation for all councillors in relation to a limited range of interests in matters coming before the Council's decision making bodies. In introducing the report it was noted that the dispensation would enable members to

participate in meetings where the interests were thought to arise but this position was shared with a significant proportion of other members of the council and/or community and the transaction of council business might otherwise be affected.

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

Council therefore **RESOLVED** to the dispensations contained in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of the report in respect of participation in discussion and voting at meetings, with effect until the annual meeting following the next full local elections.

## 17. **Motions**

Before moving on to consider the motions listed on the summons, the Mayor advised members that a total of 40 minutes had been set aside for the consideration of the four motions submitted for debate, based on an initial allocation of 10 minutes per motion. Should the time taken to consider the first motion be less than 10 minutes he advised that the remaining time available would be rolled forward for consideration of the remaining motions.

### **17.1 1<sup>st</sup> Motion (Conservative Group) – Pollution of Wealdstone Brook**

The Mayor invited Councillor Maurice to move the first motion which had been submitted on behalf of the Conservative Group. Councillor Maurice, in moving the motion, felt it was important to recognise the concerns being raised by local residents (as outlined during the earlier deputation by John Poole) in relation to the impact being caused by the significant levels of pollution within Wealdstone Brook. In view of what were felt to be the serious risks to public health and the health and wellbeing of the surrounding local community he queried why the issue had not been treated as a major incident and advised the motion was calling on the Council to take urgent action, working collaboratively with the Environment Agency and Thames Water, to address the issues whilst also examining the potential for any legal action to ensure that those agencies with responsibility for the Brook undertook the necessary action to clean it up and avoid any immediate rectification of the problem.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Maurice for moving the motion and then drew members' attention to an amendment submitted in the name of Councillor Krupa Sheth on behalf of the Labour Group in relation to the motion, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Krupa Sheth was then invited to move the amendment and having acknowledged the frustrations and concerns expressed earlier in the meeting regarding pollution within the brook once again highlighted the work being undertaken with Thames Water and the Environment Agency (as the main regulatory bodies with shared responsibility for maintenance of the brook) in seeking to ensure the necessary action was taken to not only clear the pollution but also to detect and rectify its source. In reminding members of the reasons for not seeking to declare a major incident, members were advised of the work being undertaken with Public Health to monitor the impact on the local population. Having

outlined the work being undertaken with the relevant partner agencies to ensure the necessary action was being taken to address the concerns identified. Councillor Krupa Sheth ended by also highlighting the need, as set out within her amendment, to consider the current ownership model for water infrastructure and in seeking to enforce the principle that the polluter should pay. On this basis the amendment moved was as follows:

#### “Pollution of 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 none 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.”

The Mayor then invited other members to speak on both the original motion and amendment, with the following contribution received.

Councillor Martin spoke to express support for the concerns identified in relation to pollution not only within the Brook but also within the River Brent, which ran through her ward. As a result she supported the calls being made for the relevant agencies, including Thames Water and the Environment Agency, to fully investigate, report back and undertake the necessary action to address the concerns identified.

As there were no further contributions, the Mayor then invited Councillor Maurice (as mover of the original motion) and Councillor Krupa Sheth (as mover of the amendment) to exercise their rights of reply.

In summing up, Councillor Maurice highlighted the serious public health concerns identified in relation to the current levels of pollution within the Brook along with the need (supported by local residents) for the Council to take urgent action in seeking to ensure that the relevant agencies were forced to address the issue and provide an appropriate response.

Councillor Sheth, in exercising her right to reply on the amendment assured members of work already being undertaken by the Council with Thames Water and the Environment Agency (as the main regulatory bodies for the Brook) in seeking to ensure the necessary action was being taken to identify and remedy the source of the pollution, with the amendment seeking to recognise and hold the relevant agencies to account.

Having thanked Councillors for their contributions, the Mayor advised that he intended to move straight to the vote on the motion starting with the amendment.

The amendment, as set out above, was then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

The Mayor then moved on to put the substantive motion, as amended and set out below, to a vote which was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following 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 this council considers that Thames Water should have 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."

## **17.2 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion (Liberal Democrat Group) – Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Georgiou to move the second motion, submitted on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group. Councillor Georgiou in moving the motion began by expressing strong reservations and concern at the Government's treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, with particular reference to their Rwanda policy. In seeking support for the motion, Councillor Georgiou felt it was important to recognise the diverse and welcoming nature of Brent as home to people from all over the world who were able to make a valued contribution to the local community alongside the need to treat refugees and asylum seekers with compassion and respect. He felt this was in direct contrast to the hostile environment being created by the Government's current approach and, as a result, advised that the motion was seeking support in calling for the Government to provide a legal right of passage for asylum seekers into the UK as well as the right to work under defined and reasonable terms. In addition he was keen to recognise the crucial work being undertaken by a number of organisations within the community (some of whom were present at the meeting) and to ensure this continued to be supported by the Council across the borough. In concluding, Councillor Georgiou urged all members to support the motion in opposition to the stance being taken by the current Government.

Following the original motion being moved the Mayor advised members of an amendment submitted by Councillor Donnelly-Jackson on behalf of the Labour Group, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Donnelly-Jackson was then invited to move the amendment and advised that whilst supportive of the sentiment expressed in the motion felt there was also a need (as detailed within the amendment) to recognise the proactive approach already being taken by the current Administration supported by the voluntary and community sector across Brent to welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers in the borough. In supporting opposition to the Government's current approach, the amendment also highlighted and expressed support for the Labour amendment to the 2016 Immigration Act relating to unaccompanied child refugees as well as recognising the essential support being provided through Brent Start in relation to affordable training opportunities. On this basis the amendment moved was as follows:

"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.”

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

Councillor Kansagra in responding to the motion, felt it was important to recognise the main countries from which a majority of asylum seekers were arriving and to not only address the main causes in them seeking refuge but also to tackle the criminal gangs involved in their journey to the UK. He felt this was an approach the Government had sought to adopt whilst also recognising international rules in relation to application for asylum and the pressures also being placed on local services.

Councillor Lorber, speaking in support of the motion expressed concern at what he felt was the lack of empathy and understanding demonstrated by the Government and Conservative Group towards the plight of refugees and asylum seekers along with the benefits and positive contribution they had made to society. In recognising the risks taken to reach safety, he felt this would only be as a direct result of persecution or fear of harm and as such there was a duty on the Government to act responsibly and with compassion in seeking to welcome and support asylum seekers and refugees arriving in the UK in search of safety.

Councillor Muhammed Butt, speaking in support of the amendment, highlighted his disappointment at the approach adopted by the Conservative Group in support of the Government, which it was felt demonstrated a clear lack of empathy and understanding in their attitude towards asylum seekers and refugees. In contrast, he was proud of the approach taken by the Council to make Brent a safe, welcoming and supportive destination for those fleeing persecution and harm with the Administration committed to continue providing this support in contrast to the hostile stance by the Government.

Following a brief exchange regarding a point of personal explanation from Councillor Kansagra and point of order raised by Councillor Georgiou on the conduct of the debate the Mayor ruled that as all members who had indicated they wished to speak had been heard he would move straight to the vote on the motion starting with the amendment.

The amendment, as set out above, was then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

The Mayor then moved on to put the substantive motion, as amended and set out below, to a vote which was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following 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 is welcoming of refugees and asylum seekers. 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 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.
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.
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.
3. Make representations to London Council as the body responsible for the Freedom Pass, to consider extending free bus travel to asylum seekers through the existing payment card system.
4. 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."

### **17.3 3<sup>rd</sup> Motion (Labour Group) – A food Justice Strategy for Brent**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Hack to move the first motion submitted by the Labour Group. In moving the motion, Councillor Hack drew member's attention to the continued increase in food poverty and food bank use that was felt to be a direct consequence of the Conservative Government's programme of austerity and had predated the pandemic. Highlighting the launch of the Brent Right to Food campaign, Councillor Hack highlighted the impact of the current food poverty crisis, which he felt had been caused as a direct result of political choices made by the Government. As a result he urged all members to support the calls for a Food

Justice Strategy, which sought to enshrine the Right to Food in law and support the development of community gardens, social supermarkets, universal school meals and community kitchens for local residents as a means of ending food poverty and the reliance on food banks within the borough.

Following the motion being formally moved the Mayor opened the motion up to debate, with the following contributions received.

Councillor Grahl, as Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools, thanked Councillor Hack for highlighting the issue of food poverty with particular reference to the impact this had on the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of children and young people in Brent. The issues highlighted had also been recognised by the Brent Poverty Commission and whilst aware that more action was required, she felt it important to outline the range of support already in place which included the provision of financial support to food aid groups and Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programmes. In supporting the motion, Councillor Grahl ended by assuring members of the work being undertaken in relation to assessing current levels of school meal provision and in seeking to ensure that the support being provided was making the necessary impact.

Councillor Afzal, also speaking in support of the motion, highlighted his own experience in relation to the impact of food poverty and expressed disappointment and concern at the lack of focus by the Government on the issue. It was noted that the limited action taken to date by the Government had only been as a result of a high profile public campaign. In contrast, Councillor Afzal commended the approach undertaken in Brent, working with mutual aid groups to support the most vulnerable families faced with food poverty and ended by urging all members to support the motion.

Councillor Choudry also spoke in support of the motion, and echoed the frustrations raised at the lack of Government action in seeking to tackle the food poverty crisis before acknowledging what he felt was the exemplary work undertaken at a local level in Brent by the Council and voluntary organisations to support residents in need.

As a final contribution, Councillor Gbajumo expressed concern at the impact which the changes in welfare benefits introduced by the Government were having in making food poverty worse and widening food inequality. In highlighting the disproportionate effect of the pandemic on BAME residents in terms of health inequality she felt this had also further exacerbated the gap in terms of food poverty. In fully supporting the motion Councillor Gbajumo stressed the importance of acting to end food insecurity in order to address the food poverty crisis with immediate effect.

As no further members had indicated they wished to speak and Councillor Hack had confirmed he did not need to exercise his right of reply, the Mayor moved on to put the motion, as set out below, to a vote which was declared CARRIED.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following 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,<sup>1</sup> 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 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 spiraling 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,

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<sup>1</sup> (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)

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 Brent, 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."

#### **17.4 4<sup>th</sup> Motion (Labour Group) – Zero Hours Justice Campaign**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Chan to move the final motion submitted by the Labour Group who began by setting the zero hours justice campaign in the context of the Cost of Living Crisis and highlighting the negative impact on those affected. In highlighting the approach taken by the Administration to recognise and value its employees he was also proud of the stance being taken by the Council to support and encourage other employers to support the right to fair pay, along with the London Living Wage and in challenging the use of zero hours contracts. Recognising the Council's leadership he urged all members to support the motion in as a means of seeking the necessary employment and financial security for workers, especially for those on low pay given the additional challenges and pressures created by the Cost of Living crisis.

Following the motion being formally moved the Mayor opened the motion up to debate, with the following contributions received.

In responding to the motion, Councillor Maurice whilst recognising what he felt to be the challenges associated with zero hour contracts also outlined how many of these issues were faced by self-employed workers. Although supportive of the efforts being made to challenge and cease the practice of fire and rehire he felt this would be difficult to effectively legislate against and suggested it was important to also recognise the flexibility provider for some workers through zero hour contracts.

Councillor Grahl in fully supporting the motion, disagreed with the comments made by Councillor Maurice and outlined how, in her view, zero hour contracts were often exploited by employers rather than providing any benefits in terms of flexible working.

Councillor Kennelly, also speaking in support of the motion, felt there was a clear need to distinguish between the self-employed and those being employed on zero hour contracts in order to fully understand the need for a new deal for workers rights, including the need to secure fair pay, regular hours of works and a cessation of fire and rehire. As such he advised he was fully supportive of the motion and in the Council working towards zero hours justice accreditation.

As no further members had indicated they wanted to speak, the Mayor then invited Councillor Chan to exercise his right of reply. In responding Councillor Chan thanked colleagues for their support of the Zero Hours Justice Campaign noting the opportunities and aspirations that many Brent residents would benefit from if the motion was fully supported moving forward.

The Mayor then put the motion, as set out below, to a vote which was declared CARRIED.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following 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."

#### 18. **Urgent Business**

There were no urgent items of business raised at the meeting so the Mayor, in closing the meeting, thanked all members for their co-operation and support and advised that she looked forward to seeing everyone again in person at the next Full Council which would be on Wednesday 21 September 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

COUNCILLOR ABDI ADEN  
Mayor

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## Item 7: Questions from Members of the Public

### Full Council – 21 September 2022

1. **Question from P.Firmin to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security**

Why does Brent take so long to carry out basic upkeep of its estates?

**Response:**

Managing estates well is a priority for Brent Housing Management and we deliver a number services to estates to ensure that they are properly maintained; this includes cleaning, waste collection, grounds maintenance and communal repairs.

For each of these services we have set standards and we monitor performance using these standards as well as resident feedback.

In August 99.89% bins were successfully collected across the borough, 82% of all communal repairs reported were completed within target and 205 inspections undertaken by our dedicated estate inspection team who monitor cleaning standards and proactively raise issues identified on estates.

The Council is committed to improving services where standards are not being met. This is demonstrated by the in-source of the Caretaking Service following resident feedback that the service was poor. Since transferring back into the Council, performance and satisfaction with the service has improved significantly, with issues now being responded to within 24 hours of problems being reported, compared to 75 days when outsourced.

This commitment to improve is ongoing. A recent mapping exercise of all Brent Council Owned and managed estates to capture all landscaping and planting was completed. The purpose of this exercise is to improve a new grounds maintenance service which will go live in April 2023.

If a service has not been delivered to the standard or within the timescale expected residents should report this and we will investigate immediately.

The quickest and easiest way to report a problem is through our website, just visit **[www.brent.gov.uk/myaccount](http://www.brent.gov.uk/myaccount)** or call **020 8937 1234**.

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

As a resident of Brent living in a multi-story block of flats on North End Road near Wembley Park Station, can you please explain:

1. Why the Council has decided not to collect food waste from my community. This makes absolutely no sense to me. What are we supposed to do with the food waste that we have? Food waste is an important source of bio-methane, which can be used to generate green energy. It seems we are doing the planet, UK, Brent, and my community a big disservice as a result of this policy.
2. Why we, unlike neighbouring communities, do not have the privilege of on-street parking. This is because a faceless corporation somehow has the right to negotiate these things on our behalf, before we become part of the community. Whilst I understand there is a need to limit the number of private vehicles on our streets to manage congestion, and pollution, I believe this to be wholly unjustified. Is there no room to allow us to park electric vehicles? Are we expected to move out of the borough when our families grow and we have a need to own and operate a private passenger vehicle? On what basis are some residents included and others wholly excluded?

**Response:**

1. All blocks on North End Road that are served by the Council and have bins emptied by Veolia should have a food waste collection system in place as we recognise the importance of collecting food waste from all properties. However, some properties on North End Road may be served by third parties directly and have separate waste collection arrangements. Further detail on the block in question and the exact location will help establish what might be possible in terms of food waste collection.
2. The Council introduced a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) on North End Road to protect parking for local residents and businesses that are eligible for parking permits. Some developments are designated 'Car Free' when planning permission is granted and there is good accessibility to public transport. The opportunities for future residents to apply for on-street parking permits were withdrawn as a legal obligation on the developers, owners and landlord responsible for the development, and attached to the planning permission for the building. The reason is prevent the surrounding streets becoming overwhelmed with parked cars from such development.



**3. Question from N. Ireland to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action**

Why is Brent lagging so far behind other Councils in the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods?

**Response:**

Brent introduced the Brent Eleven Streets scheme in the Kilburn area over a decade ago, which like Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, reduced through traffic in the area. Following the publication of the Governments statutory guidance in May 2020 in response to the pandemic, the Council trialled 5 Healthy (Low Traffic) Neighbourhood schemes introducing these schemes in a short timeframe, with consultation during the trial period. The aim of these schemes was to change the way in which people travel by reducing motor traffic on residential streets, creating safer, quieter, cleaner, healthier and more pleasant neighbourhoods that encourage walking and cycling.

Like in many other London boroughs, these schemes were controversial and concerns raised by residents were considered at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council in October 2020 where it was recognised that whilst these schemes can provide benefits there were concerns about the engagement and consultation process, which was a result of the way in which central government sought to quickly introduce trials.

Living Streets, were commissioned to provide expert advice and engage inclusively with local people to determine the reasons why current schemes may not be supported, and to provide advice on measures that could be introduced that would provide benefits and be supported by the community. In January 2022, the Councils Cabinet considered a report on the Active Travel programme taking into consideration consultation and community engagement, agreeing that 1 Healthy Neighbourhood (Stonebridge and Harlesden with the exception of the Mordaunt Road closure) and 26 School Streets should be made permanent, previously we only had 2 school streets.

The report also made recommendations about the future approach to introducing these schemes, including a focus on community engagement and collaborative design before any further trials. The development and implementation of future schemes will depend on future funding being made available. From September 2022, CCTV cameras will be installed for the 26 new school streets.

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

Why has traffic management for Event Days become so problematic? Given the impact local residents have had enough.

**Response:**

The majority of the event day road closures have not changed since they were introduced in 2007. In recent years following the terrorist attacks in London, the Metropolitan Police requested councils to introduce more stringent measures for event day road closures.

Brent Council installed a number of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures on Fulton Road, Engineers Way and South Way to prevent vehicle intrusion and thus providing a safe environment for fans attending the stadium. Once these measures are deployed, the responsibility for the security of the event footprint falls on the Police Event Commander. Access and Egress of vehicles into and out of the secure area requires the Event Commanders authority. During the event, authority is normally refused even for Police vehicles.

More recently, Police have requested additional HVM measure on South Way between the Pink car park and the Poppins building with additional measures on First Way by the East Gate. These closures are made under an Anti-Terrorist Regulation Order (ATTRO), which is written and signed by the Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Counter Terrorism Policing.

Brent as the Highway Authority has no power to override the Police Events Commander's decision to allow vehicles in or out of the HVM closure points.

Wembley Park Estate/Quintain state that post Covid the demand for onsite parking has increased significantly, as people are reluctant to use public transport. The increase in event traffic has generated more demand on the road network thus leading to congestion.

**5. Question from R.Rajar to Councillor Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning**

Brent Council, Quintain and others signed a s106 on 24.11.2011 relating to the Wembley North West Lands. Under paragraph 14, regarding affordable housing units, clause 7.2 states that the service charge should be increased based on CPI or above with the Council's approval once in a 12 month period.

Residents at block NW06 have reported and provided evidence to Brent Council that the Housing Association is in breach of the above condition, which was confirmed in May 2021.

Since we have not yet received a resolution to this problem which is affecting the residents in many ways including their mental health and financially, we would like to know what Brent Council has done to enforce the s106 Agreement in order to ensure that these Affordable housing units don't become unaffordable?

**Response:**

The Council has been in direct communication with Network Homes to try and resolve this situation since January. We are still waiting for the information we requested to justify each Service Charge increase each year above the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and also why the percentage increase is not even across all the flats. We are extremely disappointed that this information is still yet to be provided by Network Homes.

Whilst we do still expect to receive this information, we are prepared to seek litigation to ensure that this information is provided so it can then be scrutinised.

**6. Question from M.Francis to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security**

What steps have the Council taken to:

1. Appoint an Accountable Person under the Building Safety Act 2022?
2. Set up Residents' Panels as stipulated in the Building Safety Act?
3. Publicise the role of the Accountable Person and the Residents' Panels to residents' and residents' and tenants associations?
4. Please give a timeline for completion of these statutory duties.
5. Identify those of its tenants who are vulnerable in the event of a fire?
6. Issue Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) to those tenants?

**Response:**

The Building Safety Act received Royal Assent in April 2022 and the Government has published a transition plan. This plan sets out the timeline for implementation, including when to expect the supporting secondary legislation.

The Council is working to this timeline plus any further information published by Central Government. The Council is committed to publishing a Brent specific timetable for residents' information once dates have been confirmed.

Under the Act, the Accountable Person refers to the organisation or person who owns or has responsibility for residential high-rise buildings. This will therefore be 'the Council'. The Council has in anticipation of the Act reviewed officer roles to ensure new duties are appropriately fulfilled and officers, once confirmed, will provide residents living in council owned and managed high-rise blocks the relevant information including contact information.

The Government committed to establishing the Residents Panel with the Building Safety Regulator within the first 12 months following the Act's Royal Assent. Once information is released on this, the Council will publicise this opportunity to residents' in the Borough through a range of channels.

Brent Housing Management already has a live Resident Engagement Framework in place. This Framework will be reviewed to account for the need to deliver the following for high rise blocks the Council owns or manages:

- Provide residents with information they need to understand safety measures in their building, who is accountable and how to report safety concerns.

- Develop and implement a residents' engagement strategy, setting out how they will promote engagement with residents on building safety decisions, and how residents can get involved.
- Establish a complaints procedure for residents to raise safety concerns and handle complaints consistent with this.

Dates have not yet been confirmed for when this work will be completed, but the Council is committed to ensuring residents are involved in how these duties are introduced and communicated.

The Council has already, prior to the Act being introduced, worked to collect relevant information on vulnerable tenants.

All Brent Council owned high-rise blocks operate a stay put policy in the event of a fire, in line with advice from the London Fire Brigade. This means residents are advised to stay in their home unless they are directly affected by heat, flame or smoke.

In the unlikely event that the London Fire Brigade identify the need to evacuate the building, the Council ensures there are secure records held within each high rise block that identify anyone who requires assistance to evacuate. This means the London Fire Brigade would know who to prioritise and help to evacuate the building.

Council tenants living in high rise blocks are encouraged to report any changes to their circumstances that would affect their ability to self-evacuate by emailing [Housing.Management@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Housing.Management@brent.gov.uk) or calling **020 8937 1234** and asking to speak to the duty housing officer who will update their record.

**7. Question from M Etukudo to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homeless & Renters Security**

Brent Council is proposing to build 7 new homes opposite existing flats at Newland Court. Residents living at Newland Court (a few of whom are elderly pensioners and disabled residents) have signed a petition and are totally opposed to this proposal.

In view of the concerns expressed, is Brent Council still prepared to go ahead with this proposal at the expense of the health and mental wellbeing of the existing residents who are already at breaking point as it is, given the strain being created by the current cost of living crisis.

**Response:**

The council has brought these proposals forward in response to the chronic shortage of genuinely affordable housing in Brent. There are over **1,700** families currently living in temporary accommodation and a further **240** families in priority need for a transfer because of issues such as overcrowding. Every home we develop is an opportunity for a family to have the security of a permanent home that meets their needs.

Whilst building council homes is a priority for us, so is ensuring that any new council development also works for people who already live in the area. That's why we are committed to engaging with neighbouring residents early on in any new scheme to hear their views and create proposals that work for everyone. Our team has met with residents living at Newland Court as part of the pre-planning stage of this development. This enabled residents to directly feed into the design of privacy, parking and trees.

Many new and proposed schemes also seek to benefit the wider community by improving green spaces and community infrastructure.

A formal planning application has not yet been made however, at this stage, residents will have the opportunity to submit formal objections as part of the standard planning process for consideration. When reviewing the application, planning officers will consider planning policies, consultation responses and public representations.

The cost of living crisis is impacting many households across Brent and the Council is here to help. For anyone in need of support, visit our dedicated webpage for help and advice. Go to [www.brent.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.brent.gov.uk/costofliving)

Examples of the type of support available are:

- The Resident Support Fund which is available to Brent Residents who can apply for support with energy bills and other household expenditure, including grants, loans, and a digital inclusion package.

- Fuel and supermarket vouchers for residents in urgent need of support with food and energy costs.
- Wellbeing services, help and advice through the Brent Wellbeing Hub <https://brentwellbeing.org.uk/>

**8. Question from J.Poole to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action & Councillor Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care**

Given the statement read out at the Full Brent Council Meeting on Monday 11th July 2022 by Kenton resident John Poole regarding the ongoing problems of the untreated raw human sewage in the Wealdstone Brook as it runs through Brent and the report by the UK Health Security Agency that the poliovirus has been detected in Brent waterways, what action has been taken by Brent Council to:

1. deal with the raw untreated human sewage problem in the Wealdstone Brook; and
2. what information has Brent Council obtained from the UK Health Security Agency and the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) with regards to the spread of the poliovirus in Brent waterways?

**Response:**

Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action

1. We (Brent Council) manage the small tributary watercourses and have no remit regarding the sewer infrastructure, which falls under Thames Water or, the designated main rivers i.e. River Brent, which falls under the Environment Agency. However, we do act as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and we are fully aware of the ongoing issue of pollution spills into the River Brent from the Thames Water combined sewer overflows (CSOs) located in Harrow.

We are pressing the Environment Agency to take action against Thames Water to resolve the issue and for Thames Water to implement incremental improvement measures whilst they explore options for a comprehensive permanent solution.

Councillor Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care

2. The UKHSA undertakes routine sampling of sewage as part of its surveillance of infectious diseases, testing for a number of pathogens which are shed in faeces. This wastewater surveillance routinely detects isolated incidents of vaccine derived polioviruses as these are shed by people who have received oral polio vaccine outside the UK. (Oral polio vaccine contains an attenuated form of the polio virus which is excreted in faeces. It is not routinely given in the UK). Wastewater sampling is from sewage works and does not therefore provide information with regard to Brent waterways



In this incident the length of time over which the polio virus was found in wastewater from North and Central London, and the particular form of virus found, suggested that the virus was being spread between people in the communities served by the sewage works from which positive samples were obtained. This community spread of poliovirus from person to person via the faeco-oral route poses a particular risk for those who are incompletely vaccinated.


For this reason the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advised that targeted inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) booster should be offered to all children between the ages of 1 and 9 in all London boroughs. Brent Council is supportive of this action and has developed a page with a summary of the information and links to the UKHSA for further information and details on obtaining Polio vaccination, which can be accessed here

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/adult-social-care/health-and-wellbeing/polio>.

The Council will continue to support the work of the Polio programme under the advice of the UKHSA and the NHS in North West London. The Council is facilitating access to Polio vaccination for local children at the Civic Centre.

For the public, the most important actions currently are to check their immunisation status and to ensure that all eligible children aged 1-9 are taken for the vaccination when offered by the NHS.

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 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 21 September 2022
	<b>Report from the Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Update report from the Leader and Cabinet</b>	

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

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

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

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Council is asked to note this report.

## 3.0 Detail

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

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

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

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

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

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

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

## **Leader – Councillor Muhammed Butt**

Update provided verbally under Agenda Item 9 – Leader's Annual Report.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Muhammed.Butt@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Muhammed.Butt@brent.gov.uk)

## **Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform – Councillor Mili Patel**

### **Top news since my last report:**

- 1) **New financial inclusion dashboard** – This was demonstrated to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee and received positive feedback for its ability to support early intervention and a more joined up approach to support residents in financial hardship.
- 2) **Final themed Brent Health Matters (BHM)** - (BHM) information sessions successfully delivered. This was a cross-departmental programme with approximately 200 internal and external attendees. The same approach will be used for a series of Cost of Living themed events for employees and partners over the coming months – supporting an action called for by full Council.
- 3) **Date for your diary** – we will be holding a visioning event for our Cost of Living outcome based review on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022. These sessions bring together partners working with residents to review the work of the council and bring forward new, co-designed proposals to tackle the cost of living.

### **Other news:**

- 1) I have several reports listed on the Forward Plan for upcoming Cabinet meetings including on the annual procurement strategy and technical reports on the membership of our i4b and FWH Company Boards.

I also attended the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny committee on 6 September 2022 discussing the council's response to the Cost of Living Crisis.

- 2) I am also pleased to confirm we have completed our first initial deep dive into the findings of the Census 2021. These are available on our Brent Open Data website.
- 3) We are also on track to deliver our Brent Labour Manifesto pledge to pioneer a 'Young People's Digital Support Fund'. To date 478 devices and 97 internet connections have been provided to residents. This exceeded our initial aim of 296 devices for young people in the first round. The laptops were distributed via 8 secondary schools, 5 primary schools and the virtual school.

We aim to provide hundreds more devices as part of the next fund which will be launching shortly, once the schools have restarted.

- 4) Lastly, a selection of other key statistics which demonstrate ongoing work within my portfolio:
  - We now have 111,105 residents signed up for MyAccount using the Council's website. This gives residents more control over their relationship with the council.

- We have received 114 applications to our Digital Support Fund. Of these, 73 businesses received a laptop through the fund, with training due to be completed by October 2022.
- On the same theme, 30 laptops and education licences have been provided to support the ESOL programme at Brent Start.
- Finally, there are now 105 Digital Champions across Brent. We are on track to meet our target of 500 champions by 2026.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Mili.Patel@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Mili.Patel@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning – Councillor Shama Tatler**

### **Top news since my last report:**

- 1) **July and August Planning Committee** - 363 Edgware Road, a 19 storey building creating 165 new homes and significant commercial space was approved by the Planning Committee, subject to legal agreement and conditions.

In August the Planning Committee also considered several other applications including: Rokesby Place, 2 new homes as part of the Council's infill programme, Hardinge Road, a flat conversion and Salusbury Road, a new light industrial/office unit.

- 2) **Homes in Multiple Occupation** – we are creating supplementary Planning Document – consultation underway 28<sup>th</sup> July to 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

The aim of this is to improve the quality of outcomes for HMO occupants and their neighbours in locations where HMOs are considered appropriate.

The Council has recently confirmed an Article 4 direction. This will require planning permission to be obtained for change of use from dwellings to small scale houses in multiple occupation (up to six residents) from 1st November 2022. HMOs of more than six residents are still required to obtain planning permission and the SPD contents also apply to them. The SPD on adoption will coincide with the Article 4 coming into effect and also to provide clarity on how it will interpret Policy BH7 'Accommodation with Shared Facilities or Support' of the recently adopted Local Plan.

### **Other news:**

- 1) I have several reports coming to Cabinet listed on the Forward Plan, but most importantly I'd urge members to digest the Long Term Transport Strategy when it is published, following consultation over the past months.

This is a cross portfolio piece of work setting out 2015-2035 the strategic direction for investment in transport in Brent, with the overarching aim of improving transport options for all and to reduce the negative impacts of travel on the borough.

- 2) Unfortunately like the rest of the local government sector, Brent is facing significant shortages in career grade planning officers, in turn having a knock-on effect on our turnaround times for applications. A review of grades and 2 recruitment campaigns has taken place and is beginning to yield improvements.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Shama.Tatler@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Shama.Tatler@brent.gov.uk)



## **Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection – Councillor Harbi Farah**

### **Top news since my last report:**

- 1) Unfortunately, summer for the community safety team is anything but quiet and Brent has been no stranger over the summer to some serious crimes which have impacted communities in Craven Park, Neasden and Kilburn.

One shooting is one too many and I'd like to pay tribute to both the emergency services that have responded; our community safety officers that work tirelessly behind the scenes; and finally the strength of the many families impacted.

I have continued to join the Metropolitan Police and Community Safety Officers on walkabouts in affected areas and I continue to be available for any conversation with councillors or residents as needed.

I'd like to remind members and those reading the reports, there are several crimes still the subject of ongoing police investigation.

If you have any detail whatsoever that you think would be helpful to police enquiries, you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers completely anonymously online or by: 0800 555 111.

In the meantime, we've submitted applications to the Violence Reduction Unit to increase outreach work in the community alongside CCTV monitoring and additional neighbourhood patrols.

We continue to work with Brent Housing and registered providers where there are known incidents of anti-social behaviour.

### **Other news:**

- 1) I'm really pleased to see that the Brent MPS sent their thanks to the council officers working tirelessly in the CCTV centre, highlighting in particular their professionalism in assisting with enquiries relating to the shootings in Kilburn earlier this summer.
- 2) Finally, a good news story regarding a tenant of Craven Park Road, NW10 who caused widespread nuisance resulting in multiple and frequent complaints of loud music, playing day and night. The tenant chose to ignore the council's abatement notice. Our officers secured sufficient evidence to prosecute and seize audio and amplification equipment under power of warrant. The defendant failed to attend the hearing but was fined £1836 for music noise nuisance.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Harbi.Farah@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Harbi.Farah@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care – Councillor Neil Nerva**

### **Top news since my last report:**

- 1) **Health Protection and Prevention** – I expect further detail to enter the public domain over the next 4-weeks on the full schedule ongoing routine immunisation and vaccination plans across Brent.

As members will have seen in the media, this winter the NHS and partners will be responsible for several priority vaccinations campaigns covering the Flu, Covid-19, Polio and Monkeypox.

We are as always reliant on the government and colleagues to progress the procurement and deployment of vaccines, but as members will have seen throughout the pandemic; this council and its staff are always on standby to help when asked.

The latest information and updates on each of the above are available through the following links:

#### **Monkeypox:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/monkeypox-cases-confirmed-in-england-latest-updates>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monkeypox-vaccination-resources/monkeypox-waiting-for-your-vaccination>

#### **Polio:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-children-aged-1-to-9-in-london-to-be-offered-a-dose-of-polio-vaccine>

#### **Covid-19:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-autumn-booster-resources>

### **Other news:**

- 1) **Brent Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)** - The Brent ICP brings together Health, Council and Voluntary Sector partners to tackle local inequalities and improve health and wellbeing outcomes. During 2020 and 2021 the Partnership became a key asset in tackling the impact of the pandemic and evolved quickly and organically to tackle the immense impact COVID-19 had on people and communities, and on the health and care system.

It is still early days in the role of the ICP and it is crucial that local government representation is heard at every level. However, I've included some progress so far in improving outcomes for residents.

As well as supporting the response to the pandemic, the partnership has delivered a number of projects that are improving outcomes for people in Brent.

Some examples of this include:

- Large scale events run by Brent Health Matters to support people living with Diabetes. The events were supported by staff from across the partnership including GPs, Nurses, Community co-ordinators, Community services, Health Educators,
- Voluntary Organisations, Public Health and Mental Health practitioners. Through the event 1009 health checks were given and 70 unwell people needing urgent medical attention were supported. These events received very positive feedback and were attended by groups who present less frequently at traditional health settings.
- Working together through the Dynamic Support Register process which protects children with Learning Disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder (LD and/or ASD). 9 cases were being supported in June receiving MDT support, preventing risk to the children's health and wellbeing and avoiding escalation in their care needs.
- The implementation of a UTC pilot which introduced a nurse led redirection service supporting people to be cared for in a non-acute setting, helping people receive the right treatment without long waits at UTCs and A&E. The nursing and administrative staff worked as one team with the existing UTC Hello Nurse and Patient Champion supporting a number of people to be cared for closer to home.

## **2) Mental Health - Improving access to Employment.**

This work-stream recognises that in a time where there are more vacancies than jobseekers, one of the most significant barriers to employment is mental health, both common mental illness and severe and enduring mental illness. The council, working with Jobcentre Plus, West London Alliance and a range of employment providers already has a broad offer for people, but we recognise that there are still barriers to accessing their services and we need to raise awareness and make it easier for people.

Therefore, the focus of this work-stream is to support individuals with mental illness to navigate the system and get the right support at the right time to enable them to access meaningful activities and increasing the number of mental health service users supported into employment, training, further education and volunteering opportunities.

The work is focused on:

**Service user navigation** – establishing employment referral pathways to support people with mental health secure good quality employment. joining up the system – putting together partner forums and task and finish groups with key stakeholders including NHS, WLA, DWP, Shaw Trust and Twinings to work collegiately to ensure systems approach to supporting people with mental health.

**Employment opportunities and support** – working with referral partners to source, advice and secure employment. In addition, stimulating business appetite for recruiting and supporting those with mental health conditions in the workplace, through our work with DWP on Disability Confident.

**Working with DWP** who are leading on Disability Confident, we have run a number of sessions jointly to promote Disability Confident to employers and the next session is earmarked for September 2022. Building on Council's level 3 accreditation, we are supporting our health partners and local employers to go through the assessments at levels 1, 2, and 3. With more than 50 employers identified requiring support, DWP and Employment Team are in the process of engagement, support and assessment.

The Mental Health and Employment Task Group have held a number of events. These include:

- Collaborative Coffee Mornings in April bringing together NHS Link Workers, Social Prescribers and Practitioners, DWP, Troubled Families, Brent Works, Family Wellbeing Centres, Brent Hubs, Shaw Trust, Twinning Enterprise and partners to promote the employment support and services that are available across Brent to Primary Care Practitioners working with people with mental health condition
- An event was held in June 2022 to showcase to residents all the employment support provision available for mental health service users in Brent
- A successful practitioner event in Spring 2022 showcasing employment support services for those with mental health issues and wider barriers to work "Let's talk about Mental Wellbeing" was held for residents to showcase local employment support and wider support services in July 2022
- Brent's Employment team have also been working with other partners such as Catalyst Housing, Brent Health Matters, MIND and the GP forum promoting the employment and referral pathways

Data for Quarter 1 2022/23 shows that Council's Brent Works Team and Employment Programmes supported 40 people with health issues of which 24 had mental health problems. 8 people were supported into full-time employment. CNWL is also a member of the mental health and

employment forum and they also have a range of employment support and an overview of activity is set out below:

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Neil.Nerva@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Neil.Nerva@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience – Councillor Eleanor Southwood**

### **Top news since my last report:**

- 1) **Cost of living crisis** – we are continuing to support residents with the cost of living crisis is driving everything we do.

Over summer, Brent became the first council to hand over its kitchens to a food bank – London's Community Kitchen - who made over 50000 meals for children who would receive free school meals during term time. Over 80% of ingredients used would otherwise have gone to waste. In addition, 20 people gained hospitality qualifications and were employed cooking the meals.

I'd like to pay tribute to Councillor Ryan Hack for all the work he has done in the background to further the campaign to ensure no one goes hungry this winter.

- 2) **Brent Works' Job Fair at Wembley Stadium** - The event in July was a huge success and attracted around 150 employers and over 6,400 residents. Feedback from employers has been very positive and we'll get a better picture of how many interviews and jobs were secured soon. The team will also be doing follow up work with learners at the Village School in support of our ambition to improve employment opportunities for disabled people. Plans are underway to put on an even bigger event next year.

### **Other news:**

- 1) **Meet the Buyer event** - There will be a Meet the Buyer event at the Civic on 21 September in support of our aim to ensure that more Brent businesses are able to benefit from local contracts. The theme of the event is the built environment and buyers with suitable contracts available, in the range of £25k-£100k, will be invited to attend and speak with local suppliers who could deliver this work.
- 2) **Showing our high streets some love** - High Street improvement works continue with a range of parklets/planters being installed across town centres, shutter art commissioned in Wembley and a 'strong women of Brent' mural completed. Neasden festival took place in July and events in Church End and Harlesden will take place in September.
- 3) **Joint project with Camden on Kilburn High Road** - We're embarking on our first joint project with Camden on Kilburn High Road. A major new art installation will be introduced on the Brondesbury railway bridge, spanning almost 21 metres each side. The mural will be a celebration of Kilburn's rich cultural heritage and local residents are invited to share their ideas and help shape the artwork. A public vote will take place in December to choose the final design, which will be painted next Spring. The project is being delivered by world renowned Wood Street Walls and local Kilburn artist, Linett Kamala from Lin Kam Art.

- 4) Helping SMEs with energy efficiency** - The Council has partnered with Groundwork to deliver a £220000 scheme to provide energy audits and grants to improve energy efficiency, e.g. through better insulation or heating upgrades. We expect to conduct around 50 audits and award about 20 grants, depending on the applications we get. This project will give us great data about the demand for help amongst Brent's SMEs and what kinds of intervention are most effective so we can make the case for future funding

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Eleanor.Southwood@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Eleanor.Southwood@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action – Councillor Krupa Sheth**

### **Top news since my last report:**

- 1) **Cross-borough working** – The Parks team have been working with Barnet, the GLA and CRT on finalising the Vision for Welsh Harp. We have also been liaising with other services to understand how the WHEEC can be developed to ensure future use for the benefit of the local community.
- 2) **Injection Patching Programme** - since 10<sup>th</sup> January, around 7300 defects have been repaired to date in over 200 roads. The programme is due to end this month.
- 3) **Street Lighting Energy savings** - Carbon emissions down 8.1%.
- 4) **Healthy Streets and Parking** - £341,000 of funding secured under the Green and Healthy Streets programme enabling us to provide street trees, biodiverse verges, rain gardens, green screens and bug hotels in 4 school streets in the borough.
- 5) **Meadow management during the heatwave** - The service initiated the widening of fire breaks between meadow areas and residential properties to reduce the risk of fire to any property.
- 6) **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 have developed a communications plan for engagement with residents, parents and carers. An officer will be assigned to manage resident's permits and exceptions.

### **Other news:**

- 1) I have several reports coming forward to Cabinet meetings over the coming months, including the Brent Long Term Transport Strategy Review; the Highways Capital Maintenance Programme; and the Highways Maintenance Contract.
- 2) **Dates for your diary** – A Car Free Day event is being held on Saturday 17 September from 12noon to 6pm on Church Road NW10, as part of the wider Church End festival. A section of Church Road will be pedestrianised on the day to accommodate the Church End Festival.

The Car Free Day zone will host a range of cycling activities; the community will have the chance to enjoy a variety of stalls and activities including free smoothies, games, cycle repairs, and cycle lesson taster sessions.



The wider Church End Festival is being held to celebrate the cultural heritage and community in the local area. On the day there will be free face painting, carousel rides, stilt walkers, cultural entertainment, music and as well as the opportunity to enjoy food from around the world.

Also part of the day, there will be an interactive Climate Fair where residents can learn more about the Green Neighbourhood in Church End and Roundwood, and how they can get involved. Residents have the opportunity to meet local Climate Ambassadors, get tips on cutting down food waste, learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle, and find out more on how climate, faith and culture are interconnected.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Krupa.Sheth@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Krupa.Sheth@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security – Councillor Promise Knight**

### **Top news since my last report:**

- 1) Brent Council was awarded highly commended at LGC Awards 2022 for our housing projects and initiatives. Brent was recognised for our ambitious approach to providing new affordable rented homes.
- 2) Our Neighbourhood team have completed the review of waste management strategy and capacity of bins on key sites. New bins have been delivered to sites. However, delivery of project will be phased over three years due to budgetary pressure (£100k per year commitment).
- 3) The Council has committed £30 million to wider estate improvement at St Raphael's Estate which will help deliver a temporary community building (a zero carbon building located next to Sufra), improvements to infrastructure, safety, security and a deployable CCTV.

### **Other news:**

- 1) **The effect of increasing labour and materials costs and rising inflation on New Council Homes Programme.**

We are facing up to a 12% increase on estimated tender prices for upcoming tenders and this has significant implications for the NCHP. The team are currently reviewing all our developments, with the intention to update members on current and future expectations.

- 2) **Key Service Manager Vacancies filled.**

Over the last year the property services team have found it difficult to recruit to our technical vacancies. This has also been an issue for other organisations within the industry so we are delighted to have recruited to two of our Service Manager roles.

- 3) **Data extract for selective licensing complete.**

We are working on being able to designate new areas in the borough for selective licensing when the existing scheme comes to an end next year. A key part of this process is gathering as much data as possible to support the rationale for where we implement the new scheme and to consult on the proposal. All the data has now been collected from various areas of the Council and is being analysed.

- 4) **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)**

The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) was activated to help protect rough sleepers during the heatwave. The GLA had emergency accommodation

available that we could refer people to. They are also promoted “Cool Spaces” for people to take refuge during the day. The Outreach Team distributed sun cream and water, as well as giving advice on using Brent libraries, which were designated “Cool Spaces” in the borough.

**5) Increase in Housing Needs.**

Since April 2022, the Housing Needs Service has seen a 33% increase in demand from families and single people who are either threatened with homelessness or actually homeless. This increase is being driven by evictions from the PRS, linked to affordability issues, due to rising rents across London. Other factors are a combination of the legacy of the lockdowns during the pandemic, when people lost employment or were furloughed, the current cost of living crisis, and the lifting of the PRS eviction ban in September 2021.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Promise.Knight@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Promise.Knight@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools – Councillor Gwen Grahl**

### **Top news since my last report:**

#### **1) Uptake on Brent Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme**

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme funded by the Department for Education (DfE) is for families eligible for benefits related free school meals. Schools and Family Well-Being Centres can also refer children to the programme directly.

The summer 2022 HAF programme was delivered in partnership with 37 providers who offered activities at 46 locations across Brent, and in doing so made available around 2000 multi-day places across the summer holidays. Recent data indicates over 75% of places were accessed.

Brent HAF providers included Brent schools, as well as community and voluntary sector organisations. Activities on offer included sports and games, dance, drama, music production, film making and art workshops, as well as gardening, cooking and kayaking.

Organisation for the summer 2022 programme has built on learning from previous, HAF programmes in Brent and taking feedback from young people. On 10 August 2022, at the request of the DfE, Brent hosted 3 civil servants from the DfE and the Treasury to visit the HAF programme in Brent. They visited a number of HAF sites and gave extremely positive feedback, saying they were impressed with the creativity and dedication of the programme leaders, as well as the variety of activities on offer.

#### **2) Exam results**

Following on from the disruption caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to exams in 2020 and 2021 Ofqual stated, 'that in September 2022, overall A Level, AS Level and GCSE results will be lower than in 2021 when grades were awarded by teacher assessment. Grades will be higher than in 2019, when students last sat summer exams, in recognition of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

It is therefore very pleasing that Brent's provisional A level results present a positive picture. Results for the A\*/A and A\*-C grades are above this years provisional national average. The overall pass rate for grades A\* to E is comparable with the provisional national average.

At GCSE, Brent's performance has increased since 2019 and remains above national averages in the attainment of strong pass grades (9-5), standard pass grades (9-4) and the overall pass grade (9-1).

### **3) London Road SEND School**

The new secondary Special School will provide 150 places for autistic young people. The vision for the new school is one that is rooted in the SEND Strategy 2021-25, so that every child and young person has a right to have their education, health and social care needs met within their local community; every child has the right to attend a good local school and that they 'dream big, achieve well, have choice, control and lead happy and fulfilled lives'.

The tender for the new Special School was launched in July 2022. Submissions are currently being evaluated in the local authority. This process is due to complete in September 2022. Following the 2022 SEND Review, which revealed a significant increase in SEND demand across the country, it is excellent news that Brent will be able to expand its provision for local children.

### **4) Provision of Free School Meals**

Following on from the Right to Food motion passed last full council, officers have been researching our current provision of free school meals and the feasibility of extending it.

At the time of the May 2022 school census the total number of children attending Brent schools in receipt of Free School Meals was 9,796 of a total school cohort of 48,594 (20%). For the same period in 2021, the total number of children eligible for FSM was 8,734 or 18% of the total school cohort of 48,353. Nationally in May 2022 22.5% of pupils were eligible for FSM, up from 20.8% in 2021.

There are 31,346 pupils in Years 3 to 11, of whom 7,117 are currently in receipt of Free School Meals. If all remaining 24,229 children were provided with Free School Meals it would cost £11,094,459 a year (£457.90 per child per year). The actual cost of extending Free School Meals to all children and young people would be slightly lower as some would be likely to choose to continue with packed lunches.

In the current economic climate characterised by ongoing shortfalls in council funding amidst spiralling inflation, we are not in a position to extend provision, but we are currently ahead of other councils in providing universal access to KS1 pupils. Should more funding become available I will be pushing for enhanced provision, particularly with food poverty on the rise across the borough.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Gwen.Grahl@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Gwen.Grahl@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Culture – Councillor Fleur Donnelly-Jackson**

### **Top news since my last report:**

#### **1) Community Engagement & Equalities**

- Following the NCIL and Brent Health Matters You Decide programme that took place in June and July, 59 Projects were successfully awarded funding across the 5 Brent Connects areas. Officers are working hard to ensure that all funding agreements and required due diligence is undertaken by the end of September.
- 21 Love Where You Live (LWYL) applications successful across June and July. The amount projects attract has reverted to £1000.

#### **2) Summer Reading Challenge - over 1000 children joined the campaign in July alone.**

#### **3) Women's Euros**

- Officers facilitated local residents and groups participation in the filming and workshops: local football players/ schools (Kinja Football Club; Kingsbury High), Zumba Dancers (Maggie), Football Fans (Football Supporters Association), Sujata Banjeree Dance Company, University students (Westminster University; UFCB) and Brent Council staff in the development of the artwork the Supercompensation Cycle which was staged in advance of the finals on 30<sup>th</sup> July.
- Eight workshops were held to inform the production of the Anthem to accompany the Women's Euros. The nearly 300 participants included Brent Black Music Corporation (BBMC), students from the ICMP, Silver Jubilee Park user group.
- The recording of the Anthem by the full RPO at Cadogan Hall was attended by the Silver Jubilee Park participants.
- For the performance on the 30<sup>th</sup> as part of the Brent Celebrates the WEURO 22 event, the RPO were joined by 25 local Brent musicians from BBMC, ICMP and Silver Jubilee Park.

#### **4) Citizen Lab consultations - there are multiple live consultations on Citizens Lab, including:**

- Church end masterplan/ supplementary planning document
- Have your say on Brent's Air Quality Action Plan
- Leaseholders major works repayments options

## **5) NCIL and LWYL Funding**

- Next LWYL opens August 22.
- Launch of next NCIL grant fund opens October 22. This will be a standard round rather than participatory budgeting.
- We will be publicising NCIL across Brent Connect areas utilising social media, flyer distribution, attendance at community events and engagement with Faith-based groups.

## **Other news:**

### **1) Brent Refugee Summit**

- Currently scoping an event for the end of the year, in response to motion put forward to full Council in July.
- Initial thoughts are for this to be a partnership event centred on recognising and sharing contributions from organisations to support refugees.

### **2) Library Services**

Harlesden Library will be closed from 29 August until February 2023 for refurbishment works throughout the building. The works will also bring into use a new space for community events and activities.

The project has been part funded through a successful bid to Arts Council England and DCMS for £285k.

During this period residents are encouraged to visit their nearest libraries at Kilburn and Willesden Green which are accessible via public transport from Harlesden and will be operating a full service.

Click and collect and essential computer use will be available Monday to Friday 10:30-18:00 from a library contact point based at: The Designworks, Park Parade, Harlesden, London, NW10 4HT.

The Harlesden Hub service will also be relocating to The Designworks during this period. For more information please contact [libraries@brent.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@brent.gov.uk).

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Fleur.Donnely-Jackson@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Fleur.Donnely-Jackson@brent.gov.uk)

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**Questions from the Opposition and Other Non-Cabinet Members**

**Full Council – 21 September 2022**

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

Air quality is a major concern to residents living in my ward, particularly with an increase in movements of HGVs and delivery vehicles.

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change outline the steps officers are taking to reduce the number of HGVs driving through Harlesden town centre (and other town centres around Brent) to address poor air quality?

**Response:**

We are proposing in the revised Long Term Transport Strategy to develop a Delivery and Servicing Action Plan, which will set out proposals to manage and mitigate the impacts of delivery and servicing activities in Brent. This will require working closely with businesses, freight operators, developers and other key stakeholders to explore the benefits/practicalities of retiming deliveries; introducing freight consolidation initiatives; and moving goods by more sustainable modes of transport, such as electric vans and cargo bikes. The timescale for producing the plan is still to be confirmed.

Part of the issue around Harlesden is due to a weight restriction on a nearby bridge, which means there are limited options for diverting HGV traffic around the Town Centre. This is something that needs to be looked at in more detail including whether any additional restrictions/exclusions could potentially be brought in via the London Lorry Control Scheme.

It is important to recognise that there are, however, delivery and servicing needs for businesses and shops in the Town Centre.

**2. Question from Councillor Molloy to Councillor Mili Patel, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance Resources and Reform:**

Local authorities are important customers for many of their private sector suppliers which gives them power to ensure that these services can be provided in an ethical, socially beneficial framework, including the supplier's tax conduct.

Research shows that between 2014-2019, 17.5% of UK public procurement contracts (worth £37.5 billion) were granted to businesses which use connections to a tax haven to shift their profits and thereby dodge their tax obligations. Recent polling suggests that an overwhelming majority of people believe that a company's ethics and tax practices should be taken into account when awarding public contracts.

Tax justice groups are campaigning to reform the current UK legislation that allows such companies based in tax havens to conceal their true ownership and hide their accounts.

Will Brent Council join the 30 local authorities (including Greenwich and Lambeth in London) that support this initiative by signing up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration?

**Response:**

The Fair Tax Foundation's aim is for Councils to collectively do what they can, to encourage fair tax practices amongst supplier companies when buying goods and services, and be given more powers to tackle tax dodging.

Currently there are 24 boroughs that have signed up to the Fair Tax declaration with 4 local authorities in London - Southwark, Richmond, Lambeth and Greenwich.

On becoming a Fair Tax Council, Councils can push for procurement reform at a national level, especially at this crucial time when the new Procurement Bill is advancing through the House of Lords.

The Fair Tax Foundation's main focus will be on Corporation Tax as this is only payable when the business is profitable. As part of any assessment criteria when reviewing suppliers' tax affairs, the aim is not to pick issues with organisations who are making legitimate use of any tax relief and are working in the spirit of the law but by the same token to ensure organisations are not undertaking practices whereby they are designing schemes to encourage tax avoidance.

I will be working with council officers to bring forward proposals for the Council to sign up to becoming a Fair Tax Council.

**Fair Tax Declaration**

This commits us to promoting responsible tax conduct through:

- leading by example and demonstrating good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities
- ensuring contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes
- not using offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty
- undertaking due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates
- demanding clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit & loss position
- promoting the Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due
- supporting calls for urgent reform of EU and UK law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies

**3. Question from Councillor Kennelly to Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools:**

We are really proud that in Brent all of our secondary schools are rated by Ofsted as “Good” or “Outstanding” – driven by our family of best-in-class teachers.

It has been well observed that for many students sitting their GCSE or A Level examinations this year, they are very likely to have spent more time at home than at a school desk during the pandemic.

Could the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools share a summary of results for GCSE, A Level and technical qualifications with the council setting out how our pupils have performed against the national average?

**Response:**

*Ofqual advised that ‘in September 2022, overall A Level, AS Level and GCSE results will be lower than in 2021 when grades were awarded by teacher assessment. Grades will be higher than in 2019, when students last sat summer exams, in recognition of the disruption caused by the pandemic.’*

At GCSE, Brent’s provisional results show that performance has increased since 2019 and remains above national averages in the attainment of strong pass grades (9-5), standard pass grades (9-4) and the overall pass grade (9-1).

Overall Brent’s 2022 provisional A level results present a positive picture with an overall pass rate which is comparable with the national average. The percentage of higher A\*/A grades is above the national average, as is the percentage of A\*-C grades. Brent’s performance at Level 3 vocational qualifications (for example BTEC National Diploma) is also comparable to 2019.

**4. Question from Councillor Hirani to Councillor Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care:**

On the 22 June 22 the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), working with the Medicines and Health Care products regulatory agency (MHCA), found Polio Virus collected from London Waterways in North & East London. Further testing of the water outside the initial six boroughs detected Polio Virus in Brent Waterways.

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care therefore advise:

1. From which waterways in Brent were samples taken that indicated the presence of the Polio Virus;
2. What measures Brent Council are putting in place to secure those waterways to help prevent access and reduce the potential for infection;
3. Whether samples of the water flowing in the Wealdstone Brook will be included in the analysis being undertaken by the UKHSA & the Medicines and Health Care products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and, if so, whether these will include both the water flowing in Brent as well as in Harrow;
4. Given the following statement within the UKHSA press release dated 10 August 22 ***“The level of Polio Virus found and high genetic diversity among the PV2 isolate suggests that there is some level of virus transmission in these Boroughs which may extend to adjacent areas. This suggests that transmission has gone beyond a close network of a few individuals”***. What immediate measures Brent Council are taking to monitor whether there is any indication of any individual in Brent showing potential signs of infection from the virus; and
5. What information is being put out, as a result, to Primary Schools within Brent.

**Response:**

- (1 & 3) Samples for the wastewater surveillance which detected polio virus are taken from sewage works not from waterways.
- (2) Due to the nature of our waterways through parks, it is difficult to secure them to prevent public access. However, in general people do not tend to enter our waterways unless they are participating in an organised clean up activity, which will have a suitable risk assessment carried out and protective clothing and gloves provided. We will review available signage from Public Health England and/or the Environment Agency, in case this might be appropriate for installation at certain points in Woodcock Park and Quainton Street, which offer the easiest access to waterways.

- (4) The diagnosis of infection is a matter for the NHS. All clinicians in the borough have been informed of the risk (which is low) and asked to be alert to the possibility of polio. The investigation of any possible cases will be prioritised and fast tracked. The Council's public health team will be informed should there be any possible cases and will form part of the Incident Management Team
- (5) Information is being shared with schools about Polio booster vaccinations to circulate to parents. The information includes a link to vaccination appointments to encourage parents to take up the offer of a booster vaccination.

**5. Question from Councillor Georgiou to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action:**

This summer's extreme heat, threats of drought, wildfires in our own borough, served as a further warning to us all that the climate has changed and that the Climate Emergency is the single greatest threat we face. Without urgent action, things will get a lot worse.

Brent Council's commitment to cut harmful emissions, causing high levels of toxic air in our area, can only be guaranteed if more is done to limit vehicle use and increase participation by a greater number of residents in less polluting forms of travel, like cycling.

The recent news of a Transport for London (TfL)/Department for Transport (DfT) funding settlement is an opportunity to deliver on some of the commitments around active travel that this Labour Administration has made.

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action therefore give an update:

- (a) on the short, medium, and longer-term Active Travel schemes Brent Council is working on, with deadlines for these schemes;
- (b) advise on which schemes these include, thinking about the self-assessment guidelines recently published by Active Travel England (school streets, liveable neighbourhoods, speed reduction, junction upgrades);
- (c) Specifically comment on the progress of the Beresford Avenue (Alperton ward) and Healthy Streets route (Willesden Junction to Wembley); and
- (d) Finally, explain what other barriers, outside of financial constraints, still exist to delivering much needed active travel infrastructure in our borough?

**Response:**


- (a) & (b) Work will commence shortly on the development of a Brent Active Travel Action Plan which will set out the measures and interventions that will be prioritised over the next five years with a view to improving conditions for active travel in the borough and enable more people to walk or cycle. Specific measures are still to be determined, but will likely include plans for new/improved cycling and walking infrastructure; more cycle training; development of school and business travel plans; and implementation of selective vehicle management measures such as school streets and liveable neighbourhoods.
- (c) The Beresford Avenue scheme, which was implemented as part of the ongoing St. George's development, is now largely complete and has resulted in significantly enhanced facilities and conditions for pedestrians and cyclists in the area. In terms of the Healthy Streets improvements between Wembley and Willesden Junction, work is

continuing with TfL on the design of interventions, however, proposals are still subject to consultation, approval and confirmation of funding and no definitive timescale for implementation has yet been agreed.

With respect to Cycle Future Route 23 Wembley to Willesden, discussions continue with TfL and a meeting has been arranged with Will Norman, TfL Cycling Commissioner, to discuss plans. There are some considerations to resolve around the potential impact on Wembley stadium events and TfL, Brent Officers and the FA have met to discuss the impact and any potential mitigations.

- (d) The biggest barrier outside of financial constraints is probably getting the support for schemes from our local communities. As part of the lessons learnt from the early Healthy Neighbourhoods schemes we identified the need to adopt a more collaborative approach to the various stages of design, implementation and monitoring to ensure that interventions bring about tangible benefits to those areas in which they are introduced and don't disadvantage others. However, such inclusive engagement activities are very resource intensive.



	<b>Full Council</b> 21 September 2022
	<b>Report from Director Engagement,  Strategy &amp; Communications</b>
<b>Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Council
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Five Appendix 1 Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker Appendix 2 Wembley Events Management report from Resident Services (19 July 2022) Appendix 3 Cost of Living Crisis report from Resident Services (6 September 2022) Appendix 4 Deputation received from Mr Phillip Grant RE: Poverty Commission item at Committee Meeting, 9 March 2022. Appendix 5 Committee Work Programme 2022-23
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Jason Sigba Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy & Partnerships 020 8937 2036 <a href="mailto:jason.sigba@brent.gov.uk">jason.sigba@brent.gov.uk</a>  Tom Pickup Policy, Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager Strategy & Partnerships <a href="mailto:Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk">Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</a>  Lorna Hughes, Director Engagement, Strategy & Communication 020 8937 5068 <a href="mailto:Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk">Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk</a>

## **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present Full Council with a report providing updates on the meetings and activities of the Resources and Public Realm Committee since the last Full Council meeting on 11 July 2022.

## **2 Recommendation**

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

## **3 Detail**

- 3.1. Brent Council has two scrutiny committees; the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The Council is also a member of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC).
- 3.2. A scrutiny committee can look at anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit.
- 3.3. Brent Council Standing Orders allow for the chairs of the scrutiny committees to report to ordinary Council meetings on the activities of their committees<sup>1</sup>.

### The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

- 3.4. 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<sup>2</sup>. The remit of the Committee includes:

*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.*

- 3.5. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s123308/Part%202%20April%202022%20Procedural%20Rules.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Brent Council Constitution Part 4.

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s123310/Part%204%20May%202022%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20.pdf>

### **2023/23 update**

- 3.6. Since the last update to Full Council on 11 July 2022 the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee has met two times (19 July 2022 and 6 September 2022).

#### **19 July 2022**

- 3.7. The Committee heard from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finances, Resources and Reform, Councillor Mili Patel, and received a report from Finance and Resources on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The report highlighted the uncertainties and risks with regard to budget setting, as part of the process of setting the Council's budget for the year 2023/24. It was acknowledged that the report reflected financial uncertainty in the national economy, owing to factors such as Covid-19, high levels of inflation and the global impact of the war in Ukraine. Due to the lack of clarity around future levels of funding for local government, the Committee were advised that it was difficult to be precise around future financial targets. Nonetheless, the current working assumption was that £28 million of savings would need to be made. These estimates would be a major factor in the construction of the Council's budget for 2023/24. At the end of the discussion, the Committee made the following suggestion for improvement: Schools deficit area of the financial outlook to be effectively scrutinised by the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (CWB). This has since been accepted by Councillor Ketan Sheth, the Chair of Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, whereby this substantive item will be covered at their committee meeting on 22 September 2022 as part of the 'Implementation of SEND review and high needs block' item.
- 3.8. Members received an update on the Council's Digital Inclusion Strategy, leading to the following suggestions for improvement, all of which have now received full responses from Council departments (refer to Appendix 1):
1. Undertake further consultation with the community and our voluntary sector to identify gaps in the current strategy.
  2. Involve councillors to identify gaps in the strategy and to assist with championing the strategy provisions.
  3. Digital Champions Network – recruit, train and resource digital champions from marginalised and disenfranchised communities.
  4. Re-launch the Network as a programme/scheme to raise its profile
- 3.9. Further to the Resources and Public Realm Committee meeting on 9 March 2022, members were updated by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure, and Climate Action, Councillor Krupa Sheth and senior officers on progress to implement the recommendations of Baroness Casey following the events of the Euro 2020 men's football final at Wembley stadium (Appendix 2). At the end of the discussion, the Committee made the following suggestions for improvement to Resident Services and the Football Association (FA), all of which have now received full responses (refer to Appendix 2):

1. All relevant partners (including landowners, housing associations etc.) should be brought together to review current security provision in the Wembley events area, including identification of responsibilities and jurisdictions to rectify gaps.
  2. There should be a clear and robust relationship between the Council, FA, SSE Arena and Wembley Stadium to:
    - a. share event information about events in advance to local partners including the Council and Police;
    - b. to engage with residents;
    - c. to look at signage to aid route planning/traffic management and;
    - d. to uphold enforcement agreements
  3. For the Council and any other partners involved to consult with local councillors, residents and key partners to gather information on traffic management arrangements to review how effectively they are responding to congestion hotspots identified by councillors, residents and partners.
  4. Make better use of resources including ward councillors' local knowledge and information gathering role, as they can provide community feedback on local issues.
  5. That the recommendations for this item go beyond the Casey Review, as subsequent updates will focus on overall partnership management of events around Wembley.
  6. For the FA, Wembley Stadium and Arena to promote public transport for events, particularly concerts.
  7. That the FA community factsheet with travel diversions, road closures and other useful information is shared widely. Please include councillors on dissemination lists in addition to partners and residents.
  8. Look at North End Road to identify the effects events have in terms of traffic, dispersal of people and anti-social behaviour to amend traffic management arrangements to alleviate the impact in these hotspots.
- 3.10. Further to the Full Council report of 11 July 2022, the Committee agreed the scrutiny work plan for the 2022-23 municipal year; The work plan will be regularly reviewed by the Committee and updated accordingly where necessary.

#### 6 September 2022

- 3.11. The Committee heard from the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy & Citizen Experience, Councillor Eleanor Southwood, and received a report from Resident Services on the actions the Council is taking to mitigate the impact of the Cost of Living crisis on Brent residents (refer to Appendix 3). Members put forward a number of questions/concerns relating to the effectiveness of Council initiatives, and as such how they would be funded moving forward, taking into consideration dwindling budgets and the fact that the cost of living crisis could last for years to come. Members also reviewed specific timescales/milestones of initiatives; and questioned how the Council is ensuring the engagement/consultation taking place as part of the cost of living activity is representative of the diversity of our residents (e.g. considers the views/needs of those from different ethnicities such as Black/Asian communities, and those who need extra support such as residents with disabilities). At the end of the

discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations and suggestions for improvement:

Recommendations to Cabinet:

1. Lobby central government for increase to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates to help alleviate the burden of the cost of living crisis on residents.

Suggestions for Improvement made to Resident Services:

1. Improve our publicity of credit unions within the borough, highlighting how residents can use these services to navigate the cost of living crisis.
2. Explore co-operative options<sup>3</sup> with regards to the Community Shop model referenced in the paper from Resident Services (refer to Appendix 3).
3. Incorporate NHS support for residents into the Council's Cost of Living communications plan.
4. Use Council's role and relationship with the NHS to lobby for more support for our residents to strengthen our efforts in helping them through the cost of living crisis.

3.12. Under 'Matters of Local Concern', Councillor Conneely referenced a deputation received from Mr Phillip Grant at the Committee Meeting on 9 March 2022 (refer to Appendix 4). The Committee have since received information from Council departments reassuring the Committee about the quality and accuracy of the information that was presented to the Committee on 9 March 2022. The Chair flagged that it is important that the Committee and council officers are clear and transparent in their communications (e.g. not using acronyms, using up to date terminology etc) when asking for and sharing information in public meetings. This is so residents observing committee meetings can be confident in the information that is being shared. Nevertheless, it was reiterated that issues relating to the affordability in our housing stock is a significant concern for both scrutiny committees, as well as for the Cabinet, and our residents.

3.13. Committee members also agreed the establishment of a Scrutiny Budget Task and Finish Group, consisting of members from both the Resources and Public Realm and Community and Wellbeing committees. These members are Councillor Rita Conneely (Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Committee), Councillor Ketan Sheth (Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Committee), Councillor Tom Miller, Councillor Jayanti Patel, Councillor Diana Collymore, and Councillor Hannah Matin. The Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Committee, presented a scoping paper whereby committee members then agreed the scope and terms of reference for the upcoming Task Group. It was noted that the task group would bring an evidence-based recommendations report on Cabinet's draft budget proposals for 2023-24 to the Resources and Public Realm Committee meeting on 24 January 2022 to then be discussed and agreed by the Committee. It was also stressed that members

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<sup>3</sup> Cooperative options aim to give people more involvement and control over the services they use by putting council resources in their hands. This means delivering services in partnership with communities, rather than to communities.

of both scrutiny committees who are not members of the task group would have opportunities to feed into the task group process to raise any financial areas of concerns requiring scrutiny. Nonetheless, a report from the Committee would then be presented to Cabinet for consideration in February 2023, alongside the report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources on final budget proposals.

- 3.14. The Chair of the Committee went on to highlight that changes had been made to the Scrutiny Work Plan 2022/23 (Appendix 5). It was echoed that the Work Plan is a living, flexible document, responsive to the needs of Brent residents.
- 3.15. Lastly, the Chair flagged the Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker, which has assisted the Committee in monitoring the progress of recommendations, suggestions, and information requests made by members in past committee meetings. The Chair highlighted that in addition to the improvement suggestions tabled in the Tracker (Appendix 1), that it had been stressed to Council departments to be proactive in involving councillors and voluntary partners in consultation/engagement activity. The Chair also referenced the suggestions for improvement made to the FA (Appendix 2), noting that we have already seen an improvement in the relationship between local councillors and Wembley Stadium. For instance, ward councillors will be invited to attend the quarterly Wembley Stadium Residents and Businesses Liaison meeting to discuss and be consulted on matters such as security provision and traffic management on event days.

Next meeting: 8 November 2022

- 3.16. The next meeting of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee will be held on 8 November 2022. As it currently stands, members will review the following papers:
1. An update on Council Grant Programmes
  2. Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report
  3. Quarter 2 Financial Report 2022/23
- 3.17. As highlighted in paragraph 3.14, the Scrutiny work plan (Appendix 5) is a living document, where agenda items could be subject to change ahead of the next Committee meeting.

#### **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 arising from this report.

## **7 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**


7.1 Councillors will discuss this report at the Council meeting.

**Report sign off:**

**Lorna Hughes,**  
Director of Engagement, Strategy &  
Communications

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	<b>Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee</b> 6 September 2022
	<b>Report from the Head of Strategy and Partnerships</b>
<b>Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key Decision
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	1
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Jason Sigba, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk">Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk</a>  Tom Pickup, Policy Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk">Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</a>  Lorna Hughes, Head of Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk">Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

## 2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the progress of the previous recommendations, suggestions, and information requests of the Committee be noted (Appendix 1).

## 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Recommendations Tracker tabled at for the 6 September meeting relates to the forthcoming 2022 – 2023 municipal year. It contains one update from the

previous municipal year from the 9 February 2022 meeting on the item relating to flooding.

- 3.2** In accordance with Part 4 of the Brent Council Constitution (Standing Orders of Committees), Brent Council scrutiny committees may make recommendations to the Full Council or the Cabinet with respect to any functions which are the responsibility of the Executive, or of any functions which are not the responsibility of the Executive, or on matters which affect the borough or its inhabitants.
- 3.3** The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee may not make executive decisions. Scrutiny recommendations therefore require consideration and decision by the appropriate decision maker; the Cabinet or Full Council for policy and budgetary decisions.
- 3.4** The Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker (attached in Appendix 1) provides a summary of scrutiny recommendations made during the municipal year, in order to track executive decisions and any implementation progress. It also includes suggestions of improvement and information requests, as captured in the minutes of the committee meetings.
- 3.5** Recommendations are removed from the tracker when they have been rejected or when implemented successfully and the review date has passed. This is the same for suggestions of improvement and information requests.

#### **4.0 Procedure for Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees**

- 4.1** Where scrutiny committees make recommendations to the Cabinet, these will be referred to the Cabinet requesting an Executive Response and the issue will be published on the Council's Forward Plan. This will instigate the preparation of a report to Cabinet and the necessary consideration of the response.
- 4.2** Where scrutiny committees develop reports or recommendations to Full Council (e.g. in the case of policy and budgetary decisions), the same process will be followed, with a report to Cabinet to agree an Executive Response, and thereafter, a report to Full Council for consideration of the scrutiny report and recommendations along with the Cabinet's response.
- 4.3** Where scrutiny committees have powers under their terms of reference to make reports or recommendations to external decision makers (e.g. NHS bodies), the relevant external decision maker shall be notified in writing, providing them with a copy of the Committee's report and recommendations, and requesting a response.
- 4.4** Once the Executive Response has been agreed, the scrutiny committee shall receive a report to receive the response and the Committee may review implementation of the Executive's decisions after such a period as these may reasonably be implemented (review date).

#### **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1** There are no financial implications for the purposes of this report.

## **6.0 Legal Implications**

- 6.1** Section 9F, Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000, *Overview and scrutiny committees: functions*, requires that Executive arrangements by a local authority must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committees have the power to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are or are not the responsibility of the executive, or on matters which affect the Authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.
- 6.2** Section 9FE, *Duty of authority or executive to respond to overview and scrutiny committee*, requires that the authority or executive;-
- (a) consider the report or recommendations,
  - (b) respond to the overview and scrutiny committee indicating what (if any) action the authority, or the executive, proposes to take,
  - (c) if the overview and scrutiny committee has published the report or recommendations, publish the response, within two months beginning with the date on which the authority or executive received the report or recommendations.

## **7.0 Equality Implications**

- 7.1** There are no equality implications for the purposes of this report.

## **8.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

- 8.1** None for the purposes of this report.

### **Report sign off:**

**Lorna Hughes**  
Head of Strategy and Partnerships

## Appendix 1

### Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Scrutiny Tracker 2022-23

These tables are to track the progress of scrutiny recommendations and suggestions for improvement made by the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, with details provided by the relevant lead departments. It is a standing item on the Committee's agendas, so that the Committee can keep track of the recommendations, suggestions and requests it has made, and the related the decisions made and implementation status. The tracker lists the recommendations, suggestions and information requests made by the committee throughout a municipal year and any recommendations not fully implemented from previous years.

The tracker documents the scrutiny recommendations to Cabinet made, the dates when they were made, the decision maker who can make each decision in respect of the recommendations, the date the decision was made and the actual decision taken. The executive decision taken may be the same as the scrutiny recommendation (e.g. the recommendation was "agreed") or it may be a different decision, which should be clarified here. The tracker also asks if the respective executive decisions have been implemented and this should be updated accordingly throughout the year.

Scrutiny Task Group report recommendations should be included here but referenced collectively (e.g. the name of the scrutiny inquiry and date of the agreement of the scrutiny report and recommendations by the scrutiny committee, along with the respective dates when the decision maker(s) considered and responded to the report and recommendations. The Committee should generally review the implementation of scrutiny task group report recommendations separately with stand-alone agenda items at relevant junctures – e.g. the Executive Response to a scrutiny report and after six months or a year, or upon expected implementation of the agreed recommendation of report. The "Expected Implementation Date" should provide an indication of a suitable time for review.

#### **Key:**

**Date of scrutiny committee meeting** - For each table, the date of scrutiny committee meeting when the recommendation was made is provided in the subtitle header.

**Subject** – this is the item title on the committee's agenda; the subject being considered.

**Scrutiny Recommendation** – This is the text of the scrutiny recommendation as it appears on the minutes – **in bold**.

**Decision Maker** – the decision maker for the recommendation, (**in bold**), e.g. the Cabinet (for Council executive decisions), full Council (for Council policy and budgetary decisions), or an NHS executive body for recommendations to the NHS. In brackets, (date), the date on which the Executive Response was made.

**Executive Response** – The response of the decision maker (e.g. Cabinet decision) for the recommendation. This should be the executive decision as recorded in the minutes. The Executive Response should provide details of what, if anything, the executive will do in response to the scrutiny recommendation. Ideally, the Executive Response will include a decision to either agree/reject/or amend the scrutiny recommendation and where the scrutiny recommendation is rejected, provide an explanation of why. In brackets, provide the date of Cabinet/executive meeting that considered the scrutiny recommendation and made the decision.

**Department** – the Council directorate (and/or external agencies) that are responsible for implementation of the agreed executive decision/response. Also provided, for reference only, the relevant Cabinet Member and strategic director.


**Implementation Status** – This is the progress of any implementation of the agreed Executive Response against key milestones. This may cross reference to any specific actions and deadlines that may be provided in the Executive Response. This should be as specific and quantifiable as possible. This should also provide, as far as possible, any evidenced outcomes or improvements resulting from implementation.

**Review Date** - This is the expected date when the agreed Executive Response should be fully implemented and when the scrutiny committee may usefully review the implementation and any evidenced outcomes (e.g. service improvements). (Note: this is the implementation of the agreed Executive Response, which may not be the same as the scrutiny recommendation).

**Recorded Recommendations to Cabinet from RPRS. Thursday. 19 July 2022**

Subject	Scrutiny Recommendation	Decision Maker & Executive Response	Cabinet Member, Lead Officer, and Department	Implementation Status	Review date
<b>Wembley Events Management</b>	That Cabinet review the abuse/use of parking permits on event days at Wembley Park.	To follow.	Cllr Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action  Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services	To follow.	tbc

**Recorded suggestions for improvement from RPRSC to Council departments/partners**

Meeting date and agenda item	Suggestions for improvement	Council Department/External Partner	Responses / Status
19 July 2022 – <b>Digital Inclusion</b>	Undertake further consultation with the community and VCS to identify the gaps there in the current strategy.	Resident Services	As part of the development of the Digital Strategy 2022-26, both community and voluntary organisations were consulted on priority areas and opportunities to develop the digital skills and connectivity of the borough. Part of this consultation was completed with the Digital Inclusion network where both internal and external stakeholders meet on a quarterly basis. We will continue to work with the network to identify and fill any gaps.
	Involve councillors to identify gaps in the strategy and to assist with championing the strategy provisions	Resident Services	 <p>Organisation list for Digital Inclusion</p> <p>Attached is a list of all community and voluntary sector partners who have been consulted for the Digital Strategy and specific Digital Inclusion research. We are open to engaging with other members of the community and voluntary</p>

			organisations. If members would like to share any suggested partners please send any details to <a href="mailto:madeleine.leathley@brent.gov.uk">madeleine.leathley@brent.gov.uk</a>
	Digital Champions Network – recruit, train and resource champions from marginalised and disenfranchised communities in this area.	Resident Services	To support the digital inclusion work, we also continue to promote the rollout of digital champions across the borough. For the next stages of the project we are promoting this opportunity to additional council frontline services, e.g. customer services, housing providers and key voluntary partners. As we continue to develop the programme we will expand the offer to community groups and residents who would like to become digital champions outside of an existing voluntary organisation, including those from marginalised communities.
	Re-launch the network as a programme/scheme to raise the profile of the network.	Resident Services	We continue to regularly meet with community and voluntary organisations to share digital inclusion opportunities, challenges and areas that require further support through the Digital Inclusion network. We also continue to promote the network via CVS Brent, MyHealthMatters forums and through other streams of stakeholder engagement and will be participating in the cost of living information session in September to promote the network and upcoming opportunities. We welcome opportunities to promote the Digital Inclusion programme and network to other relevant partners.
19 July 2022 – <b>Wembley Events Management</b>	All relevant partners (including landowners, housing associations etc.) should be brought together to review current security provision in the Wembley events area including identification of responsibilities and jurisdictions to rectify gaps.	Resident Services	The Football Association (FA) conducts a quarterly liaison meeting with local residents groups and businesses. The purpose of these is to impart information with respect to upcoming events, to seek reflections on past events, to receive and respond to any issues, and to make arrangements for these issues to be accounted for in terms of any operational change that might be needed. These are facilitated and organised by the Stadium, and the Council has no role other than being an attendee.
	For the FA, Wembley Stadium and Arena to promote public transport for events particularly concerts.	Resident Services/FA	Resident Services: These agencies regularly promote their venues as public transport venues, and this information is provided on ticket booking sites and on issued tickets, etc. The vast majority of visitors to these venues use underground services to Wembley Park Station.

			<p>FA:</p> <p>Wembley Stadium considers itself to be a public transport stadium, where public transport forms on average 85% of total spectator mode share at the stadium; a world-class example and statistic to promote sustainability at the stadium. Maintaining this average has recently been a discernible challenge in light of recent RMT and ASLEF strike action, however, public transport still forms the largest mode share of travel at the stadium irrespective of recent disruption to the rail network.</p> <p>We have collected the concert mode shares randomly for Harry Styles on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and Ed Sheeran on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 for information and public transport formed 78% and 88% of total spectator movements respectively.</p>
	The recommendations for this item go beyond the Casey Review. Subsequent updates will focus on overall partnership management of events around Wembley.	Resident Services	That is accepted and agreed.
	Making better use of resources including ward councillors' local knowledge and information gathering role. They can provide community feedback on local issues.	Resident Services	Ward Councillors are to be invited to the quarterly Wembley Stadium Residents and Businesses Liaison meeting, the formal forum for stakeholder discussion and feedback.
	That the FA community factsheet with travel diversions, road closures and other useful information is shared widely. Please include councillors on dissemination lists in addition to partners and residents.	FA	<p>This request has been noted, and the FA will ensure that councillors are added to the distribution list as requested. The most recent community factsheet can be found below:</p> <div data-bbox="1182 1150 1236 1209" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>FA Community Factsheet.pdf</p>






	<p>There should be a clear and robust relationship between the council and FA, SSE Arena and Wembley Stadium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to share event information about events in advance to local partners including the council and police.</li> <li>• to engage with residents.</li> <li>• to look at signage to aid route planning/traffic management</li> <li>• to uphold enforcement agreements.</li> </ul>	Resident Services	<p>The Wembley Stadium Safety Advisory Group (WSAG) is the principal forum for bringing together relevant agencies to plan for upcoming events at Wembley Stadium. These matters are routinely discussed and acted upon by all WSAG partners. This forum is supported by sub-groups such as the, Wembley Stadium Transport Planning Group, the External Operations Coordination Group and the Wembley Stadium Security Partners Group.</p>
	<p>For the council and any other partners involved to consult with local councillors, residents and key partners to gather information on traffic management arrangements to review how effectively they are responding to congestion hotspots identified by councillors, residents and partners.</p>	Resident Services	<p>Ward Councillors are invited to attend the quarterly Wembley Stadium Residents and Businesses Liaison meeting, where such matters are routinely consulted upon and discussed by all partners and stakeholders. Any issues can be flagged outside these meetings to the Council's Highways Management Service.</p>
	<p>Look at North End Road (identified by a committee member as pinch point) to identify the effects events have in terms of traffic, dispersal of people and anti-social behaviour to amend traffic management arrangements to alleviate the impact in these hotspots.</p>	Resident Services	<p>North End Road can become busy after events as people make their way to areas north of the Stadium and also by people who may seek to circumnavigate the formal queuing system that leads to the underground station.</p> <p>The location is routinely monitored by the Stadium Control and by teams on the ground. The Police, Stadium stewards and Council enforcement teams can be deployed to deal with any issues as soon as they become known.</p>

			The event traffic management arrangements are organised by Wembley Stadium and we will make them aware of specific traffic concerns relating to this location. Residents are advised to attend the liaison meeting so this matter can also be raised directly. The Stadium will, be interested in specific details so they can review and revise current traffic management deployment.
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#### **Information requests from RPRSC to Council departments/partners**


<b>Meeting date and agenda item</b>	<b>Information requests</b>	<b>Council Department/External Partner</b>	<b>Responses / Status</b>
9 February 2022 – <b>Flooding</b>	To receive a copy of the independent review into the events of and response to the floods experienced across London in July when published and Thames Water's response to the review	Thames Water	<p>Information has been requested and will be provided later in the calendar year. Ahead of the publication of the full report a series of interim reports will be published covering aspects of the flooding and the first one is due imminently. More details about the review can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Stage 1 report can be found here: <a href="https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-1-report/">https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-1-report/</a>  Stage 2 report can be found here: <a href="https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-2-report/">https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-2-report/</a>  Stage 3 report can be found here: <a href="https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-3-report/">https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-3-report/</a></p>
19 July 2022 - <b>Medium Term Financial Outlook</b>	<p><i>Councillors raised concerns about vulnerable residents of other boroughs being placed in housing within Brent. How does the council protect itself against taking on the care and support costs of residents who were the responsibility of other local authorities?</i></p> <p>A fuller response from Housing/Resident Services on this</p>	Finance and Resources	<p>There is nothing stopping other local authorities using accommodation in Brent. However it is more complex as it depends on the intension of the placement. For instance, if it is a temporary placement, the placing borough holds the responsibility of ensuring the person receives the correct support.</p> <p>Housing do not have any involvement with a household who have been placed in our borough by another local authority. If this placement has been made to discharge a duty under homelessness legislation, then the placing borough should notify us in writing, giving details of the property, and the household placed, and confirming which duty they have discharged by making the placement.</p>

	question has been requested. Is there a process and what is it?		If a person is placed in a residential or nursing placement we will get involved if there is a safeguarding issue in that home.															
	A breakdown of housing to be provided including data to show shift from private to council provided accommodation.	Finance and Resources	<p>The Council has recently built 2 emergency accommodation schemes in Harlesden, to reduce our use of Temporary Accommodation in the private sector. One scheme is exclusively used for families and the second for single homeless households. A site has been acquired on the Edgware Road to develop a third emergency accommodation scheme, which will be used to accommodate homeless families.</p> <p>Due to the gulf between the supply and demand for social housing in Brent, the council uses Private Rented Sector (PRS) accommodation to end the main homelessness duty. The table below shows the number of allocations of PRS properties made each year to end the main homeless duty, and the number of social housing allocations made via the Housing Register.</p> <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>number of PRS allocations</th><th>number of social housing allocations</th></tr><tr><td>2021/22</td><td>198</td><td>738</td></tr><tr><td>2020/21</td><td>208</td><td>761</td></tr><tr><td>2019/20</td><td>128</td><td>512</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>534</b></td><td><b>2011</b></td></tr></table>	Year	number of PRS allocations	number of social housing allocations	2021/22	198	738	2020/21	208	761	2019/20	128	512	<b>Total</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>2011</b>
Year	number of PRS allocations	number of social housing allocations																
2021/22	198	738																
2020/21	208	761																
2019/20	128	512																
<b>Total</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>2011</b>																
19 July 2022 – <b>Digital Inclusion</b>	Provide a list of VCS groups the council is working with so members can co-ordinate their own assistance.	Resident Services	 Organisation list for Digital Inclusion															
19 July 2022 – <b>Wembley Events Management</b>	Request list of resident associations, which currently attend the liaison committee. Provide this information to all relevant councillors and include them in the committee’s work.	FA	<p>Please refer to the meeting minutes of the previous quarterly Resident &amp; Businesses Liaison meeting:</p>  FA meeting minutes.pdf															

	<p>Request feedback from FA on what their engagement with residents has been. Data (numbers, frequency, spread/areas, who has been consulted) on engagement levels and headline findings and how feedback has been incorporated into practice and procedures going forward.</p>	FA	<p>Resident and business engagement and feedback is important to the FA to minimise local impact of stadium events as reasonably possible. We hold quarterly Resident &amp; Businesses meetings which provide a forum to raise any local issues or questions. The meeting minutes of the previous meeting this year can be found below:</p> <p> FA meeting minutes.pdf</p> <p>Within the latest meeting, an opportunity was shared for local residents to apply for the CSR Apprenticeship role.</p> <p>The residents have also been offered a community ticket allocation for events at the stadium when there has been capacity to do so. As per the latest meeting minutes, we have been fortunate to invite residents to over 50% of events held at the stadium this year.</p> <p>The next Residents &amp; Businesses meeting will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 18:00 at Wembley Stadium, all Councillors have been sent an invitation to attend.</p> <p>It is not within our capacity to share the list of residents engaged with due to GDPR, however, the following Resident Associations have been in contact with the FA for reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archery Court;</li> <li>• Marathon House;</li> <li>• Raglan Court;</li> <li>• Barn Hill;</li> <li>• Park Lane;</li> <li>• Hillcroft Crescent;</li> <li>• Wembley Park;</li> <li>• Wembley Central and Alperton;</li> <li>• Dollis Hill;</li> <li>• Sudbury Town;</li> <li>• Mapesbury;</li> <li>• Quintain Living;</li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danes and Empire Neighbourhood Group;</li> <li>• Kensal Triangle;</li> <li>• Sudbury Court;</li> <li>• Cairnfield; and</li> <li>• Cromwell and Burns.</li> </ul>
	Cllr Sheth agreed a procedure for councillors and officers on the ground to escalate anti-social behaviour concerns on event days. Confirm the procedure in place if there is one.	Resident Services	Operational Control of event day arrangements is orchestrated through the Stadium Control Room, with the Match Commander as lead. As such, there is well-established and clearly-defined process of control and escalation in place. All Brent officers are linked via telecommunications so matters can be reported and shared with colleagues and partners instantly.

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 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee</b>  <b>19 July 2022</b>
	<b>Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration &amp; Environment</b>
<b>Wembley Events Management</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	N/A
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non Key Decision
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Chris Whyte - Operational Director Environmental Services. Chris.Whyte@brent.gov.uk

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the progress made by partners on the implementation of the recommendations made by Baroness Casey following the UEFA Euros 2020 England v Italy football match at Wembley.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That this update submitted by the Regeneration & Environment Department be noted.

## 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Euro 2020 Final at Wembley Stadium was blighted by unacceptable levels of casual street-drinking that ultimately led to shocking scenes of fan disorder and anti-social behaviour. These scenes created an unwanted world-wide news story that reflected badly on the organisation of the tournament, and on the preparations made by key agencies, including the police, the Football Association and Wembley Stadium, and Brent Council as the local authority.

**3.2** The FA commissioned an independent review, led by Baroness Casey, to establish the reasons for the disorder and to provide recommendations to ensure there is no repeat in the future.

**3.3** A summary of Baroness Casey's findings that are relevant for present purposes are:

- There was evidence of overnight drinking as early as 9am on the match day.
- By mid-day over 10,000 fans had arrived in Wembley area, many of whom had travelled in on public transport (buses, national rail and tube).
- Many of the fans were in possession of large amounts of alcohol.
- Some of the fans were already drunk on arrival.
- There was insufficient enforcement of the ban on consuming alcohol on public transport in London.
- There is a lack of enforcement mechanisms available to respond to (and deter) the kind of behaviour witnessed at that Final.
- Planning for crowd control for the Final did not match the 'occasion'.
- The reckless and life endangering anti-social behaviour that ensued was caused largely by people who were under the influence of alcohol / and or drugs.

The Review made five recommendations for national consideration and two specifically for the FA and Wembley and its partners, including Brent.

**3.4** Recommendation 1 of the Review requires that the Government considers a new category for football matches of 'national significance'. The Review found that the majority of partners treated the Euro final as another match albeit a significant one, rather than an event of national significance. As a result, the security arrangements surrounding the Final were underpowered and public safety was not given the prominence it deserved. The recommendation requires that, in the future, there should be a new category for football matches of 'national significance', with the police, and other key partners setting out what steps should be taken for such matches. Importantly for Brent, as the Licensing Authority, this should include enhanced enforcement of bans on alcohol consumption in designated public spaces.

**3.5** Recommendation 3 of the Review requires that the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA), the events industry, the police and local government agree on a way forward on who is accountable for Zone Ex. The question of who was responsible for public safety on Olympic Way was a contributing factor to the inability to deal with the disorder seen in the build-up to kick-off at the Final. The police and stadium operators have for many years contested the issue of who



is responsible for safety and security in Zone Ex (the area of public space outside the stadium used by supporters) and the financing of it remains a contested issue. The recommendation reflects that this should be resolved.

- 3.6 In response, Brent gave its commitment to working with the key neighbouring agencies to ensure these recommendations are complied with in full. A new, energetic and more resilient tri-partite collaboration (known as 'Best in Class') has since been agreed and activated with the FA and Wembley Stadium, and with Quintain. All parties have agreed joint action is needed to fundamentally improve and coordinate operations in Zone Ex on match days. All are now signed up to a renewed and sustained programme of investment in enhanced infrastructure and resources.

### **Best in Class Project**

- 3.8 The 'Best in Class' project has been created in order to help identify the gaps that sit between the three key partners. These gaps are those activities and/or initiatives which exist outside the three key partners' statutory responsibilities. There is a mutual understanding by all parties, however, that whilst these issues do not directly sit with one group, these initiatives and activities need to be addressed collectively by all primary stakeholders. The 'Best in Class' project aims to tackle four key strategic objectives. These are: Enforcement, Wayfinding, Traffic Management and Sustainability.
- 3.9 This programme now assumes a very high priority as a consequence of the recommendations of the Casey Review.
- 3.10 From this, a key responsibility for the Council has been to review licensing arrangements with respect to off-sales of alcohol in the local area. These are considered to contribute to problems associated with street-drinking in Zone Ex on match days.
- 3.11 Over recent months, we have taken forward a robust twin-track approach to review and change, as follows –
- A short-term (and ongoing) approach with the police and partners to prevent alcohol off-sales to street drinkers on event days. This is a statement of intent that sets a new culture.
  - This will be married to a longer-term (and more intricate) process to review the current legislation and the pre-existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) enforcement framework to change relevant licensing conditions at relevant premises in a more fundamental way. That will seek to impose a more resilient and fully consistent set of conditions that prevent alcohol-related ASB over the longer term.
- 3.12 Licensing and enforcement interventions are therefore now imposed by the Council and the partner agencies at each match.
- 3.13 The arrangements that are now implemented are set out below –

- A full Council enforcement resource that has successfully exercised existing PSPO powers to enforce against street-drinking and urination, ASB, illegal trading, ticket-touting, and the use of flares/pyrotechnics, by applying a zero-tolerance approach for the first time.
  - Enforcement of licensing restrictions on retail premises within the PSPO no-drinking zone.
  - Agreement with event partners to provide –
    - Improved signage.
    - Dedicated drinking zones to contain and manage casual outdoors drinking.
    - Pre-messaging to supporters and the general public.
    - A full stewarding and policing resource to support the PSPO approach.
    - Full training for these staff.
    - Bins for can/bottle confiscation
    - A new Zone Ex control room for the events.
    - Full commitment from the police to greater numbers and an earlier deployment compared to the Euro Final
    - Dedicated enforcement against illegal street trading, ticket touting, the use of flares and pyrotechnics, street urination, and ASB
    - A greater number of public toilets
    - Better fencing and segregation
    - Regular tannoy information announcements
    - A commitment from train companies to ban the carriage of excessive alcohol on their trains to London.
    - Ongoing communications by the FA, the clubs, the police, BTP and a commitment to the need to educate and publicise a very clear message on this new approach.
- 3.14 Brent officers now work successfully with the many off-licence premises in and around Zone Ex to advise on the street-drinking culture at Wembley Stadium events, the problems associated with the supply of alcohol, the effects of this on high levels of street-drinking and also their specific responsibility as retailers under their Premises Licence to assist in reducing this. Any failure by any off-licence to uphold the licensing objectives, may result in a review of their Premises Licence, with additional conditions or a revocation of their licence being requested.
- 3.15 These premises have been advised that since 2017 Brent Council has administered the PSPO across the entire Borough of Brent, which amongst other factors, aims to prevent street-drinking. It's been made clear that the reasonable response to the Casey Review is for the Council to make a commitment to eradicating street-drinking on Wembley Stadium match days by banning the consumption of alcohol in open public spaces.
- 3.16 Knowingly selling alcohol to customers who consume alcohol in the street is a breach of an off-licence's responsibility, as there is a clear link between street-

drinking and the ASB and criminal and disorderly behaviour we are seeking to remove. In effect, it means that, if they sell alcohol under these circumstances, they would effectively be aiding and abetting customers in breaching the PSPO. The Council, for the first time, is now properly requiring their full co-operation to assist in guaranteeing a street-drinking-free zone during Wembley Stadium match days. In order to achieve this, we have asked that they only-

- Recognise those customers that are likely to consume alcohol in the street (retail is still possible to other customers).
- Refuse the sale of alcohol to anyone that is likely to drink alcohol in the street
- Refrain from increasing their store set-up to include additional alcohol for the purpose of match days
- Voluntarily cease selling alcohol in glass vessels including all wines, beers and ciders and where possible cease selling any alcohol on match days.

3.17 This requirement has been communicated to all premises and the response has been mostly favourable. The monitoring of compliance on match days is a key task as evidence is necessary for any firmer action to be applied at subsequent matches. Premises are still able to sell alcohol to regular local customers. The ban is on retail to obvious football fans only.

3.18 It is appreciated that this approach may be seen as detrimental to business but we believe that by using it to prevent the scenes of last year it is a very positive move overall, with the social and community benefits outweighing any inconvenience to the off-licenses. Our advice to these businesses is that this will help ensure the problems are avoided, it will remove pressures on them from drunken fans and will make Wembley a much more family friendly destination for everyone. That is our clear objective, and is working every effectively. In order to protect our community, and the visitors to the area, this approach will be applied at every upcoming large event.

#### **4.0 Enforcement Outcomes**

4.1 The metrics so far around enforcing the PSPO are significantly reduced ASB, reduced disorder, reduced match-day crime, reduced street urination and significantly less litter. These are all issues that the local community had made known they wished to see resolved. The detail in terms of enforcement outcomes is provided at **Appendix 1**. A typical event debrief report is provided at **Appendix 2** and this presents a positive photographic comparison with the Euro Final, specifically showing the reduced levels of litter and general disorder.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1** The Council's equal contribution to support the continuation of the Best in Class Programme with respect to Wembley Stadium event day arrangements is £122k per annum.
- 5.2** Any additional event day costs incurred by the Council are recharged to the Stadium.

## **6.0 Legal Implications**

- 6.1** Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2021, previously permitted Local Authorities to designate public areas through the introduction of Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs). As a result, a Borough wide Controlled Drinking Zone (CDZ) was enacted from December 2007 until October 2017. DPPOs were subsequently replaced by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which incorporates the prohibition of 'specified things' above and beyond street drinking.
- 6.2** The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 permits Local Authority to make Public Spaces Protection Orders if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met.
- 6.3** The first condition is that activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had (or are likely to have) a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, such as to make the activities unreasonable and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.
- 6.4** A Public Spaces Protection Order is an order that identifies the restricted area and prohibits 'specified things' being done in that area and/or requires specified things to be done by persons carrying on specified activities in that area.
- 6.5** Failure to comply with PSPO prohibitions is a criminal offence subject to up to a level 3 fine on prosecution (up to £1000). In most cases a warning (written or verbal) will be issued upon the first instance of a breach. Further breaches will result in the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice (£100), payable within 14 days. If paid within 10 days, a discounted charge of £75 is applied. Payment of the Fixed Penalty Notice discharges liability to conviction for the offence.

## **7.0 Equality Implications**

- 7.1** Improvements to event day arrangements will benefit all visitors to the Stadium and the Wembley area on event days.

## **8.0 Environmental Sustainability Implications (where relevant)**

- 8.1** Enforcement of the PSPO has improved environmental conditions by significantly reducing street urination and also street drinking-related litter.

## **9.0 Engagement with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

- 9.1** Engagement with Members, the community and other stakeholders is principally undertaken by the event owner, Wembley Stadium, via their regularly scheduled 'Wembley Stadium Resident & Business Meetings'. The Council will support their event day messaging via our own communications channels and any further direct 'on the day' liaison (particularly with businesses) is undertaken by all our front-line staff that are present.

## **10.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

- 10.1** Enhanced match day enforcement requires a voluntary commitment from staff to participate in good numbers.

### **Report sign off:**

**ALAN LUNT**

Strategic Director (Regeneration & Environment)

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# Carabao Cup

## 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022

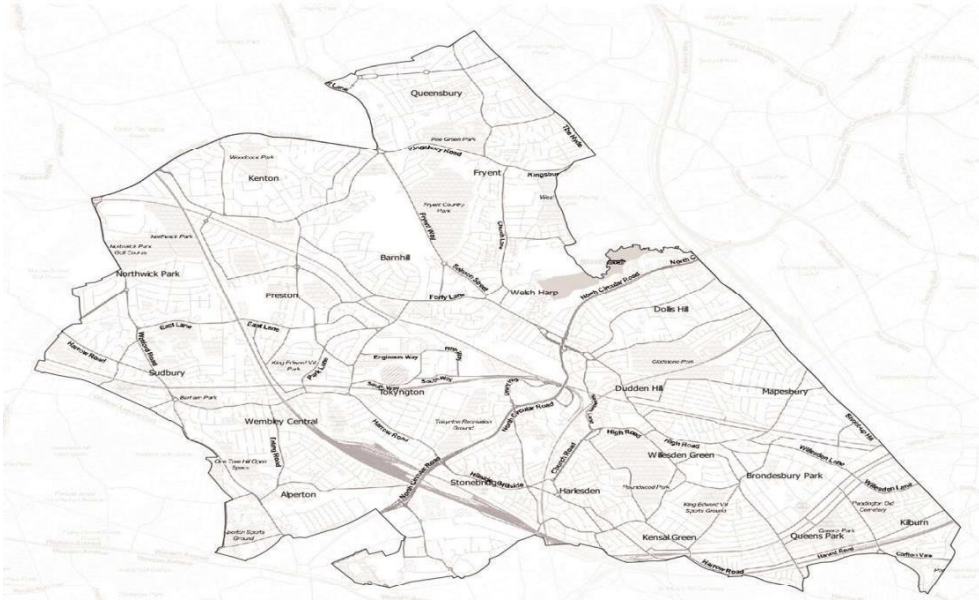
### De-brief Report

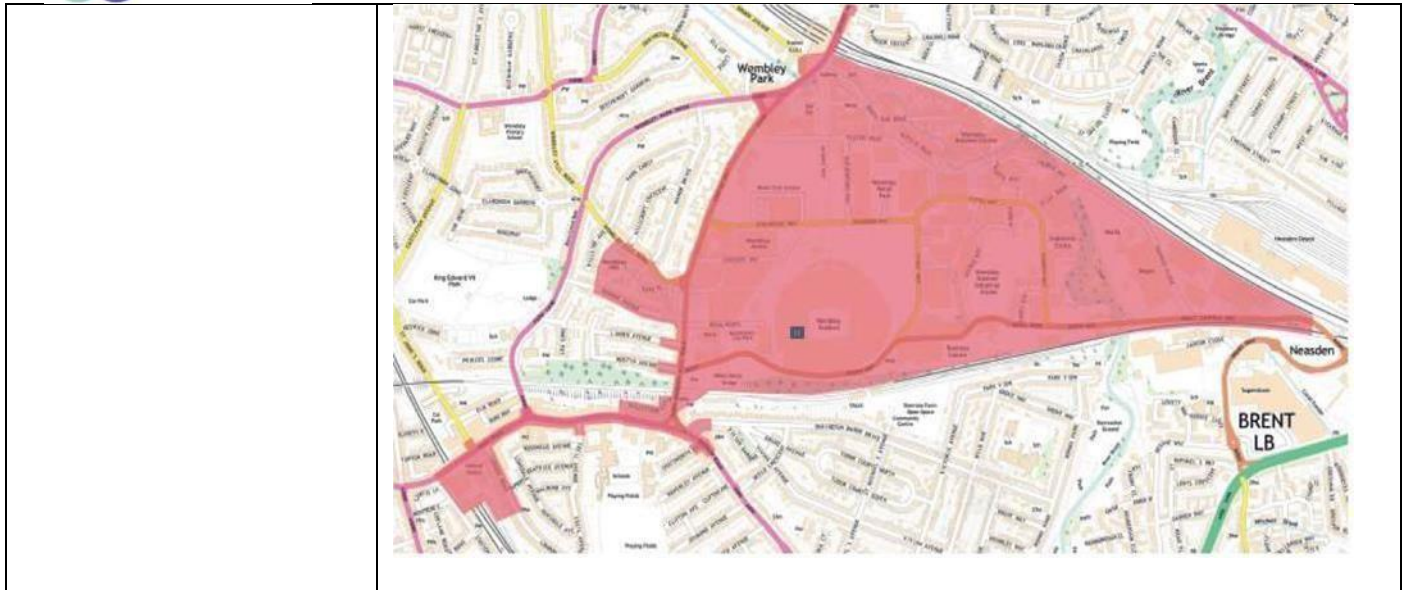
#### Event Information

<b>Event:</b>	Carabao Cup
<b>Teams:</b>	Chelsea (East) v Liverpool (West)
<b>Expected Capacity:</b>	82,000
<b>Times:</b>	<b>Hospitality:</b> 13:30 <b>General admission:</b> 14:30 <b>Kick Off:</b> 16:30 <b>Half Time:</b> 17:15 <b>Full Time:</b> 19.25 Extra time and penalties – Winner : Liverpool
<b>Gold (Strategic Lead)</b> <b>Silver (Tactical Lead)</b> <b>SPOC</b>	Chris Whyte Colin Wilderspin Susana Figueiredo
<b>Licensed Event Pads</b>	Chelsea – Arena Square, Engineers Way (opposite SSE Arena) Liverpool – Event pad, Wembley Park Boulevard (by LDO play area)
<b>Licensed Premises</b>	Liverpool – West Chelsea – East

#### Brief

Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The match is a high risk, Category C match between two well-supported teams, Chelsea and Liverpool. Police intelligence is that serious fan disorder is unlikely but there is an expectation of widespread low-level ASB attributable to street-drinking. Immediate and short-term licensing and enforcement interventions are therefore required to be applied by the Council and the partner agencies for this match.</li> </ul>
Review of Previous Event Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Euro 2020 Final at Wembley Stadium was blighted by unacceptable levels of casual street-drinking that ultimately led to shocking scenes of fan disorder and anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>As a result, the FA commissioned an independent review, led by Baroness Casey, to establish the reasons for the disorder and to provide recommendations to ensure there is no repeat in the future. Brent Council now seeks to be proactive in taking Baroness Casey's recommendations forward</li> <li>By utilising our own review and knowledge of the area, we have set out to put fair and proportionate measures in place in order to avoid any repetition of problems found at the Euro Final that can in fact, be controlled directly within the remit of the Council.</li> <li>Issues in relation to street drinking have been an issue at Wembley Stadium event days for a number of years. The further issues that then presented themselves at the Euro Final magnified those pre-existing issues and became the trigger to making immediate change.</li> <li>This issues include ASB attributable to street drinking such as excessive consumption of alcohol that leads to hostile behaviour, fighting &amp; urination and the use of flares but also the enormous amount of waste that can also be attributable to street drinking from receptacles that are left on the public highway.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions with SAG partners, has meant implementing new high-profile measures and management controls for the Carabao Cup Final on 27 February and in turn all future events</li> </ul>
Defining 'Zone Ex' & 'game of National significance'	<p>In the absence of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A defined 'Zone Ex'</li> <li>Definition of a 'game of National significance'</li> </ul> <p>Licensing Community Protection (Susana) formulated an idea to use the existing 'Public Space Protection Order' to define 'Zone Ex'. As a result a definition of a 'game of National significance' was not required</p>
Parties to be included in Joint Action	<p>Brent Council, FA and WNSL, Quintain, Wembley Park Ltd, MET Police, BTP Police, Train Services, TFL</p> <p>All are required in order to improve and coordinate operations in Zone Ex on match days. All are now signed up to a renewed programme of investment in enhanced infrastructure and resources.</p>
Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Borough Wide	<p>There are two PSPO's in place. The first being a Borough Wide one that solely includes the prohibition of street drinking.</p> 
Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Wembley	<p>The second PSPO includes restrictions on street drinking and other Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) matters including but not limited to urination, litter, flares, illegal street trading (including touting) and the distribution of free literature. See <b>Appendix 7</b> for full conditions.</p>



### Carabao Cup – Pre Match

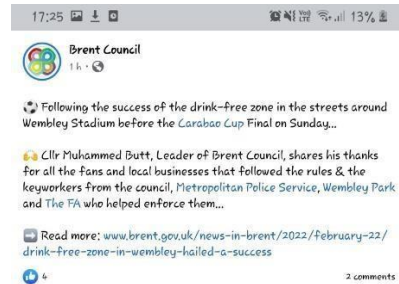
Enforcement (Engagement & Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council, for the first time, is requiring their full co-operation to assist in guaranteeing a street-drinking-free zone during Wembley Stadium match days. In order to achieve this, we have asked that they- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise those customers that are likely to consume alcohol in the street (retail is still possible to other customers).</li> <li>Refuse the sale of alcohol to anyone that is likely to drink alcohol in the street</li> <li>Refrain from increasing their store set-up to include additional alcohol for the purpose of match days</li> <li>Voluntarily cease selling alcohol in glass vessels including all wines, beers and ciders and where possible cease selling any alcohol on match days.</li> </ul> </li> <li>This requirement has been communicated to all premises and the response has been favourable, though there is some sign of resistance which we will need to be firm with. You may receive some representations. The monitoring of compliance on the day will be a key task as evidence is necessary for any firmer action to be applied at subsequent matches.</li> <li>80+ premises (ON &amp; OFF Licences) visited by Community Protection (Susana) with the assistance of Neighbourhood Management (Ashley), Public Safety (Laura) &amp; the Licensing Police.</li> <li>Letters were hand delivered and the Licence Holder/Designated Premises. See <b>Appendix 6</b>. Supervisor, were engaged with and educated on what was required.</li> <li>Paul Lee (TS) engaged with numerous premises on behalf of their Primary Authority and specifically Asda.</li> <li>See <b>Appendix 1</b> for the full list of premises that were engaged with</li> </ul>
Feedback	Some off licences gave negative feedback in relation to serving street drinkers. See <b>Appendix 2</b>
Communication	Brent Council and partners approved a News story that was sent to the English Football League (EFL). See <b>Appendix 5 (a)</b> . This communication was also listed on Brent Council's website for members of the public.

	<p>The EFL agreed the above messaging and then modified it to be communicated on their website. See <b>Appendix 5 (b)</b>.</p> <p>A further version was agreed by WNS which was sent out to Chelsea FC, Liverpool FC, TFL, rail services, BTP, the MET, ticket holders and any other relevant partners. See <b>Appendix 5 (c)</b>.</p> <p>Talk Sport also did a piece on the street drinking ban, specifically on Olympic Way. The feedback on this was positive.</p> <p>Below are some of the locations where the communication appeared.</p> <p><a href="#">No-Street Drinking Zone in operation for Sunday's Carabao Cup Final - News - EFL Official Website</a></p> <p><a href="#">Liverpool and Chelsea fans face £100 fines if caught drinking alcohol outside Wembley   Metro News</a></p> <p><a href="#">Liverpool FC - No-street-drinking zone in operation for Carabao Cup final</a></p> <p><a href="#">Wembley no street-drinking zone details and Chelsea pubs confirmed   Official Site   Chelsea Football Club (chelseafc.com)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Anti-alcohol measures at Wembley - Chicago Today</a></p> <p><a href="#">No-street-drinking zone in operation for Carabao Cup final   Troll Football</a></p> <p><a href="#">No-street-drinking zone in operation for Carabao Cup final : LiverpoolFC (reddit.com)</a></p> <p><a href="#">CFC News * * on Twitter: "Wembley no street-drinking zone details and Chelsea pubs confirmed - Olympic Way and the surrounding areas in Wembley have been designated as no-street drinking zones for Sunday's Carabao Cup final, while the list of approved Chelsea pubs has also been c... https://t.co/8J4FwvWY6v" / Twitter</a></p> <p><a href="#">Alcohol banned on way to Carabao Cup final (besoccer.com)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Carabao Cup - Home   Facebook</a></p>
Brent Event Day Webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Licensing Community Protection officer (Susana) created the content for a new webpage for all licensed premises which was then added by the Web Team (Rachel Gant) with an introduction to the event.</li> <li>Full list of premises including split can be found here <a href="https://www.brent.gov.uk/eventdays">https://www.brent.gov.uk/eventdays</a></li> </ul>
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved signage including 40 totems</li> </ul> <p>Please see <b>Appendix 8</b> for Totem Designs</p>
Fan Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are two existing Premises Licences that cover external areas</li> <li>The first area is located in Arena Square (outside OVO Arena). The second area is the event pad located on Wembley Park Boulevard (opposite the LDO).</li> <li>These dedicated drinking zones permit those with a ticket for the game entry into a cordoned off zone, to consume alcohol purchased on site</li> </ul>



## Communication – Social Media

## Regular communication updates by the Communications Team



## Enforcement

19 x PSU's @ 25 Police per PSU = 475 Police officers with an approximate additional 40 officers dedicated to intelligence  
 4 x Neighbourhood Patrol officers  
 2 x Licensing Police officers  
 1 x Licensing Community Protection Lead  
 5 x Licensing Community Protection officers (5 in the am, 2 in the pm)  
 6 + 1 Police officers dedicated to enforcement  
 3 x Licensing officers (pm), dedicated to street trading and ticket touting

## Bin Deployment

10 x 1100 litre bins were placed on Olympic Way which were used for the disposal of alcohol as fans came out of Wembley Park Station

Loggist	The loggist began at 11:00. There was an issue with the MS Form which delayed the logging. This was then rectified
Mobile Network	As the Stadium reached full capacity, the mobile network appeared to fail. This made it difficult for persons to communicate, but in particular the loggist and SPOC who could not be contacted
Police Command Meeting	Susana attended the Police briefing. Maps of OFF/ON licences were distributed, contact details for Brent staff and enforcement maps and timings. A brief explanation of our aims was given.
Police Commitment	There was a full commitment from the police with officers asking fans to dispose of alcohol
TFL/Train Services	There appeared to be a commitment from both services to reduce the excess alcohol on the trains/tubes coming into Wembley. It was reported that at some train stations, there were clear messages stating the Wembley is an alcohol free zone.

### Carabao Cup – Post Match

Communication	<p>Communication of the successful event was posted on Brent Council's website</p> <p><a href="#">Drink-free zone in Wembley hailed a success   Brent Council</a></p> <p>The wider press did not appear to report on the success of the event.</p>
Letters of Gratitude	<p>Thank you letter to premises</p> <p>Thank you letter to Football Clubs and support groups</p>
Brent Event Day Webpage	Susana will have to get the current message related to the current event removed from the website
Stewarding	The deployment of stewards worked well without the need to be given authorisation to enforce against those who may refuse to dispose of alcohol. Feedback demonstrated that in the most, persons disposed of their alcohol without any issues.
Enforcement Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with non-compliance premises and larger OFF licences in relation to long term strategy</li> <li>Reviews are likely to take place of the following premises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 ON licences</li> <li>2 OFF licences</li> </ul> </li> <li>Neighbourhood Patrol Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urination – 5 FPNs</li> <li>Street Trading – 2 FPNs</li> <li>Consumption of alcohol – 3 FPNs</li> <li>Over 100 warnings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Achievements

Atmosphere	<p>Please see <b>Appendix 3</b> for a visual comparison between:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carabao Cup 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022</li> <li>FA Cup Final 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021</li> <li>Euro Final 2020 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021</li> </ul> <p>In this case, atmosphere includes the use of flares, waste on the public highway and crowd behaviour. There was a noticeable difference, even between the FA Cup Final 2021 and the Carabao Cup 2022, where there was a capacity of 22.5k and 82k respectively</p>
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Feedback	Feedback was given by restaurants, bars, pubs, cafes, off licences. For some of the feedback, please see <b>Appendix 2</b>
Enforcement	The monitoring of premises worked well, with issues being brought in centrally through a clear line of communication. See 'what could be improved' for steps moving forward

## Improvements

Enforcement Training	In relation to street drinking, the training of those undertaking street drinking duties of ON & OFF licences, needs to take place much sooner. Engagement with premises was limited to monitoring by officers due to the late timing of officers being allocated to Susana pre-event. For follow up events, this training will need to take place much sooner.
Stewarding	SW Quarter (area closest to Stadium station) needs addressing. This was covered by Neighbourhood Patrol officers, but not Stewards, Police or allocated bins as was Olympic Way. This is important if a completely sterile area is to be achieved around the WNS, where fans are likely to gather before entering the Stadium.

## Considerations

Limitations	<p>In relation to street drinking, the Wembley PSPO does not;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include wording that prohibits the carrying of sealed containers at a time when street drinking takes place. Any authorised officer may only count open containers as a breach</li> <li>• Cover all of the OFF licences in the immediate area surrounding the WNS. However, the Borough wide PSPO includes all public highways in Brent, but changes need to be made to add them to the relevant Wembley PSPO</li> </ul>
NNDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OFF licences have mentioned that they pay premium business rates because they are located beside Wembley Stadium</li> <li>• Susana to contact Peter Cosgrove to confirm this information</li> </ul>
Premises Licence Variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OFF licences who will have had a substantial drop in sales at the Carabao Cup, <u>will not</u> voluntarily apply to vary their Premises Licence to include such conditions as not supplying alcohol on event days. They will not want to change their licence when others may not change theirs and will also be reluctant as the news is so fresh</li> <li>• However, as some of the Wembley Stadium conditions will be costly to them in the long-run, such as the use of SIA, there may be a point where they are more forthcoming in undertaking this</li> <li>• Consideration needs to be had as to whether the fee to apply for a minor variation will be waived</li> </ul>
Increase in Theft from Premises and Non-Payment of Goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a result of off licences refusing alcohol sales, fans were then stealing alcohol from the premises</li> <li>• One particular premises on Wembley Park estate reported that after eating and drinking in the premises, each person at the table subsequently left the premises without paying. The last person was apprehended and all of those that left, returned to pay</li> </ul>
Radio Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration needs to be made as to whether a radio network would be more suitable for Wembley Stadium event days</li> <li>• This is in hand between Daryl, Scott McCormick and Susana where a discussion will take place in making this happen.</li> <li>• Daryl will also be able to use the radios as and when they are required for emergencies when the mobile network is at capacity or unavailable.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is likely that there is already an existing radio network that Brent and its partners will be able to use this existing network. The current receptor may not have any further available slots and therefore another solution may be necessary</li> </ul>
Zone Ex Control Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration for a separate Zone Ex control room to be put into place during event days</li> </ul>

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events	<p>Preparation for the following three games is under way;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - England v Switzerland KO 17:30</li> <li>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - England v Ivory Coast KO 19:45</li> <li>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 - Papa John's Trophy – KO TBC</li> </ul>
Further Communication to Premises	Updated letter to be sent to premises to seek compliance
Brent Event Day Webpage	<p>ON licences to be updated by Susana with relevant event details and split where necessary</p> <p><a href="https://www.brent.gov.uk/eventdays">https://www.brent.gov.uk/eventdays</a></p>
Police Command Briefing	Susana to attend the briefing to ensure a consistent approach between agencies. It also give the Inspectors on the day an insight into the work Brent Council is undertaking from an enforcement point of view with contact details additionally being given
Police Commitment	The Police commitment appears to be consistent. The Commander for the day will not be the same but Susana has made contact with Central Police to gain contact details for alternative Commanders. This is to ensure collaboration on the days of the upcoming events but also to gain sign off on the letters to ON/OFF licences
Consistent Approach	It is important that ongoing communication continues between the FA, the clubs, the police, BTP, Brent Council and any other relevant stakeholders to ensure a commitment to educating and publicising a very clear message on this new approach

## Long-Term

Defining Zone EX	<p>The area to be encompassed by Zone Ex has already begun to be defined. As the events progress, evidence of where there may be gaps, can be addressed. This will need to be determined for the purposes of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future Wembley Stadium Event Days</li> <li>The PSPO update</li> <li>The CIZ as part of the Licensing Policy 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy</li> </ul> <p>It may be that a Zone Ex and a Zone Ex1 be determined, which could be implemented when required to deal with the displacement of street drinking.</p>
Defining a Game of National Significance	Although relevant in some ways, for the purposes of implementing the PSPO, defining a game of 'National' significance is not required with the PSPO in place.
Communicating the Strategy	Discussion with partners in Quintain and Wembley Park Ltd who cover most of the larger OFF licences around WNS, as to what the long-term strategy is in order to gain maximum support
Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) – Borough Wide	<p>The current PSPO expires in October 2023. Work will need to begin to include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gathering evidence to support the continuation of the PSPO</li> <li>Considering whether there is sufficient evidence to vary the PSPO to include other elements of ASB such as urination, litter, illegal street trading and the distribution of free literature in problematic areas.</li> </ul> <p><u>The deadline</u> for this work to commence is <b>December 2022</b></p>



Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) – Wembley	<p>The current PSPO expires in October 2023. Work will need to begin to include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gathering evidence to support the continuation</li> <li>• The streets omitted from the Wembley PSPO surrounding WNS for the purposes of prohibiting street drinking.</li> <li>• A change in wording, that those carrying closed containers whilst street drinking would be a breach of the PSPO, if asked to dispose of them. The offence would then be committed, if the person fails to do so.</li> </ul> <p><u>The deadline</u> for this work to commence is <b>December 2022</b>.  <u>An earlier deadline</u> of <b>July 2022</b> would need to be considered if the change of wording to include closed containers is to be implemented by the Champions League Final at the end of May 2023. In this case, a new PSPO would be applied for with the intention of revoking the current PSPO when the new one becomes enforceable.</p>
Defining Land Surrounding WNS	<p>A project to determine the ownership of land surrounding WNS will soon be underway. The lead for this being Laura Davies from Public Safety. This will assist in determining where the PSPO may have limitations in relation to being enforced.</p>
Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy	<p>The deadline for CIZ work to begin, should have been <u>at the latest</u> <b>October 2021</b>, to allow for time to collate evidence towards continuing the implementation of the CIZ. At this point we are running the risk of not having a CIZ Policy in place, when the current one expires. This means that any new applications for OFF licences in Brent and for the purposes of this report, Wembley, would be impossible to refuse.</p>
Culture Surrounding Events	<p>It is likely that once this football season ends, word will have got around that Brent Council and its partners have a zero tolerance for street drinking in Brent. In particular, where there are large crowds of people present. This should in turn make street drinking at future events, a reduced issue and risk to all parties. It is however expected that at the beginning of next season, a strong enforcement presence will be required to follow through on the message that street drinking will not be tolerated</p>

## Appendix 1

### On Licences

<b><i>Premises Name</i></b>	<b><i>Premises Address</i></b>
The Green Man	Dagmar Ave Wembley HA9 8DF
The Arch	324 Harrow Rd Wembley HA9 6LL
Station 31	299-303 Harrow Rd Wembley HA9 6BD
The Liquor Station	397A High Rd Wembley HA9 6AA
JJ Moons	397 High Rd Wembley HA9 6AA
Crystals - Sports Bar	1 South Way Wembley HA9 0HB
Crystals - Aqua (Ground Floor)	1 South Way Wembley HA9 0HB
Crystals - Wings (1st Floor)	1 South Way Wembley HA9 0HB
St George's Hotel	43-51 Wembley Hill Rd Wembley HA9 8AU
California Kitchen	31 Wembley Hill Rd Wembley HA9 8AS
Mushroom Italian Restaurant	19 Wembley Hill Rd Wembley HA9 8AF
El Bandido	13 Wembley Hill Rd Wembley HA9 8AF
Shawarma Grill	350-352 High Rd Wembley HA9 6AZ

Cerbul Romanesc	414 High Rd Wembley HA9 6AH
Nandos	420-422 High Rd Wembley HA9 6AH
Youngs	329 Harrow Rd Wembley HA9 6BA
Arena Restaurant	307 Harrow Rd Wembley HA9 6BD
Best Western Plus	365 High Road Wembley HA9 6AY
Holiday Inn	Empire Way Wembley HA9 8DS
IBIS	South Way Wembley HA9 0HB
Wembley International Hotel	Empire Way Wembley Park HA9 0NH
Black Sheep 1	2 Olympic Way Wembley Park HA9 0GU
Novotel	5 Olympic Way Wembley Park HA9 0NP
Box Park	18 Olympic Way Wembley Park HA9 0JT
Bread Ahead	26-28 Olympic Way Wembley Park HA9 0NP
Pasta Remoli	10 Exhibition Way Wembley Park HA9 0FU
Masalchi by Atul Kochar	2 Wembley Park Blvd Wembley Park HA9 0HP
The White Horse	4 Wembley Park Blvd Wembley Park HA9 0HP

Blue Check	12 -13 Empire Way HA9 0RQ
The Parish	120 Wembley Park Drive Wembley Park HA9 8HP
Wembley Tavern	121 Wembley Park Dr Wembley Park HA9 8HG
Double 6 Sports Bar	125 Wembley Park Dr Wembley Park HA9 8HQ
The Torch	1-5 Bridge Rd Wembley Park HA9 9AB
Arena Square	Arena Square (outside SSE Arena, Engineers Way)
Events Pad	Events Pad (opp. LDO, next to playground)
TGI Friday	1 Wembley Park Boulevard Wembley Park HA9 0TG
Mezze Grill	131 Wembley Park Dr Wembley Park HA9 8HQ
Wembley Tandoori	133 Wembley Park Dr Wembley Park HA9 8HQ
Moulin Grill	139 Wembley Park Dr Wembley Park HA9 8HQ
Ecco'la Pizzeria	87-89 Wembley Park Dr Wembley Park HA9 8HF
Early Bird (also sells food to takeaway)	Unit 109 Raglan Court Empire Way Wembley Park HA9 0RG
Premier Inn	151 Wembley Park Drive Wembley Park HA9 8HQ

Hilton	Lakeside Way Wembley Park HA9 0BU
Premier Inn	1 Wembley Park Boulevard Wembley Park HA9 0GG

#### Off Licences

<b><i>Premises Name</i></b>	<b><i>Premises Address</i></b>
Amazon Fresh	20 Wembley Park Blvd Wembley Park HA9 0HP
Sainsburys	Civic Centre 1-3 Exhibition Way HA9 0FA
Co-op	25 Olympic Way Wembley Park HA9 0FR
Butlers	9 Olympic Way Wembley Park HA9 0NP
Tesco	Quadrant Court 1 Stadium Way Wembley HA9 0FE
Lidl	Unit3 Wembley Park Dr Wembley Park HA9 8TS
Asda	Forty Lane Wembley HA9 9EX
Brent Newsagents & Off Licence	6 Grand Parade Forty Avenue Wembley HA9 9JS
JS Food & Wine	9 Grand Parade Forty Avenue Wembley HA9 9JS
Cozza	13 Grand Parade Forty Avenue Wembley HA9 9JS
Mala Mini Market	371 High Road Wembley HA9 6AA

Capitol Food & Wine	107 Wembley Park Drive Wembley HA9 8HQ
Exotic Food Off Licence	117 Wembley Park Drive Wembley HA9 8HG
Stadium Supermarket	129 Wembley Park Drive Wembley HA9 8HQ
Wembley Park Express Food & Wine	41-43 Bridge Road Wembley HA9 9AG
11 Hour Expresss	49 Bridge Road Wembley HA9 0GU
Arena Express	110 Raglan Court Empire Way Wembley HA9 0RG
Eastern European Food & Wine	297 Harrow Road Wembley HA9 6BD
Jeen Cash & Carry	306 Harrow Road Wembley HA9 6LL
Triangle Food & Wine	1 Neeld Parade Wembley Hill Road HA9 6QU
Brother's Superstore	4 Neeld Crescent Wembley HA9 6LW
Ruskan Food & Wine	27 Wembley Hill Road Wembley HA9
Fresh Mart (Canim Ailem)	34 Wembley Hill Road Wembley HA9 8AD
Shree Superstore	11 Wembley Hill Road Wembley HA9 8AF
Winstaar Food & Wine	354 High Road Wembley HA9 6AZ
Sainsbury's	349-357 High Road Wembley HA9 6ET

Inaq Food (not currently permitted to sell alcohol)	3A, Pop In Commercial Centre South Way Wembley HA9 0HF
Traditional European Food & Wine	399 High Road Wembley HA9 7AF
Euro Food & Wine	445 High Rd Wembley HA9 7AF
West 9	471 High Road Wembley HA9 7AF
Lakomka	91 Wembley Park Dr Wembley Park HA9 8HF
Arena Mini Mart	81-82 Alexandra Court Empire Way HA9 0QZ

## Appendix 2

### Positive Feedback from Premises

<u>Feedback Type</u>	<u>Feedback</u>
Veolia	Very noticeable reduction in cans and bottles in and around the location and on the concourse. There was also less conflict met with members of the public when operatives were carrying out their duties. They were able to manage the cleanliness throughout the day and stay on top of it. At the end of the day, the cleansing service took place, but is in no way comparable to when street drinking was permitted
Traders Association & Local Resident	<p><b>Francis Henry Chair of Wembley Traders Association and local resident</b></p> <p>‘Consuming and drinking alcohol on Wembley’s event day does have many benefits. It generates economic activity and employment; it brings people together to socialise; and it is an enjoyable pastime that many people value. However, it does come with costs. Some of these costs over the years include noise, pollution, conflict with many people’s daily routine/sleep. Other costs include crime and injury, are facilitated by alcohol, which is often highly traded on event day. Brent managed yesterdays event day and the community have seen the benefits’.</p>
Business - Public House	All was great, no problems
Business - Public House	No problems at all, everything went smooth
Business - Public House	Great day, no problems at all
Traders Association & Franchisee	<p><b>Reema Mavani Vice Chair of Wembley Traders Association &amp; Franchisee</b></p> <p>‘From a restaurant perspective – unlicensed, it was calmer as normally we have people drinking and we have to ask them to leave! Had no issues in Wembley Park or High Road!’</p>
Business - Public House	For us, we had next to no rubbish anywhere on the street in front and saw a decent boost from people coming in earlier than expected, to what we pin down to not being allowed to walk around with their own cans
Business – Café	On an event day, takings are approximately 20% of my business for the day. On Sunday this increased by 60%
Business – Brent Civic Centre	The gardens to the side of the Civic Centre usually have to be locked up because people try to get in to have a drink, this wasn’t the case on Sunday. The toilets on the ground floor are usually really dirty and the building overwhelmed with people coming in and out. Again this wasn’t the case on Sunday
Business - Bar	We had more alcohol sales than usual event days and less food sales... but overall no issues being a big event and large crowd near the Stadium
Business - Restaurant	The atmosphere on Sunday was completely different. Sales increased but what was most noticeable was that those who were drinking, were also eating a meal, this balanced out how the alcohol affected them. Everyone was pleasant and on the street the atmosphere was calm, well natured and no rubbish from alcohol in the street
Business – Off Licence	<p>I have to commend everyone in this group. Well done!</p> <p>None of us to reduce sales of course...not even the Council. However there is a PSPO in place and we don’t want some following and others not following...defeats the purpose of what the PSPO is trying to achieve.</p> <p>We can only implement a PSPO if we ALL work together to enforce it – and today we have shown that we can and will work together to enforce unwelcome behaviour in Wembley!</p>







	<p>Photos and images from all of us on this forum will soon stamp this out. I commend those who have made the effort to share images here.</p> <p>Well done everyone (all store owners for the images) and Susana, Paul and your team of enforcement officers to stamp it out quickly.</p> <p>By the way, with us all saying no...the risk of theft of alcohol has increased – so be aware and watchful everyone.</p>
Councillor	Could see a high visible difference in the area. A big thank you to the entire team.

#### Negative Feedback from Premises

Business – Off Licence	We need to find some alternative way it's big impact on business already we suffer 2 years from the pandemic we can't hold every event like today
Business – Off Licence	If the same thing keep happening than we have to close our business and start applying benefits
Business – Off Licence	You have to find other ways of implementing this. There are far too many event days for us to sustain this. Our takings are down by more than 50% compare to last Sunday and our staff costs are more than double. Generally on event days our regular customers disappear and football fans make up for it. If we can't serve them then it's going to affect people's livelihood. Some won't bother hiring extra staff and there will be security issues. Earlier kick off times might be one of the solutions. Mostly if goes back to normal after the game
Business – Off Licence	It's big impact on us our sale has reduced by 85%
Business – Off Licence	We have to employ 2 extra staff to control the event people. It's better to close all off licence shops on event days
Business – Off Licence	We will obviously comply with all the rules to the best of our abilities. But we feel like we are being put at the front line here which we don't think is fair at all

Appendix 3

Event		
27.02.2022 - Carabao Cup Liverpool v Chelsea KO 16:30 Capacity 82k	15.05.2021 FA Cup Final Chelsea v Leicester City KO 17:15 Capacity 22.5k	11.07.2021 Euro Final England v Italy KO 19:45 Capacity 67k
 <u>11:31</u>		 <u>9:47</u>
 <u>11:47</u>		 <u>12.30</u>



13:59



14:40



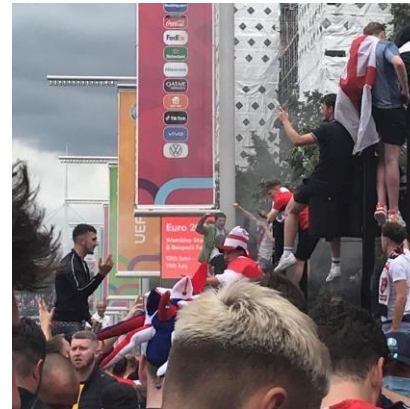
13:00



14:30



15:00



14:50



15:00





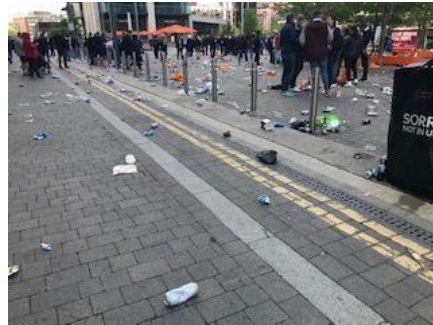
15:45



16:23



19:52



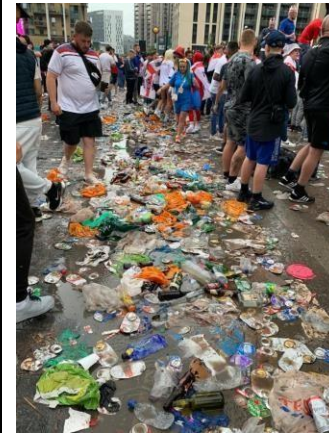
16:23



16:38



18:30



19:53

## Appendix 4

 <https://www.brent.gov.uk/eventdays>

# Enjoy match days responsibly

We want everyone to enjoy their visit to Wembley and the match. However we will not tolerate anti-social behaviour, so please behave responsibly.

Brent Council and its partners are enforcing a No Street Drinking Zone on Olympic Way and the surrounding area for the [Carabao Cup Final on Sunday 27 February 2022](#) as part of the current [Public Space Protection Order](#). Fans drinking on Olympic Way and the surrounding streets will be asked to hand over their alcohol and enforcement action may be considered.

## Drink responsibly

There is a range of bars, fan zones and restaurants available in and around Wembley where you can enjoy a drink or a meal before the game. We have listed details of some of these venues below, including which ones are hosting which fans. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Please make sure you visit the ones allocated to the football club you support. We are taking these steps to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

<b>West - Liverpool FC</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>East - Chelsea</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Neutral supporters</b>	<b>+</b>

## Travelling to Wembley

If you are [travelling to Wembley](#) by public transport, the Drinkaware website has some useful [advice on drinking alcohol in public places](#). There may also be alcohol restrictions on coach services so please check before you travel.

Event day parking  
restrictions



## West - Liverpool FC



If you are a Liverpool fan, we ask that you enjoy a pre-match drink or meal in the following pubs and bars. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Venue	Address	Phone number
The Green Man	Dagmar Avenue, Wembley, HA9 8DF	0208 9031441 07595 051937
The Arch	324 Harrow Rd, Wembley, HA9 6LL	0208 1271141
Station 31	299-303 Harrow Rd, Wembley, HA9 6BD	0208 9000173
The Liquor Station	397A High Rd, Wembley, HA9 6AA	020 8903 0159
JJ Moons	397 High Rd, Wembley, HA9 6AA	020 8903 4923
Crystals (Sports Bar & Aqua Lounge)	1 Popin Building, Southway, HA9 0HB	02035765765 07985 195277
La Regina	St George's Hotel, 43-51 Wembley Hill Rd, Wembley, HA9 8AU	020 8900 0662
Liverpool Fan Zone, Events Pad	Wembley Park Boulevard, HA9 0FD (opposite the London Designer Outlet)	

## East - Chelsea



If you are a Chelsea fan, we ask that you enjoy a pre-match drink or meal in the following pubs and bars. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Venue	Address	Phone number
Black Sheep	2 Olympic Way, Wembley Park, HA9 0GU	
Box Park	18 Olympic Way, Wembley Park, HA9 0JT	
The White Horse	4 Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley Park, HA9 0HP	
The Blue Check	12 -13 Empire Way, Wembley, HA9 0RQ	020 8902 8147
Wembley Tavern	121 Wembley Park Dr, Wembley Park, HA9 8HG	07956 849648 020 8903 2955
Stadium Sports Bar	125 Wembley Park Dr, Wembley Park, HA9 8HQ	07503 000 096
The Torch	1-5 Bridge Rd, Wembley Park, HA9 9AB	02089045794
Crock of Gold	23 Bridge Road, Wembley, HA9 9AB	020 8908 6933
Chelsea Fan Zone	Arena Square, Engineers Way, HA9 0AA (opposite SSE Arena)	

## Neutral supporters



There are a number of cafes, restaurants and bars in and around Wembley that haven't been allocated to a team, where you can enjoy a meal or pre-match drink. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Visit the [London Designer Outlet website](#) for more information on many of the restaurants listed below.

Venue	Address	Phone number
Swan Pub	789 Harrow Road, Wembley, HA0 2LP	020 8904 6933
Arena Lounge	652 Harrow Road, Wembley, HA0 2HA	020 8248 1280 07857820000
TGI Friday	1 Wembley Park Boulevard, Wembley Park, HA9 0TG	
Pasta Remoli	10 Exhibition Way, Wembley Park, HA9 0FU	
Masalchi by Atul Kochar	2 Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley Park, HA9 0HP	
Bread Ahead	26-28 Olympic Way, Wembley Park, HA9 0NP	
Frankie & Benny's	London Designer Outlet, Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley, HA9 0FD	
JRC Global Buffet	London Designer Outlet, Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley, HA9 0FD	
Las Iguanas	London Designer Outlet, Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley, HA9 0FD	
Wagamama	London Designer Outlet, Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley, HA9 0FD	
Pizza Express	London Designer Outlet, Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley, HA9 0FD	
Zizzi	London Designer Outlet, Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley, HA9 0FD	
Nando's	London Designer Outlet, Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley, HA9 0FD	
Byron Burger	London Designer Outlet, Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley, HA9 0FD	
Big Moe's	London Designer Outlet, Wembley Park Blvd, Wembley, HA9 0FD	



## Appendix 5

(a)

### **News story -**

#### **Street drinking ban in force for Carabao Cup Final**

A ban on street drinking in the streets around Wembley Stadium will be in force ahead of the Carabao Cup Final, as part of the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

The no street-drinking zone on Olympic Way and surrounding areas bars people from drinking alcohol in public spaces ahead of the match between Chelsea and Liverpool.

Fans drinking on Olympic Way and the surrounding streets will be asked to hand over their alcohol and enforcement action may be considered.

The move by Brent Council and its partners aims to crack down on anti-social behaviour related to drinking ahead of the game on Sunday 27 February 2022

Cllr Muhammed Butt, Brent Council Leader, said: “The iconic Wembley Stadium has successfully played host to countless memorable and historic events over the years. The vast majority of visitors enjoy themselves responsibly but a minority do not and this new approach targets those people intent on causing disorder after drinking heavily on street.

“There are a number of bars, fan zones and fantastic restaurants to enjoy in Wembley before the game so there really is no need for anyone to be drinking alcohol on our streets.”

If you are attending the Carabao Cup Final, there are a range of bars, fan zones and restaurants available to enjoy in Wembley before the game – you can find the full range of options here [[link to www.brent.gov.uk/carabaocup](http://www.brent.gov.uk/carabaocup)]. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

The ban on drinking in public will be enforced by a team of officers from Brent Council, Wembley National Stadium, Wembley Park, The Metropolitan Police Service, Transport for London and the British Transport Police.

Please click here for more information on the Public Space Protection Order. If you are travelling to Wembley by public transport, please click here to find out more about drinking alcohol in public places. There may also be alcohol restrictions on coach services.

(b)

#### **No-Street Drinking Zone in Operation for Sunday’s Carabao Cup Final**

Supporters attending Sunday’s Carabao Cup Final at Wembley are being advised that a no street-drinking zone on Olympic Way and surrounding areas will be in operation ahead of the match.

There will still be a wide range of bars, pubs, fan zones and restaurants available to enjoy in Brent before the game – you can find further details here.



The ban on street drinking in public will be enforced by a team of officers from Brent Council, Wembley National Stadium, Wembley Park, The Metropolitan Police Service, Transport for London and the British Transport Police with fans being required to hand over their alcoholic drinks or face a £100 fine.

The Carabao Cup Final, featuring Liverpool and Chelsea, is expected to be played in front of nearly 90,000 spectators, which will be the first time in two years Wembley Stadium has welcomed a full capacity crowd.

(c)

### **Important information ahead of the Carabao Cup Final**

Brent Council and its partners are enforcing a No Street Drinking Zone on Olympic Way and the surrounding area for the Carabao Cup Final on Sunday 27 February 2022 as part of the current Public Space Protection Order. Please [click here](#) for more information on the order.

Fans drinking on Olympic Way and the surrounding streets will be asked to hand over their alcohol and enforcement action may be considered.

There is a wide range of bars, pubs, fan zones and restaurants available to enjoy in Brent before the game – you can find further details [here](#).

If you are travelling into Wembley by public transport, please [click here](#) to find out more about drinking alcohol in public places. There may also be alcohol restrictions on coach services.

We are taking these steps to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Brent Civic Centre

Engineers Way

Wembley

Middlesex HA9 0FJ

EMAIL [reportstreetdrinking@brent.gov.uk](mailto:reportstreetdrinking@brent.gov.uk)

WEB [www.brent.gov.uk](http://www.brent.gov.uk)

---

Licence Holder/DPS

February 2022

Dear Licence Holder/DPS,

**Licensing Act 2003 – Street Drinking on Wembley Stadium Event Day – Carabao Cup on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

I am writing in relation to the prominent street drinking culture at **Wembley Stadium events, the supply of alcohol**, the effects of this on **high levels of street drinking** and your responsibility under your **Premises Licence** to assist in reducing this.

**Public Space Protection Order**

Since 2017 Brent Council has administered a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) across the entire Borough of Brent, which amongst other factors, aims to prevent street drinking. *Please see the Appendix for more information*

**Euro 2020 Independent Review**

During the Euro 2020 Final, it was clear that street drinking played a major factor in the unacceptable, high levels of anti-social and criminal behaviour that took place.

You may be aware that an independent review of events surrounding the UEFA Euro 2020 Final 'Euro Sunday' at Wembley was undertaken by Baroness Casey. In response to this report, one of the commitments is to eradicate street drinking on **Wembley Stadium Event days by banning the consumption of alcohol in open public spaces from significant games**. *Please see the Appendix for more information*

**Moving Forward – Supply of Alcohol**

As you are aware, knowingly selling alcohol to customers who consume alcohol in the street is still your responsibility, as there is a clear link between street drinking and the related ASB, Criminal and Disorderly behaviour at Wembley Stadium events. In effect, this means, if you sell alcohol under these circumstances, you would effectively be aiding and abetting customers in breaching the PSPO.

We therefore require your full co-operation to assist in guaranteeing, a street-drinking free zone, during the Carabao Cup Final on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022. In order to achieve this, we ask that you and your staff:-

- **Are trained to recognise those that are likely to consume alcohol in the street**
- **Refuse the sale of alcohol to anyone that is likely to drink alcohol in the street**

- Refrain from increasing your store set up to include additional alcohol for the purpose of event days

And

- **Voluntarily** cease selling alcohol in glass vessels including all wines, beers and ciders and where possible cease selling any alcohol on event days Please see the Appendix for more information.

Finally, whilst we understand that alcohol sales on event days may be valuable trade for off licences, Brent Council must balance these considerations with that of the safety of residents and visitors to the local area.

Please email [reportstreetdrinking@brent.gov.uk](mailto:reportstreetdrinking@brent.gov.uk) with your name, premises name and address to confirm that you have read and understood the terms of this letter. Should you require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to send me an email. Should you fail to respond, we will undertake further visits.

**Please remember that failure to uphold the Licensing objectives, may, result in a review of your Premises Licence, with additional conditions or a revocation of the licence being requested.**

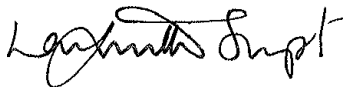
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards



Susana Figueiredo  
Licensing Community Protection Officer  
Brent Council



Louis Smith, Superintendent, MPS

Police Match Commander, Carabao Cup Final 2022

### **Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)**

Local Authorities were granted powers in 2014 through section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, to deal with nuisances or problems which harm the local community's quality of life. A PSPO is intended to ensure that people can therefore use and enjoy public spaces, living safely from anti-social behaviour.

Brent Council introduced a street drinking Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which was implemented on 20th October 2017 for a period of 3 years and then further extended for a further three years up until 19 October 2023.

The PSPO was put in place as a preventative measure, in order to deter members of the public from street drinking. Street drinking enforcement can currently result in a fine of up to £100. The Police and the Council's Neighbourhood Patrol (NHP) Officers patrol areas where street drinking occurs and issue fines to offenders who breach the PSPO. Any open can or bottle of alcohol can also be seized and poured away.

For more information on the PSPO, please visit:-

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16417912/boroughwide-pspo-mapped-area.pdf>

### **Euro 2021 Independent Review**

An independent Review of events surrounding the UEFA Euro 2020 Final 'Euro Sunday' at Wembley has resulted in recommendations by Baroness Casey which include enhancing enforcement of bans on alcohol consumption on public transport and in other designated public spaces.

For access to the full review, please visit:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-casey-review-a-review-into-opportunity-and-integration>

### **Wembley Stadium Events**

At the upcoming events, there will be an increase in enforcement officers. They will assist in preventing any members of the public coming into the area with alcohol and in turn, consuming it in the street.

Brent Council and The Metropolitan Police must also take measures which incorporate both the existing PSPO and the independent review in relation to the Euros in order to make future events at Wembley a safe and enjoyable experience. This means working with licensed premises to ensure alcohol is not sold to street drinkers. In this case street drinkers are likely to be those persons attending the event who wish to consume alcohol in the street prior to entering Wembley Stadium.

### **Staff Training**

The following measures should be considered and included in staff training in order to make certain that alcohol is not sold for consumption on the street:-

- If unsure, ask your customers whether they are attending the game
- Check their clothing. Are they wearing a football shirt?
- Are they talking about going to the game?
- Is it obvious that they are not from the area?
- Many persons going to watch a game at the Stadium come as a pair or in a group
  
- Use common sense. Having worked in the area for some time, you will be accustomed in differentiating locals to those attending football events

## Appendix

### **Wembley PSPO**

There are 11 conditions which are prohibited in the area of the PSPO:-

1. To engage in illegal street trading which includes the buying and/or selling of any item(s) including tickets (ticket touting) to any person.
2. To consume alcohol or having an open alcohol container in a public space, who without reasonable excuse continues consuming alcohol or fails to surrender the alcohol in his/her possession when asked to do so by a Police Officer or authorised Council officer.
3. To distribute free literature which includes leaflets, the giveaway of free samples etc. without authorisation from the London Borough of Brent
4. To litter (such as cigarettes, bottles, cans, packets, food, urination,) etc.
5. To fly drone(s) without written consent from the land owner and/or the London Borough of Brent
6. To fly-post, which has potential to deface or damage fixtures, furniture or any other items.
7. To let off fireworks, including flares and smoke emitters in a public place, which may cause a nuisance and panic.
8. To play games or competitions which may cause an obstruction or nuisance to members of the public.
9. To undertake busking and use of loud speakers causing a nuisance without authorisation from the landowner and/or the London Borough of Brent.
10. To leave the engine of a vehicle idling without reasonable excuse, which is continued when asked to be stopped by an authorised Council officer.
11. To undertake Charity Collections without the consent from London Borough of Brent

Appendix



**GREEN ZONE**

**BAG RESTRICTIONS**

 Permissible Bag Size

Depth 210mm  
Height 297mm  
Width 210mm

**WARNING**  
YOU MAY BE FINED  
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION  
ORDER IN OPERATION:

- NO STREET DRINKING
- NO SALE OF GOODS
- NO SALE/REALE OF TICKETS

WEMBLEY  Brent 



**THANKS FOR VISITING WEMBLEY**

↑ WEMBLEY PARK STATION 

← WEMBLEY CENTRAL 

← WEMBLEY STADIUM TAXIS

**WARNING**  
YOU MAY BE FINED  
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION  
ORDER IN OPERATION:

- NO STREET DRINKING
- NO SALE OF GOODS
- NO SALE/REALE OF TICKETS

WEMBLEY  Brent 



**YELLOW ZONE**

**BAG RESTRICTIONS**

 Permissible Bag Size

Depth 210mm  
Height 297mm  
Width 210mm

**WARNING**  
YOU MAY BE FINED  
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION  
ORDER IN OPERATION:

- NO STREET DRINKING
- NO SALE OF GOODS
- NO SALE/REALE OF TICKETS

WEMBLEY  Brent 



## BLUE ZONE

### ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

#### BAG RESTRICTIONS



Permissible Bag Size

Depth 210mm

Height 297mm

Width 210mm


#### WARNING

YOU MAY BE FINED  
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION  
ORDER IN OPERATION:


- NO STREET DRINKING
- NO SALE OF GOODS
- NO SALE/RESALE OF TICKETS










## WEMBLEY PARK STATION



#### WARNING

YOU MAY BE FINED  
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION  
ORDER IN OPERATION:

- NO STREET DRINKING
- NO SALE OF GOODS
- NO SALE/RESALE OF TICKETS



## PURPLE ZONE

### ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

#### BAG RESTRICTIONS



Permissible Bag Size

Depth 210mm

Height 297mm

Width 210mm

#### WARNING

YOU MAY BE FINED  
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION  
ORDER IN OPERATION:


- NO STREET DRINKING
- NO SALE OF GOODS
- NO SALE/RESALE OF TICKETS





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 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee</b> 6 September 2022
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director Resident Services</b>
<b>Cost of Living Crisis</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Thomas Cattermole Director of Customer Access 020 8937 5446 <a href="mailto:Thomas.Cattermole@brent.gov.uk">Thomas.Cattermole@brent.gov.uk</a>  Charlotte Moore Senior Transformation Officer 020 8937 4177 <a href="mailto:Charlotte.Moore@brent.gov.uk">Charlotte.Moore@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To outline the actions the Council is taking to mitigate the impact of the Cost of Living crisis in Brent and update members of the Committee on the progress of the Cost of Living themed Outcome Based Review (OBR).

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee are asked to:
- Note the actions the Council is taking to mitigate the impact of the Cost of Living crisis; and
  - Note the progress of the Cost of Living crisis themed OBR

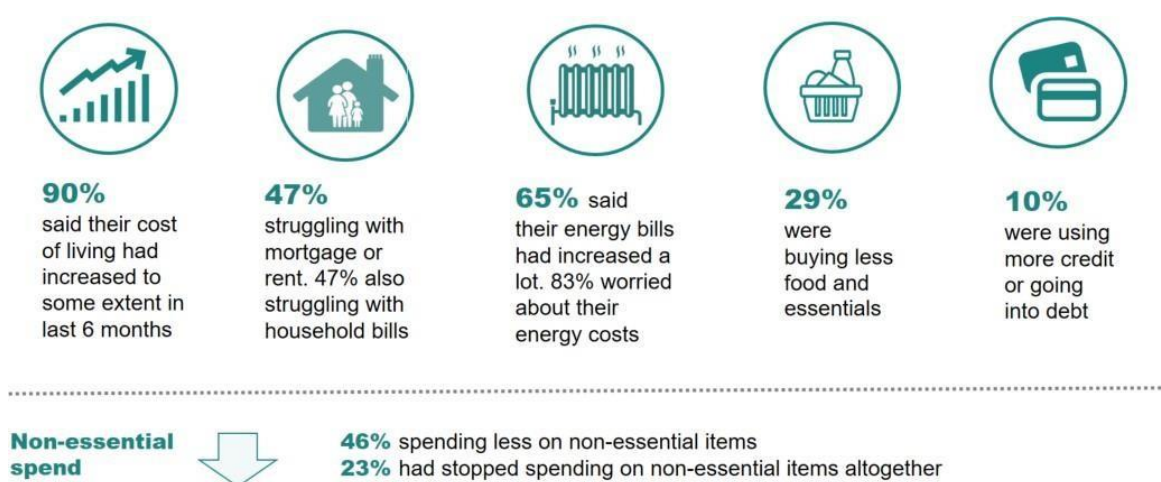
## 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Since late 2021, the UK has experienced a rise in the costs of living for individuals and businesses. For many Brent residents, this means having to

make difficult decisions on how they spend their income, which can have a negative impact on their standard of living.

- 3.2** In a recent attitudes survey<sup>1</sup>, 90% of Londoners surveyed said their cost of living had increased to some extent in the last 6 months, while 65% said their energy bills had increased a lot, and 47% said they were struggling with mortgage or rent payments. Of those surveyed, the groups that were most likely to say their costs had risen a lot included Black and Asian Londoners, social renters (from housing association or Council), and those whose daily activities were considerably limited by health problems or disabilities. See image 1.

Image 1 Public attitudes about the cost of living. YouGov poll of Londoners (July 2022)

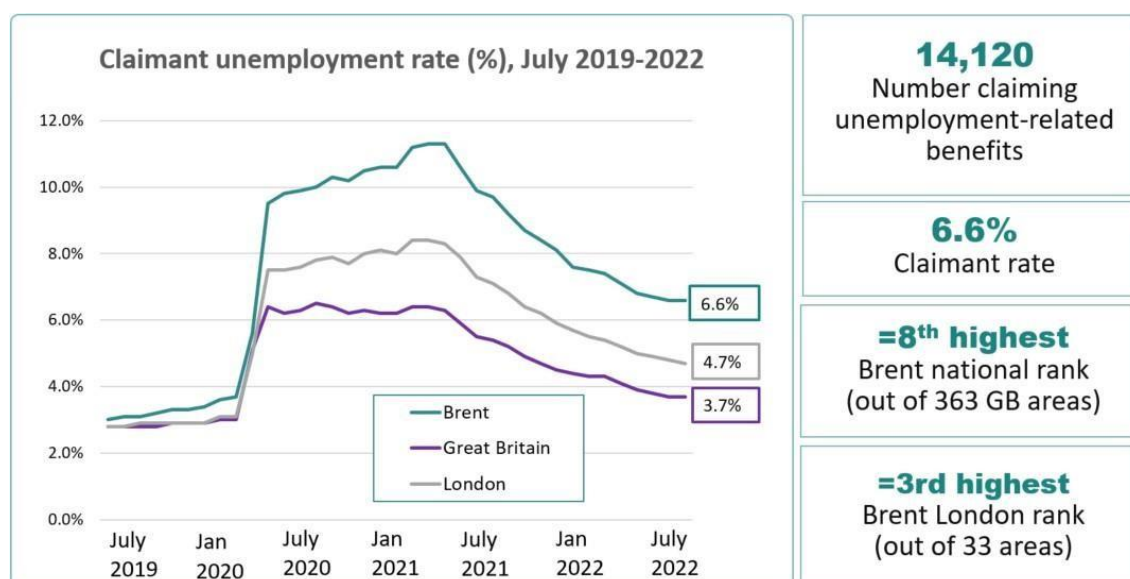


- 3.3** In 2020, Brent saw one of the biggest nationwide increases in unemployment. Although rates have been falling, recovery has been slow. Currently, Brent has one of the highest unemployment claimant rates in the country - the 8<sup>th</sup> highest out of 363 areas across Great Britain, compared with a ranking of 70<sup>th</sup> in March 2020<sup>2</sup>. See image 2.

<sup>1</sup> Source: YouGov (for GLA). Sample 1245 adults. Fieldwork 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – carried out online. The figures were weighted to be representative of all London adults (aged 18+). Data available on [GLA datastore](#).

<sup>2</sup> Source: Office for National Statistics, Claimant unemployment count ([NOMIS](#)). Rates express claimant count as % of population aged 16-64.

Image 2. Unemployment in Brent



**3.4** The latest Bank of England forecast has inflection peaking at 13.1% in the fourth quarter of 2022. This is largely driven by the 80% energy price cap increase in October 2022<sup>3</sup>, following the earlier 54% increase in April, and will place further pressures on household budgets.

**3.5** The Council has a number of initiatives aimed at supporting residents who may be struggling and enabling Brent and partner organisations to best respond to local needs. These include:

#### Financial support

- The **Brent Resident Support Fund (RSF)** has been in place since August 2020. In the period August 2020 to 15 August 2022, RSF has supported 4,045 households with a total of £8.46 million. The support provided is for help with the cost of living. This can include, but is not limited to, household bills, arrears in rent, mortgage, council tax, food, fuel, digital equipment and emergency funds.
  - In June Cabinet approved a further £3 million of Council funds for this financial year (2022/2023).
  - Cabinet also approved the delegation of authority to the Strategic Director of Customer and Digital Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience, to amend the eligibility criteria for the fund throughout the lifetime of the scheme. This enables the scheme to respond in a timely manner to emerging trends in applications.

<sup>3</sup> BBC, 26 August 2022 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-62633742>

- **Council tax Support (CTS): 27,597** households are supported through CTS of which 18,999 are working age and 8598 are pension age. The below table represents working age residents. Pension age residents are entitled to full council tax support depending on their income, savings and household composition. The total support given to households is £30m per annum. The current caseload is 27,597 compared to the previous year 27,549.

Council tax Support	Household income per week	Average weekly amount
Passported benefit	DWP/HMRC benefits	£23.73
Band 1	£0 to £80	£23.73
Band 2	£81 to £110	£19.80
Band 3	£110 to £150	£13.34
Band 4	£150 to £250	£8.78

- **Housing Benefits (HB):** The housing benefit service supports **20,528** households. The number of cases is decreasing due to residents moving to universal credit. The caseload in the previous year was 23,568. The total support given to households exceeds £230m per annum. The below table shows average HB weekly awards per tenure type.

Housing Benefits	HB cases in each tenure	Average weekly award
Temporary Accommodation and Bed & Breakfast	880	£307.50
Council tenants-HRA	3,198	£117.64
Private tenants and Housing Associations	16,450	£218.34

#### Food and energy support

- **Brent Hubs** work with residents who find it difficult to access the support they need through mainstream services. This includes issuing vouchers to residents in need of urgent food and fuel support, as well as making referrals to food aid agencies and support schemes for utility costs. Since January 2021, over 6,500 residents have accessed Hub services. Over the same period, the Hubs provided food and fuel vouchers with a total value of £12,400.

The most common needs which residents present with at the Hubs are food and fuel support (23%), council tax and housing benefit (17%), housing and homelessness (13%), form filling – such as RSF applications - (13%), debt and money (9%), welfare benefits (8%), and other, for example, employment, general support, immigration etc.(17%).

- The Government's **Household Support Fund (HSF)** has been used to provide support to Brent households with the cost of food and fuel in the

form of food and fuel vouchers, grants, and financial support to food aid organisations. The HSF is a follow-on fund from the previous COVID Winter Support Fund and COVID Local Support Funds, which had been in place since December 2020.

Between December 2020 and March 2022, the Council distributed £5.5m through these grants to Brent residents. This has included:

- Supporting the families / carers of approximately 12,000 eligible children and young people with supermarket vouchers during each of the school holidays since December 2020. This includes approximately 20,339 vouchers that were sent out from the Council to support families with children aged 0-4 years old who are not attending school. The most recent vouchers to the value of £60 per eligible child were issued to cover the duration of the 2022 summer holidays.
- A one-off payment of £50 in February 2021 was made to families with eligible children to contribute towards the cost of gas and electricity bills.
- £125k in grant funding provided to food banks operating in Brent to support them in meeting increased demand as a result of the Pandemic and cost of living crisis.
- Work is underway to develop an **advisory service to support those affected by fuel poverty**. This will provide impartial energy advice to help residents stay warm, save money and live greener, and will include referral pathways to organisations such as independent advisory agencies. It involves working with front line services (especially those who go into homes) to help identify and refer residents who are in hardship and to develop a central referral point through Brent Hubs. Financial assistance with heating or fuel costs will be contingent on a visit by this team.
- Consideration is being given to the development of a **community shop** model within Brent, which would sell low-cost food and household essentials to families on low/no income. This model is one that has been adapted by other London boroughs as a way to utilise surplus food and household items otherwise being wasted.

#### Employment, skills and inclusion

- The Employment, Skills and Enterprise service help to **upskill residents to support them moving into work**. This includes 4,831 qualifications via Brent Start (ESOL, English, Maths & Digital Skills) from September 2021 to date, digital equipment loans, and financial support toward childcare. In the financial year 2021-22 Brent Works job brokerage service exceeded all targets:
  - Placed 136 residents into full time employment
  - 71% sustained for 26 weeks or more
  - 80% at London Living Wage or above
  - 50 residents into apprenticeships and
  - 100 young people placed into paid Kickstart opportunities

- The delivery of a number of Borough Plan funded **Financial Inclusion projects**. This includes a financial capability upskilling programme targeting community leaders, training to upskill Brent Hubs staff and residents in debt management, as well as the delivery of a financial inclusion learning programme for residents. Up to 340 residents and community leaders, have been supported through this programme with further work ongoing.
- To improve **digital skills** the council has committed to having 500 digital champions by 2025. As of July 2022, there are 108 Digital Champions in Brent and we are on track to meet our target. This includes having trained digital champions within Brent Hubs, libraries, customer services, and the voluntary sector and within housing partners. All Digital Champions are given access to the Digital Unite platform where they must complete essential training as well as explore more specific training that relates to the services they provide. The champions are also supported through the Digital Champions Network, which provides space to share experiences and feedback on the training programme.
- **Digital Inclusion** support for over 900 households, including the provision of access to digital devices for 478 Brent pupils, and digital skills training for 100 businesses has been delivered. We also continue to engage with internet providers to improve access to fibre through social tariffs.
- Work is currently being undertaken to develop an approach that will enable organisations to interact on behalf of residents, who are less able to access services via the **Brent Customer Portal**. This will enable recognised VCS groups and advocates to transact on behalf of individuals less able to engage with online services. An internal team has been identified to pilot this approach so that a policy can be developed which can be applied to trusted voluntary and community sector organisations.

#### Awareness raising

- In March 2022 a **Financial Support leaflet** outlining the support available was developed and delivered to all households in Brent to help increase awareness of the schemes and mechanisms available to those who are struggling with the cost of living.
- A comprehensive cost of living **communications plan** is being developed to begin in September. The plan will bring together and promote the evolving range of support available to residents, including how best to access it. A wide range of tactics and channels will be used including: digital advertising, a dedicated webpage, trusted community voices and a prominent feature in the autumn edition of Your Brent Magazine, delivered to every household in the borough. Learning from ongoing community engagement work as part of the OBR will feed into and shape the plan; ensuring communications are designed to resonate with different groups of residents identified throughout the research.

## Knowledge sharing

- A **Fuel Poverty Toolkit** has been developed and promoted internally. It is available for all staff to access via the intranet. The toolkit provides an overview of local, national and independent support schemes and agencies, along with details as to how support can be accessed. Thirteen stakeholder briefings sessions promoting the toolkit were also delivered, helping raise awareness of the options that are available to residents to help with rising energy costs. These included briefing sessions for elected Members, as well as services including Housing, Public Health, Adult Social Care and Family Wellbeing Centres and Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) partners.
- Five **all-staff sessions** took place in May and June and were attended by 1,155 council officers. These workshop-style events were themed around the Cost of Living crisis and included videos from staff sharing their experiences of its impact on their service users, presentations and a group activity based on case studies of households affected by the crisis; where staff collaborated in discussing how best to support them. Outputs have been collated and will feed into ongoing development of the work outlined in this report.
- The council has developed an operational **practitioners' network**, bringing together key staff from across the council to provide a space to share learning, collectively review what is working well and to consider how we can improve access to existing support mechanisms, whilst also seeking opportunities to develop new provision where required. The first session took place on 16 August. 27 officers were in attendance with representatives from Housing, Brent Front door, Public Health, ASC, Brent Start and Brent Hubs. These sessions will be held every six-weeks and will be developed to include external organisations and partners.
- Following on from the success of five Brent Health Matters briefing sessions held in May and June, with over 230 participants in total, a new programme of **themed stakeholder briefing sessions** has been developed to take place twice a year. These sessions will serve as a forum for key partners and voluntary community sector organisations to continue to share information about their services, increase their knowledge of the provisions to better support residents during this Cost of Living crisis, as well as encourage networking and greater collaborative working among colleagues. The next set of sessions will take place in September and October 2022 and will include briefings from Council services and key partners including: Brent Gateway, Brent Food Banks (Trussell Trust), Age UK, CAMHS, WDP New Beginnings, Advice4Renters, Citizens Advice, SUFRA NW London, Job Centre Plus.

## Measuring impact

- Measuring impact will improve the Council's understanding of the effects of the Cost of Living crisis on the borough, and will shape how effective collective efforts are in helping to mitigate any negative impacts.
- The main mechanism for measuring impact is a **financial inclusion dashboard** developed by the council. The dashboard was presented to the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 1 August and the dashboard's functionality was demonstrated, including the ability for strategic level staff to monitor high-level statistics, such as Housing Benefit caseload, Council tax outstanding and Resident Support Fund granted to support operational decisions.
- Members were also presented with a ward level breakdown of each statistic, which allows senior staff to identify discrepancies between wards and highlight areas for targeted action. The dashboard uses underlying data gathered from our source systems to match and identify residents that are known to the Council in different systems. This provides a more holistic view of demand and helps identify those residents most in need.
- To show further possible developments a Proof of Concept '**Single View**' **dashboard** was demonstrated. This view would encompass more data and build a better picture of residents at a more granular level. The presentation of a 'mock profile' revealed the ability to gain greater clarity on an individual's situation and advise accordingly using the data provided.
- **Phase 2 development of the dashboard** will consider multiple new indicators, which will enable us to target and monitor resources with respect to the Cost of Living crisis. Proxy indicators will be used to allow the Council to make targeted decisions in mitigating the crisis using internal council data to identify residents in need. These indicators will include:
  - Free School Meals
  - ASC Debt
  - Sundry Debt
  - Council Tax Arrears
  - Brent Hubs
  - Business rates arrears
  - Resident Support Fund
  - Council Tax Support
  - Rent Arrears
- Key impact indicators will be extracted from external sources to enable relative comparisons to be made at borough level. These will help to identify potential priority areas where resources could be focused and enables us to track our relative position in comparison to other boroughs who may not have similar interventions in place. These indicators will include:



- Employment and unemployment rates by place of residence
- Average earnings by place of residence
- Universal Credit claimant count
- UK Business counts
- The proportion of households in each Brent LSOA that are fuel poor
- Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Number of adults in Brent who have used the internet in the last 3 months
- Live tables on homelessness
- Free School Meals (also comparable at borough wide level)
- Crime data including anti-social behaviour, burglary and theft

## Local framework

- 3.6** The above initiatives are in addition to other work being carried out across Council departments and by partner organisations aimed at supporting residents in hardship. They are part of an overarching local framework aimed at improving alignment and collaboration, recognising Council's pivotal role at the centre of the system. This includes health and the DWP, providers of commissioned services and the Voluntary & Community Sector. The system approach works both at operational and strategic levels to build awareness and relationships within the system and to help improve access and deployment of support. This approach continues to develop and will be further shaped by learning from the OBR.



## National Support

- 3.7** In addition to work outlined above, national support is being rolled-out. On 26 May 2022, the then Chancellor announced a Cost of Living support package worth £15 billion. The Government has targeted this support towards 8 million of the most vulnerable households, pensioners and disabled people.
- 3.8** As part of this support, package households on low incomes have and will be supported in the following ways:

- 8 million households on means tested benefits will receive a one-off Cost of Living Payment of £650. The DWP will make this payment in two lump sums, the first of which was paid to recipients in July and the second in autumn.
- 8 million pensioner households who receive winter fuel support will get a one-off payment of £300. The Government will make these payments directly to pensioner households in the autumn.
- Households in Council tax bands A-D will be entitled to a £150 energy bills rebate, paid either through their council tax bill or to a bank account of their choice. Brent has approximately 92,000 eligible households, which will all have been paid by the 30 September 2022 deadline. In addition, we have a discretionary fund of £1.2M to assist those in council tax bands E-H that meet certain criteria for this award. The deadline for the discretionary award is 30 November 2022.

**3.9** Universal support from the Government to help with energy bills has been increased from £200 to £400; there is now no requirement for individuals to re-pay this. Energy suppliers will deliver this support to households with a domestic electricity meter over six months from October 2022.

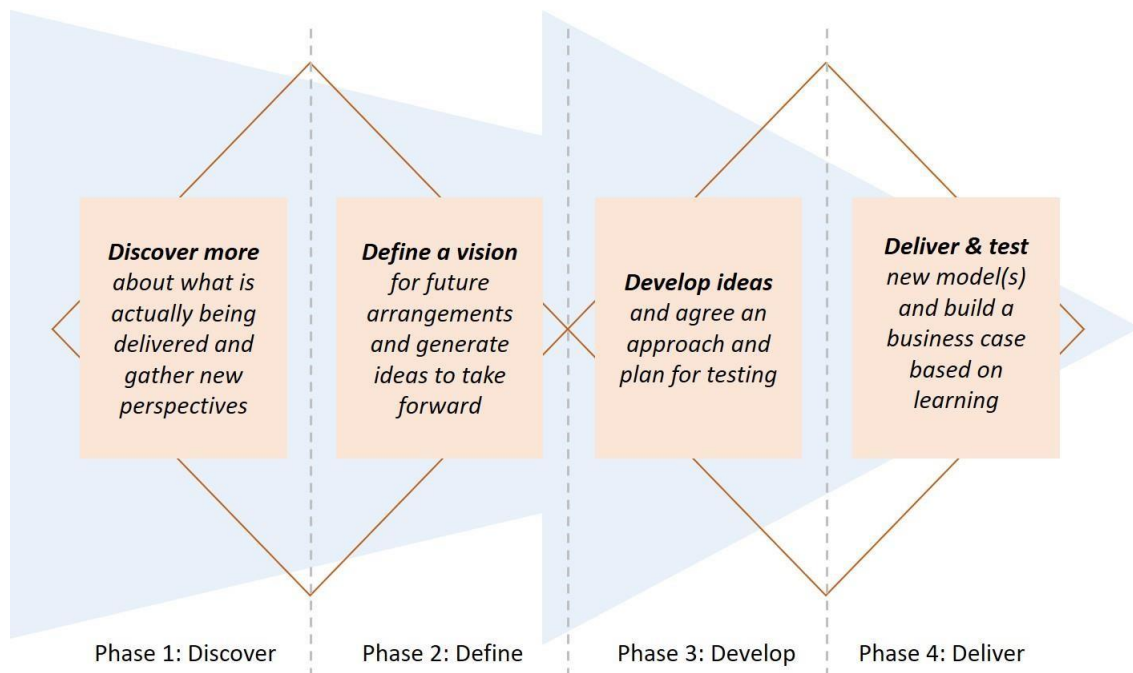
**3.10** It was also announced that the Household Support Fund (HSF) will be extended from October 2022 to March 2023. The Government will issue additional guidance to Local Authorities in the future to ensure that those not eligible for the £650 Cost of Living Payment are supported. Local Authorities will determine the eligibility criteria and delivery of the HSF that will be confirmed in the coming months.

#### **4.0 Outcome Based Review (OBR)**

**4.1** Considering the challenging national political context and the forecast of further increases in inflation and household bills, Brent's Cabinet, on 20 June, endorsed an Outcome Based Review (OBR) approach to tackling the complex Cost of Living issue and mitigating its impact on residents.

**4.2** The OBR approach places the voice of local people at the centre of our response to cost of living challenges by bringing together diverse groups of stakeholders – including residents and partners - to collaborate using designed methodologies across four phases: Discover, Define, Develop and Deliver.

## Outcome Based Review (OBR)



**4.3** The OBR discovery phase began in July and is still in progress – it will culminate at the end of September with a large-scale collaboration event. The discovery phase consists of four work streams:

- 1. Community Research & Engagement:** This is a comprehensive programme including engagement of partners, providers, front-line staff and current and potential service users. Approaches, including ethnographic interviews (i.e. in-depth, 1-2 hour conversations with residents to understand their history, circumstances, experiences and related emotions) and focus groups to help gather insights and new perspectives on the issue are being used.

This work stream launched with a kick-off session for Members on 18 July. This included briefings, presentations, and opportunities for Members to share experiences to help shape the community engagement approach. Members provided feedback of what they had seen locally and suggested engaging with specific cohorts of residents and the voluntary and community sector organisations that support them.

To date the OBR has engaged with a wide range of stakeholders/groups including residents, charities, community groups, food banks and schools; with further sessions scheduled for September.

Emerging themes from the engagement include:

- There is a vast array of formal/informal support mechanisms in place for residents who are experiencing financial difficulty; however, these are

not collated in a coherent system. There is an opportunity to have a greater impact on resident outcomes through a more consolidated system/approach.

Example feedback from engagement work:

*“There needs to be better networking structure across organisations for improved joined up working. And better signposting - to be aware of what’s out there/where to send people and get it right the first time.” (VCS partner)*

- Some residents experience barriers when accessing support through the system. This could be for a number of reasons – lack of awareness/motivation, perceived stigma, digital exclusion, less able to seek support, disproportionately affected by the crisis.

Example feedback from engagement work:

*“There are issues with accessing services when faced with a language barrier or little / no knowledge of what you are eligible for.” (School)*

- A number of residents are experiencing financial crisis for the first time.

Example feedback from engagement work:

*“There has been a real increase with a slight delay effect, we saw more people in June, and have received new referrals with people who have not accessed the food bank before.”(VCS partner)*

*“The Hubs are seeing an increase in the newly in need.”(Council officer)*

- There may be a significant negative impact on mental health and wellbeing.

Example feedback from engagement work:

*“I’m working very hard. Not being able to support my family doesn’t make me feel good” (Local resident)*

- There may also be gaps in the system.

Example feedback from engagement work:

*“Residents in temporary accommodation or with no recourse to public funds tend to fall between gaps.” (VCS organisation)*

2. **Data Analysis:** This includes developing insights from sources including: the London attitude survey, staff survey, resident profiles, resident attitude survey, service data and national data sets. Key indicators are being identified and mapped, including to LSOA area where possible, to provide a geographic visual representation of the effects of the Cost of Living crisis on residents. A range of indicators will be used to understand the impacts of the Cost of Living crisis on different groups, providing insights that will help with modelling and forecasting for the future.

3. **Horizon Scanning:** This includes desktop research into work by other local authorities, published research, participation at London-wide forums, as well as using the Cost of Living LGA Hub<sup>4</sup> to inform the wider context. Examples include:

- **Islington Council** - providing a £150 payment to meet the costs of school uniform for children who are eligible for Free School Meals and moving from year 6 to secondary school.
- **Lewisham Council** – Evelyn Community Shop, 70 households pay a £3.50 membership fee per week for food they can collect from the shop for the week.
- **Lambeth** – created an easy use portal with social start up Lightning Reach, which allows residents to create a single profile to find and apply for a personalised range of grants and other support across multiple providers.

4. **Service Mapping:** This work stream is building a picture of local and neighbourhood offers, including those not already captured by the Community Directory e.g. school uniform swap shops, one-off community initiatives / events. It is linking with engagement of residents and partners to utilise their local knowledge and will help to identify best practice and gaps in provision.

4.4 The four discovery phase work streams above will continue to progress throughout September, during which the key findings outputs from all work will be synthesised and further developed.

4.5 A large-scale stakeholder event, called a 'visioning day', is scheduled for 29 September. At this event, the products of the discovery work will be played-back and presented to attendees - including partners, members, residents and Brent leads. Facilitation will encourage attendees to generate ideas for new solutions and approaches that respond to the key issues and recurring themes identified in the discovery work and jointly developed at the visioning day.

4.6 The consensus of the best and most viable ideas – for example, proposals for new solutions, services and ways of collaborative working – will be agreed at the visioning day. These ideas will then be tested and evaluated from October 2022 onwards and, where successful, developed further with partners and other key stakeholders into full pilots / permanent models.

4.7 Over the coming weeks, and ahead of the visioning day on 29 September, work across all four work streams of the discovery phase will continue. Further ethnographies, presentations at forums and focus groups will take place. Targeted work will take place to ensure the OBR engages with further cohorts of residents and partners to ensure the voice and needs of all local people is captured in the products for the visioning day.

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<sup>4</sup> Local Government Association, Cost of living hub: <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/safer-and-more-sustainable-communities/cost-living-hub>

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1** In 2021/22 £3m was allocated to the RSF. A further £3m has been allowed for 2022/23 and will be funded from corporate reserves. The fund will be closely monitored during the year as part of the quarterly budget monitoring arrangements. Any further funding to the RSF beyond this allocation will need to form part of the budget setting process in 2023/24.

## **6.0 Legal Implications**

- 6.1** The Council's Resident Support Fund is a discretionary fund that is funded by the Council. The Resident Support Fund replaced the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme after that latter scheme was no longer funded by central government. The Council has received funding from central Government under a number of schemes that were created during the pandemic, including the Household Support Fund (HSF), which has been extended to March 2023. Some of the funding from the HSF has been used to top up the Resident Support Fund.
- 6.2** The Council's Council Tax Support Scheme (also known as the Council Tax reduction scheme) was approved by Full Council on 25 November 2019 and came into effect in April 2020. The said scheme was slightly amended by Full Council on 24 February 2022 for the 2022/23 financial year to take into account decisions made by central government regarding the implementation of the energy grant payment for the 2022/23 financial year.
- 6.3** The General Power of Competence was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and in simple terms, it gives local authorities the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation.
- 6.4** Legal advice will be provided in relation to individual projects as and when necessary and appropriate, in particular in the event that the Government may provide additional financial assistance to residents and businesses which are likely to be administered by local authorities and the provision of any further statutory guidance that is provided by the Government.

## **7.0 Equality Implications**

- 7.1** Equality implications will be considered for individual projects at the appropriate time.

## **8.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

- 8.1** Consultation on specific projects will be carried out when and where appropriate. The Lead Member with responsibility for the work of this service area will be kept informed about this plan and its delivery.

Related Document:  
Cabinet Report Cost of Living Crisis June 2022

**Report sign off:**

*Peter Gadsdon*

Corporate Director of Resident Services

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## **Philip Grant's Deputation for Scrutiny Committee: item 9 – Poverty Commission Update**

The Poverty Commission Update report asks you to 'Note progress on implementation of the Poverty Commission recommendations as agreed by Cabinet.'

You are a Scrutiny Committee, and you should be questioning this report, not just noting it.

Please look at paragraph 3.7, on Housing. What progress has been made on that?

Lord Best's Poverty Commission identified the cost of housing as a major contributor to poverty in Brent, and recommended a substantial increase in investment in social housing.

Brent's Cabinet agreed Recommendation 4, which said: 'We recommend that in pursuing its strategic target to secure 50% of new homes as affordable, Brent gives special consideration to achieving more social rented homes.'

Yet you look at "Housing" in the Update report, and there is not a single mention of social rented homes!

The Update report says that the Council is making great progress with its New Council Homes programme, but how many of those homes are genuinely new homes for people on the housing waiting list?

Of the 655 homes already delivered, 209 at Gloucester & Durham in South Kilburn are actually replacement homes for tenants whose flats were demolished to make way for that development.

Of the homes delivered or 'onsite', 92 at Knowles House are for temporary accommodation, not permanent Council homes.

At Grand Union in Alperton, the figures include 23 for shared ownership. The 92 rented Council homes there will be for London Affordable Rent, which is higher than social rent levels.

If you ask how many of the New Council Homes Brent says it can deliver by 2024 will be at social rent levels, I think you'll find the answer is "none".

One place where Brent could increase investment in social housing is the former Copland School site. It is vacant land, owned by the Council, which has had full planning permission to build 250 homes there for over a year.

I wrote to Cabinet members last August, when that item was on their agenda, urging them to fulfil their Poverty Commission promises, and make at least some of this development homes for social rent.

Instead, they approved a proposal which allows 152 of the new homes there to be sold privately. Of the 98 Council homes, 61 would be for shared ownership, and only 37 for London Affordable Rent.

Overall, the Wembley Housing Zone scheme claims to provide 50% "affordable housing". But the balance of that is 54 flats at London Affordable Rent level on the Ujima House site, and only 8 of those would be family-sized homes.

There would be NO social rented homes. That's the reality hidden in this Poverty Commission Update.

You, as a Scrutiny Committee, need to challenge that, and demand that Brent Council does better.

You can recommend that in meeting its Poverty Commission commitments, it should invest in more social rent housing as part of the New Council Homes programme, including at its Cecil Avenue development.

Thank you for listening to me. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

## Appendix 1

### Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2022-2023

19 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	

### 6 September 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Corporate Directors	External Organisations
Budget Scrutiny Task Group	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel, Corporate Director of Finance and Resources	
Cost of living crisis	Cllr Ellie Southwood, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience	Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services	

### 8 November 2022

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

**24 January 2023**

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

**22 February 2023**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Corporate Directors/ Director of Public Health</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>
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
Annual complaints and members' inquiries report	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	tbc	

**25 April 2023**

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

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

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 21 September 2022
	<b>Report from Director Engagement, Strategy &amp; Communications</b>
<b>Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Council
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1 Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Programme
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	George Kockelbergh Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy & Partnerships 020 8937 5477 <a href="mailto:George.Kockelbergh@brent.gov.uk">George.Kockelbergh@brent.gov.uk</a>  Tom Pickup Policy, Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager Strategy & Partnerships <a href="mailto:Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk">Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</a>  Lorna Hughes, Director Engagement, Strategy & Communication 020 8937 5068 <a href="mailto:Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk">Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Full Council on the meetings and activities of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee since the last meeting of Full Council on 11 July 2022.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the updates as set out in the Chair's report.

### 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Brent Council has two scrutiny committees: the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. The Council also participates as a full voting member in the North West London Joint Health Overview Scrutiny (NWL JHOSC), this is chaired by Councillor Ketan Sheth for the 2022-23 municipal year.

- 3.2 A scrutiny committee can review anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit. The remit of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees. The committee's remit includes:

*Adult social care; Safeguarding; Children's services; Cultural services; Education; Health; Housing; Public Health and Wellbeing.*

- 3.3 As part of its remit set out in the constitution and its role to review the provision and operation of health services within the borough, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can scrutinise, and make recommendations, to NHS organisations.

#### The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

- 3.4 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's next meeting will take place on 21 September, following its first meeting of the municipal year on 5 July. Here the committee will review two papers concerning the Children and Young People's directorate. The first paper is a report on the implementation of services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the impact upon High Needs Block funding. The second is a report on Early Help and Family Wellbeing Centres
- 3.5 The Committee will also seek to establish a scrutiny task and finish group on the topic of social prescribing. This item will be accompanied by a scoping paper which sets out the proposed terms of reference of the task group. If confirmed, the task group will conduct an in-depth analysis of the current social prescribing landscape in Brent and explore the opportunities for further developing social prescribing in the borough.
- 3.6 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and its members are involved in the annual budget scrutiny process. Which includes a joint budget scrutiny task group with the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. This task group was established at the 6 September 2022 Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee following confirmation by committee members.

#### The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC)



- 3.7 The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising the plans for meeting the health needs of the population and arranging for the provision of health services in North West London. The committee reviews and scrutinises decisions or actions taken by the North West London Integrated Care System, their Integrated Care Board and other NHS service providers. The committee takes a wider view than individual local authorities and reviews issues with a pan North West London focus.
- 3.8 The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprises of representatives from the boroughs of Brent, Ealing Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, and a co-opted representative from Richmond upon Thames.
- 3.9 The NWLJHOSC held its first meeting of the municipal year on the 20 July at Brent Civic Centre. The committee's work programme was agreed for the 2022-23 municipal year, and both Cllr Ketan Sheth and Cllr Daniel Crawford from the London Borough of Ealing were confirmed by the committee as Chair and Vice-Chair of the NWL JHOSC respectively.
- 3.10 At the meeting the committee reviewed an item on the proposals for an elective orthopaedic centre at Central Middlesex hospital. Members reviewed the pre-consultation exercise carried out on the proposals in North West London. Members questioned the suitability of the site at Central Middlesex Hospital and asked NHS representatives to set out rationale for choosing Central Middlesex hospital. The committee made a number of recommendations to the NHS on this item:
- i) That the NHS considers the best strategy for the consultation to reach as many people as possible, utilising key partners across North West London.*
  - ii) That the committee agrees to the NHS embarking on a formal public consultation that starts on the first week of September.<sup>1</sup>*
  - iii) That a clear reference is made to how the findings of the consultation will input into the business case.*
  - iv) That the full business case for the centre is brought back to a later meeting.*
  - v) That the NHS provide an effective communication strategy to clearly set out the pathway from primary to secondary care for patients and residents across NW London.*
- 3.11 The committee then reviewed an item concerning the proposals to develop three community diagnostic centres in North West London, this would create three new centres in North West London where patients can have scans, tests and other diagnostic procedures outside of hospital settings. Two of these are proposed to be in Brent on existing NHS estates in Wembley and Willesden,

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<sup>1</sup> N.B. The consultation has been delayed to the start of October

with the other at Ealing Hospital. The committee reviewed and questioned the location of the centres compared to other sites in North West London and made the following recommendations to the NHS:

*i) That communications and messaging are clear for local communities; to make the distinction between the new diagnostic hub and existing diagnostic facilities at Ealing Hospital and other Community Diagnostic Centres clear.*

*ii) That decisions made in regards to community diagnostic centres are made with consideration of new data.*

*iii) That NHS colleagues help to facilitate site visits to the Ealing Hospital and other Community Diagnostic Centres where appropriate.*

*iv) That NHS colleagues are invited to relevant borough scrutiny committees.*

- 3.12 The committee reviewed an Integrated Care System (ICS) update paper, presented by Rob Hurd – Chief Executive of North West London ICS. The report encompassed a wide range of relevant issues within North West London. Committee members explored how the ICS governance structures would work in practice and advocated for greater local authority representation within these structures. The committee also questioned NHS representatives on the closure of Western Eye Hospital. The following recommendations were made to the NHS on this item:

*i) That consideration is given to local authorities having a substantial role in the governance of the North West London ICS.*

*ii) That a robust plan is developed for tackling current waiting lists in North West London.*

*iii) That a framework is developed for monitoring performance of subcontractors in primary care.*

*iv) That a financially focused paper is brought back to this committee for review.*

*v) That an Integrated Care System's update remains a standing item on each agenda.*

- 3.13 The last substantive paper concerned an update on the health inequalities framework developed for NWL. The committee discussed how NHS colleagues would ensure that the engagement reached the communities who were most affected by continuing health inequalities. The committee also focused on the piece of work encouraging people into employment in the NHS and local government. Two recommendations arose from this report:

*i) That NHS colleagues provide an annual update on health inequalities to monitor progress being made.*

*ii) That NHS colleagues commit to undertaking processes of benchmarking and utilising best practice in their approach to tackling health inequalities.*

- 3.14 The next NWL JHOSC meeting has been postponed due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II, when it is rearranged it will be hosted by Richmond upon Thames and members will review items on: primary care performance and strategy including GP access, emergency department pathways and performance including London Ambulance Service performance, a palliative care review, a North West London ICS update, and West London changes to Hope / Horizon wards.

#### **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 Councillors will discuss this report at the Council meeting.

#### **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:**

**Lorna Hughes,**  
Director of Engagement, Strategy &  
Communications

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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, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care		
Update on Shared Lives Scheme & Tudor Gardens	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care		

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

### 22 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	Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director, Children and Young People Minesh Patel, Corporate Director, Finance and Resources	Health	TBC

Early Help & Family Wellbeing Centres	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director, Children and Young People		
Scoping Paper on Social Prescribing	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care Tom Shakespeare, Director of Health and Social Care Integration		Robyn Doran, Borough Director Brent Integrated Care Partnership

**22 November 2022**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Strategic Directors</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>	<b>External Participants</b>
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, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care	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	Nigel Chapman, Corporate 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>Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director, Children and Young People</p> <p>Phil Porter, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care</p>		
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**25 January 2023**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>	<b>External Participants</b>
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, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care		
Mental Health	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care		Carolyn Regan, Chief Executive West London NHS Trust
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**7 March 2023**


<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>	<b>External Participants</b>
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Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Including CAMHS	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Nigel Chapman, Corporate 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	Nigel Chapman, Corporate 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, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care		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, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care 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, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care  Tom Shakespeare, Director of Health and Social Care Integration		Jonathan Turner, former Borough Lead Director (Brent), CCG
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	<b>Full Council</b> 21 September 2022
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources</b>
<b>Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – Vice Chairs Report</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Council
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Minesh Patel, Director of Finance and Resources Tel: 020 8937 4043 Email: <a href="mailto:minesh.patel@brent.gov.uk">minesh.patel@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 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 11 July 2022. 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 once since the last update. The ASC has not met since the last update.

### 3.2 **Audit & Standards Advisory Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

- 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.

The report also updated the Committee in respect of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's (CSPL) recommendations, the Council's response to those recommendations and the Government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life review.

### **3.2.2 External Audit Progress Update**

The Committee received and considered a verbal update from Grant Thornton, in terms of delivery of their responsibilities as the Council's external auditors.

### **3.2.3 Emergency Preparedness Update**

At the January 2018 Audit Advisory Committee, it was resolved that an Emergency Preparedness item be added to the forward plan to be discussed annually going forward. This report briefly outlined the progress made since the 2021 report, detailing the type and number of incidents in Brent. It also provided information around initiatives and programmes of work under way to enhance the Council's resilience and response arrangements.

### **3.2.4 Internal Audit 2021-22 Annual Report – Addendum Report**

The Committee received an addendum to the 2021-22 Annual Internal Audit Report, which was presented to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The report provided an update in relation to the audit work that had been subsequently completed in accordance with the 2021-22 Internal Audit Plan.

The report also set out the arrangements for the Council's Internal Audit function undergoing an External Quality Assessment in Q3 2022-23.

### **3.2.5 Draft Statement of Accounts 2021-22**

This report presented the Council's draft 2021/22 Statement of Accounts to members of the Committee. The Committee was asked to note the Statement of Accounts submitted to the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton.

## **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 20 September 2022:

1. External Audit progress report
2. Standards Report
3. Complaints and Code of Conduct
4. Draft Statement of Accounts & External Auditor's Report

5. Annual Auditor's Report
6. Planning Code of Practice Review
7. Statement of Accounts
8. To review performance & management of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd
9. Emergency Preparedness update (short update from the previous meeting)

**Report sign off:**

***Minesh Patel***

Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

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## Full Council – 21 September 2022

### Motion for Non Cabinet Member debate

#### **One Hour Free Parking on Brent's High Streets**

##### **This Council notes:**

That following the pandemic local businesses have been impacted and require economic recovery support. Brent Council's Covid-19 Recovery Strategy sets out a number of objectives to support local businesses.

The high priority highlighted by businesses in relation to parking, as part of the economic recovery support from the pandemic.

##### **This Council believes:**

The implementation of a one hour free parking scheme in on-street paid for parking bays will assist the recovery of local businesses in the borough following the pandemic and in advance of the looming cost of living crisis. This can be implemented as a temporary measure and monitored through the council's routine parking surveys and reports.

Local businesses require economic recovery support from the pandemic. This new proposal of one-hour free on-street parking will assist, in conjunction with the Borough Plan objectives to build an economy fit for all, the Meanwhile Use strategy to assist with High Street diversification and the Council's Small Business Saturday awards and shop local campaigns, to deliver inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The proposal will assist in building a stronger economy and supporting local businesses as well as in safeguard jobs and creating new employment opportunities for Brent's diverse population.

##### **With this in mind this Council resolves:**

To pledge to support local businesses in the recovery from the pandemic by providing, subject to approval of the necessary Traffic Management Orders and new tariff, the implementation of a one-hour free on street parking scheme in paid for parking bays.


To recognise that the one hour on-street parking proposal will:

- compliment the physical improvements that are taking place on Brent's High Streets to increase footfall, dwell time and spend, by way of also providing support to local businesses and the economy; and
- Support families who are making short trips to our town centres with children and the elderly.

To continue to communicate with residents about responsible parking and walking, where possible.

Councillor Suresh Kansagra  
Kenton ward



 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 21 September 2022
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director Finance &amp; Resources</b>
<b>Treasury Management Outturn Report 2021/22</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key Decision
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Three  Appendix 1: Debt and Investment Portfolio Appendix 2: Prudential Indicators Appendix 3: Internal Investments – Average Rate vs Credit Risk
<b>Background Papers:</b>	2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy Report to Council – 22 February 2021
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Amanda Healy Head of Finance Tel: 020 8937 5912 <a href="mailto:Amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk">Amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk</a>  Sacha Bakhtiar Senior Finance Analyst Tel: 020 8937 4039 <a href="mailto:Sacha.bakhtiar@brent.gov.uk">Sacha.bakhtiar@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report updates members on Treasury Management activity and confirms that the Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2021/22.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to note and approve, following its consideration by Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 7 June 2022 and Cabinet on 18 July 2022 the 2021/22 Treasury Management outturn report, in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code).

- 2.2 Council is asked to note that for 2021/22 the Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators which were approved by Full Council on 22 February 2021 as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Capital Strategy Statement.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 The Council's treasury management activity is underpinned by the CIPFA Code, which requires authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year.
- 3.2 The Council has borrowed money over the long term to support investment in the Council's infrastructure and also invests cash balances held for short periods. It is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are central to the Council's treasury management strategy.
- 3.3 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report.
- 3.4 The Prudential Code includes a requirement for local authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The Council's Capital Strategy, complying with CIPFA's requirement, was approved by full Council on 22 February 2021.

### **4.0 Economic Background**

- 4.1 The continuing economic recovery from coronavirus pandemic, together with the war in Ukraine, higher inflation, and higher interest rates were major issues over the period.
- 4.2 The Bank of England's base rate was 0.1% at the beginning of the reporting period. April and May 2021 saw the economy gathering momentum as the pandemic restrictions were eased. Despite the improving outlook, market expectations were that the Bank of England would delay rate rises until 2022. Rising, persistent inflation changed that.
- 4.3 UK CPI inflation was 0.7% in March 2021 but thereafter began to steadily increase. Initially driven by energy price effects and by inflation in sectors such as retail and hospitality which were re-opening after the pandemic lockdowns, inflation then was believed to be temporary. Thereafter price rises slowly

became more widespread, as a combination of rising global costs and strong demand was exacerbated by supply shortages and transport dislocations. The surge in wholesale gas and electricity prices led to elevated inflation expectations. CPI for February 2022 registered 6.2% year on year, up from 5.5% in the previous month and the highest reading in the National Statistic series. Core inflation, which excludes the more volatile components, rose to 5.2% year on year from 4.4%.

- 4.4 The government's jobs furlough scheme insulated the labour market from the worst effects of the pandemic. The labour market began to tighten and demand for workers grew strongly as employers found it increasingly difficult to find workers to fill vacant jobs. Having peaked at 5.2% in December 2020, unemployment continued to fall and the most recent labour market data for the three months to January 2022 showed the unemployment rate at 3.9% while the employment rate rose to 75.6%. Headline 3-month average annual growth rate for wages were 4.8% for total pay and 3.8% for regular pay. In real terms, after adjusting for inflation, total pay growth was up 0.1% while regular pay fell by 1.0%.
- 4.5 With the fading of lockdown – and, briefly, the 'pingdemic' – restraints, activity in consumer-facing sectors improved substantially as did sectors such as oil and mining with the reopening of oil rigs but materials shortages and the reduction in the real spending power of households and businesses dampened some of the growth momentum. Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by an upwardly revised 1.3% in the fourth calendar quarter of 2021 according to the final estimate (initial estimate 1.0%) and took UK GDP to just 0.1% below where it was before the pandemic. The annual growth rate was revised down slightly to 7.4% (from 7.5%) following a revised 9.3% fall in 2020.
- 4.6 Having increased Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% in December, the Bank of England have steadily increased rates in 2022, to 0.50% in February, 0.75% in March, 1.0% in May and 1.25% in June. Further information on inflation and interest rate expectations and the impact on the Council are set out in the Medium Term Financial Outlook report also on this agenda. At the meeting in February, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to start reducing the stock of its asset purchase scheme by ceasing to reinvest the proceeds from maturing bonds as well as starting a programme of selling its corporate bonds.
- 4.7 In its March interest rate announcement, the MPC noted that the invasion of Ukraine had caused further large increases in energy and other commodity prices, with the expectation that the conflict will worsen supply chain disruptions around the world and push CPI inflation to around 8% later in 2022, even higher than forecast only a month before in the February Monetary Policy Report. The Committee also noted that although GDP in January was stronger than expected with business confidence holding up and the labour market remaining robust, consumer confidence had fallen due to the squeeze in real household incomes.

- 4.8 GDP growth in the euro zone increased by 0.3% in calendar Q4 2021 following a gain of 2.3% in the third quarter and 2.2% in the second. Headline inflation remains high, with CPI registering a record 7.5% year-on-year in March, the ninth successive month of rising inflation. Core CPI inflation was 3.0% y/y in March, was well above the European Central Bank's target of 'below, but close to 2%', putting further pressure on its long-term stance of holding its main interest rate of 0%.
- 4.9 The US economy expanded at a downwardly revised annualised rate of 6.9% in Q4 2021, a sharp increase from a gain of 2.3% in the previous quarter. In its March 2022 interest rate announcement, the Federal Reserve raised the Fed Funds rate to between 0.25% and 0.50% and outlined further increases should be expected in the coming months. The Fed also repeated its plan to reduce its asset purchase programme which could start by May 2022.
- 4.10 The conflict in Ukraine added further volatility to the already uncertain inflation and interest rate outlook over the period. The Dow Jones started to decline in January but remained above its pre-pandemic level by the end of the period while the FTSE 250 and FTSE 100 also fell and ended the quarter below their pre-March 2020 levels.
- 4.11 Bond yields were similarly volatile as the tension between higher inflation and flight to quality from the war pushed and pulled yields, but with a general upward trend from higher interest rates dominating as yields generally climbed.
- 4.12 The 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield began the quarter at 0.82% before rising to 1.41%. Over the same period the 10 year gilt yield rose from 0.97% to 1.61% and the 20-year yield from 1.20% to 1.82%.
- 4.13 The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 0.39% over the quarter.

## **5.0 Revised CIPFA code and PWLB Lending guidance**

- 5.1 In August 2021 HM Treasury significantly revised guidance for the PWLB lending facility with more detail and 12 examples of permitted and prohibited use of PWLB loans. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield will not be able to access the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management.
- 5.2 CIPFA published its revised Prudential Code for Capital Finance and Treasury Management Code on 20th December 2021. The key changes in the two codes are around permitted reasons to borrow, knowledge and skills, and the management of non-treasury investments.
- 5.3 The principles of the Prudential Code took immediate effect although local authorities could defer introducing the revised reporting requirements until the 2023/24 financial year if they wish. The Council has chosen to delay introducing the revised reporting requirements until the 2023/24 financial year.

- 5.4 To comply with the Prudential Code, authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. This Code also states that it is not prudent for local authorities to make investment or spending decision that will increase the CFR unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Council. Existing commercial investments are not required to be sold; however, authorities with existing commercial investments who expect to need to borrow should review the options for exiting these investments.
- 5.5 Borrowing is permitted for cashflow management, interest rate risk management, to refinance current borrowing and to adjust levels of internal borrowing. Borrowing to refinance capital expenditure primarily related to the delivery of a local Council's function but where a financial return is also expected is allowed, provided that financial return is not the primary reason for the expenditure. The changes align the CIPFA Prudential Code with the PWLB lending rules.
- 5.6 Unlike the Prudential Code, there is no mention of the date of initial application in the Treasury Management Code. The TM Code now includes extensive additional requirements for service and commercial investments, far beyond those in the 2017 version.
- 5.7 The Council will follow the same process as the Prudential Code, i.e. delaying changes in reporting requirements to the 2023/24 financial year.

## **6.0 Local Context**

- 6.1 On 31st March 2022, the Council had total borrowing of £684.6m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

## Table 1: CFR and Borrowing Summary

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

	<b>31.3.22 Actual £m</b>
General Fund CFR	730.2
HRA CFR	269.4
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>999.6</b>
*Other debt liabilities	25.6
<b>Borrowing CFR</b>	<b>1,025.2</b>
External borrowing	684.6
<b>Internal (over) borrowing</b>	
Less: Usable reserves	(384.0)
Less: Working capital	(202.0)
<b>Investments (or new borrowing)</b>	<b>98.6</b>

\* finance leases, PFI liabilities and transferred debt that form part of the Council's total debt

- 6.2 Lower official interest rates have lowered the cost of short-term, temporary loans and investment returns from cash assets that can be used in lieu of borrowing. The Council pursued its strategy of keeping borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low.
- 6.3 The treasury management position at 31st March 2022 and the change during the year is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	<b>31.3.21 Balance £m</b>	<b>Movement £m</b>	<b>31.3.22 Balance £m</b>	<b>31.3.22 Rate %</b>
Long-term borrowing	537.6	27.6	565.2	3.80%
Short-term borrowing	125.5	(6.1)	119.4	0.38%
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>663.1</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>684.6</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents:*	82.7	15.9	98.6	<b>0.06%</b>
Money Market Funds				
Local Authority	20.0	(20.0)	-	
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>(4.1)</b>	<b>98.6</b>	
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>560.4</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>586.0</b>	

\* This relates to our short term Treasury investments (Money Market Funds and DMA deposits). Cash balances held are not deemed an investment so are not included in the above total.

- 6.4 Cash and cash equivalent investments represent deposits which are readily convertible into cash at immediate notice. Included within this total are Money Market Funds (MMF's) which are mutual funds which invest in high-quality short-term debt. Also included is the Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility (DMADF), which provides fixed deposits and is managed by the Debt Management Agency, which is a part of HM Treasury.
- 6.5 Borrowing has increased slightly in the past year, in order to meet the requirements of our long term Capital investment programme.
- 6.6 The Council is not planning to borrow to invest primarily for commercial return and so is unaffected by the changes to the Prudential Code.

## 7.0 Borrowing Strategy

- 7.1 At 31st March 2022 the Council held £684.6m of loans, (an increase of £21.5m in year), as part of its strategy for funding previous and current years' capital programmes. Outstanding loans on 31st March are summarised in Table 3 below

Table 3: Borrowing Position

	<b>31.3.21 Balance £m</b>	<b>Net Movement £m</b>	<b>31.3.22 Balance £m</b>	<b>31.3.22 Weighted Average Rate %</b>	<b>31.3.22 Weighted Average Maturity (years)</b>
Public Works Loan Board	376.7	30.4	407.1	3.99%	26.7
LOBO loans	70.5	-	70.5	3.34%	42.5
Fixed Rate Loans (LT)	95.0	-	95.0	3.34%	23.7
Local Authority Loans (LT)	5.0	(5.0)	-		
Local Authority Loans (ST)	115.9	(3.9)	112.0	0.38%	0.36
<b>Total External Borrowing</b>	<b>663.1</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>684.6</b>		

- 7.2 The Council has continued to borrow where necessary over the past year to meet the funding requirements of the agreed capital programmes.
- 7.3 The Council's borrowing decisions are not predicated on any one outcome for interest rates and a balanced portfolio of short-term and long-term borrowing was maintained.

- 7.4 The Council has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme and an estimated borrowing requirement as determined by the Liability Benchmark, which also takes into account usable reserves and working capital. Having considered the appropriate duration and structure of borrowing based on realistic projections, it was decided to take a combination of both short-term borrowing and long-term repayment loans (with a mixture of both EIP and Maturity loan structures). The Council has borrowed through a combination of long-term fixed rate loans. Details around the new loans taken out in the current financial year are provided below. These loans provide some longer-term certainty and stability to the debt portfolio.

<b>Loan-dated Loans borrowed</b>	<b>Amount (£m)</b>	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>Period to maturity (years)</b>
PWLB EIP Loan	30	1.72	14.62
PWLB Maturity Loan	5	2.06	19.94
PWLB Maturity Loan	5	1.98	19.94

- 7.5 PWLB funding margins have lurched quite substantially and there remains a strong argument for diversifying funding sources, particularly if rates can be achieved on alternatives which are below gilt yields + 0.80%. The Council will evaluate and pursue these lower cost solutions and opportunities with its advisor Arlingclose.
- 7.6 The Council continues to hold £70.5m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate as set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. No banks exercised their option during the year.

#### **Other Debt Activity**

- 7.7 During the year, the Council entered into a 999-year lease for property at 330 Ealing Road, Alperton, which is to be developed into affordable housing. The Council will make 47 annual payments for the property, starting at £1.1m in 2026 and rising each year by CPI+1%.
- 7.8 Since the housing will be let to tenants using the Council's powers under the Housing Act 1985, the lease will be accounted for within the Housing Revenue Account.
- 7.9 When construction of the housing is complete, expected to be in March 2025, the housing will be shown on the balance sheet as an asset at an estimated value of £46.5m, with the liability increased by an identical amount.



## 8.0 Investment Activity

- 8.1 CIPFA published a revised Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes on 20th December 2021. These define treasury management investments as investments that arise from the organisation's cash flows or treasury risk management activity that ultimately represents balances that need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business.
- 8.2 The Council holds invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves. During the year, the Council's investment balances ranged between £38.6m and £150.2m due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position is shown in table 4 below.

Table 4: Treasury Investment Position

	31.3.21	Net	31.3.22	31.3.22	31.3.22
	Balance	Movement	Balance	Income Return	Weighted Average Maturity
	£m	£m	£m	%	days
Local authority deposit	20.0	(20.0)	-		
Money Market Funds	82.7	15.9	98.6	0.14	131
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>(4.1)</b>	<b>98.6</b>		<b>131</b>

- 8.3 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.
- 8.4 Ultra low short-dated cash rates, which were a feature since March 2020 when Bank Rate was cut to 0.1%, prevailed for much of the 12-month reporting period which resulted in the return on sterling low volatility net asset value (LVNAV) Money Market Funds being close to zero even after some managers have temporarily waived or lowered their fees. However, higher returns on cash instruments followed the increases in Bank Rate in December, February and March. At 31st March, the 1-day return on the Council's MMFs ranged between 0.38% - 0.47% per annum.

- 8.5 Given the low interest rate environment and the Council's borrowing need, there was a focus on holding short term investments, providing the Council with improved liquidity. There was also a focus on holding funds with high credit ratings, providing increased security over the Council's investment portfolio.
- 8.6 The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in the extracts from Arlingclose's quarterly investment benchmarking in Table 5 below.

**Table 5: Investment Benchmarking – Treasury investments managed in-house**

	<b>Credit Score</b>	<b>Credit Rating</b>	<b>Bail-in Exposure</b>	<b>Weighted Average Maturity (days)</b>	<b>Rate of Return %</b>
31.03.2021	4.92	A+	81%	2	0.03%
31.03.2022	5.06	A+	100%	1	0.52%
<b>Similar LAs</b>	4.38	AA-	62%	40	1.25%
<b>All LAs</b>	4.39	AA-	60%	14	2.10%

\*Weighted average maturity

- 8.7 In light of Russia's invasion, Arlingclose contacted the fund managers of our MMF funds and confirmed no direct exposure to Russian or Belarusian assets had been identified. Indirect exposures were immaterial. It should be noted that any assets held by banks and financial institutions (e.g. from loans to companies with links to those countries) within MMFs and other pooled funds cannot be identified easily or with any certainty as that level of granular detail is unlikely to be available to the fund managers or Arlingclose in the short-term, if at all.

### **Non-Treasury Investments**

- 8.8 The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised 2021 Treasury Management Code covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the Council holds primarily for financial return. Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e. management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes (made explicitly to further service objectives) and or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return). The non-Treasury investments are held to further service objectives and are therefore categorised as for service purposes. The non-Treasury investments are classified under shareholdings to subsidiaries and loans to subsidiaries, detailed in 8.10 below. The Council does not hold any non-treasury investments for commercial purposes.
- 8.9 Investment Guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Welsh Government also broadens the definition of investments to include all such assets held partially or wholly for financial return.
- 8.10 The Council also held £213.5m of such investments in:
- Shareholding in subsidiaries £79.7m.

- Loans to subsidiaries £133.8m.

- 8.11 I4B Holdings Limited is a company wholly owned by Brent Council that was incorporated on 16 December 2016. The primary purpose of the company is to deliver the housing options defined in the Temporary Accommodation reform plan. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, the Council had provided funding of £178.4m to i4B (2020/21: £158.3m) comprised of a number of soft loans and equity. The Council received £4.0m (2020/21: £3.7m) in interest and fees for loans to I4B. The loans are secured against the company's 523 properties.
- 8.12 First Wave Housing (FWH) is a registered provider of housing in Brent and is wholly owned by Brent Council. FWH was setup to manage properties previously owned by Brent Housing Partnership (BHP). The Council received £1.1m (2020/21: £1.1m) in interest for loans to FWH. As of 31 March 2022, there were outstanding loans to Brent Council totalling £35.1m (2020/21: £36.0m) which are secured against the company's 329 properties.
- 8.13 These investments generated £5.1m (2020/21 £4.8m) of investment income for the Council in 2021/22. This investment income covers the borrowing cost of investing in housing through wholly owned subsidiaries. These borrowing costs would be incurred by the Council regardless of the method through which the Council develops new housing, however this is the vehicle of choice for such investments.

## **9.0 Compliance**

- 9.1 The Director of Finance reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the year complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy.
- 9.2 Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is demonstrated within Appendix 2 (Debt Limits).

## **10.0 Investment Training**

- 10.1 The needs of the Council's treasury management staff for training in investment management are kept under review. These are considered as part of the staff appraisal process and additionally, when the responsibilities of individual members of staff change.

## **11.0 Financial Implications**

- 11.1 Already noted within the report as this is the Treasury Management Outturn Report.

## **12.0 Legal Implications**

- 12.1 None identified.

## **13.0 Diversity Implications**

13.1 None identified.

**Report sign off:**

***Minesh Patel***

Director of Finance

## Appendix 1

### Debt and Portfolio Investment Position 31/03/2022

	Actual Portfolio £m 31/03/2022	Average Rate as at 31/03/2022 %
<b>External Borrowing:</b>		
PWLB - Maturity	288.9	5.3
PWLB - Equal Instalments	118.2	2.2
Fixed Rate Market Loans	95.0	4.3
LOBO Loans	70.5	4.5
Short-term Loans	112.0	3.3
<b>Total External Borrowing</b>	<b>684.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Other Long Term Liabilities:</b>		
PFI	22.1	9.5
Other	3.5	4.1
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>9.2</b>
<b>Total Gross External Debt</b>	<b>710.2</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Investments:</b>		
Money Market Funds	98.6	0.1
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Net Debt</b>	<b>611.6</b>	

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## Appendix 2

### Prudential Indicators

#### (a) Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

The Council's cumulative maximum external borrowing requirement for 2021/22 is shown in the table below.

<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>31/03/2022 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2022 Actual £m</b>
General Fund	764.3	730.2
HRA	291.7	269.4
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>1,056.0</b>	<b>999.6</b>

#### (b) Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

In order to ensure that over the medium term, debt will only be for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years. This is a key indicator of prudence.

<b>Debt</b>	<b>31/03/2022 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2022 Actual £m</b>
Borrowing	456.5	684.6
PFI Liabilities	23.8	22.1
Other	3.5	3.5
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>483.8</b>	<b>710.2</b>
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>1,056.0</b>	<b>999.6</b>
<b>Borrowing in excess of CFR?</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

### **(c) Authorised limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt**

The Operational Boundary for External Debt is based on the Council's estimate of most likely i.e. prudent, but not worst case scenario for external debt. It links directly to the Council's estimates of capital expenditure, the capital financing requirement and cash flow requirements and is a key management tool for in-year monitoring.

Other long-term liabilities comprise finance leases, Private Finance Initiative contracts and other liabilities that are not borrowing but form part of the Council's debt.

The Authorised Limit for External Debt is the affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003. It is the maximum amount of debt that the Council can legally owe. The authorised limit provides headroom over and above the operational boundary for unusual cash movements.

	<b>Operational Boundary £m</b>	<b>Authorised Limit £m</b>	<b>Actual External Debt £m 31/03/2022</b>
Borrowing	1,100.0	1,300.0	684.6
Other Long Term Liabilities			25.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,100.0</b>	<b>1,300.0</b>	<b>710.2</b>

The Director of Finance confirms that there were no breaches to the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary during 2021/22.

### **(d) Upper Limits on one-year revenue impact of a 1% movement in interest rates**

This indicators is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investment will be replaced at current rates.



	<b>2021/22 Approved Limits £m</b>	<b>31/03/2022 Actual £m</b>
<b>Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates</b> Compliance with limits:	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.1</b> Yes
<b>Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates</b> Compliance with limits:	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.1</b> Yes

#### **(e) Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing**

This indicator is to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates. The Council uses the option date as the maturity date for its LOBO loans.

<b>Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing</b>	<b>Upper Limit</b>	<b>Lower Limit</b>	<b>Actual Fixed Rate Borrowing at 31/3/2022</b>	<b>% of Fixed Rate Borrowing at 31/3/2022</b>	<b>Compliance with set limits?</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>
Under 12 months	40%	0%	119	17%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	40%	0%	7	1%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%	21	3%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	60%	0%	35	5%	Yes
10 years and within 20 years	75%	0%	117	17%	Yes
20 years and within 30 years	75%	0%	102	15%	Yes
30 years and within 40 years	75%	0%	224	33%	Yes
40 years and within 50 years	75%	0%	61	9%	Yes
50 years and above	75%	0%	0	0%	Yes
			<b>684.6</b>	<b>100%</b>	

#### **(f) Capital Expenditure**

The indicator is set to ensure that the level of proposed capital expenditure remains within sustainable limits and, in particular, to consider the impact on Council tax and in the case of the HRA, housing rent levels.

<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>31/03/2022 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2022 Actual £m</b>
General Fund	764.3	730.2
HRA	291.7	269.4
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>1,056.0</b>	<b>999.6</b>

#### **(g) Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream**

This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet financing costs, net of investment income.

<b>Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream</b>	<b>31/03/2022 Estimate</b>	<b>31/03/2022 Actual</b>
Financing costs	33.3	23.9
Proportion of net revenue stream (%)	11.0%	7.8%

#### **(h) Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code**

This indicator demonstrates that the Council adopted the principals of best practice.

Statement: The Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 (2017 Edition).

#### **(i) Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums invested over 364 Days**

The purpose of this limit is to contain exposure to the possibility of loss that may arise as a result of the Council having to seek early repayment of the sums invested.

<b>Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums Invested Over 364 Days</b>	<b>31/3/2022 Approved</b>	<b>31/3/2022 Actual</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Limit on principal invested beyond a year	50	0

#### **(j) Security**

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

<b>Credit Risk Indicator</b>	<b>31/3/2022 Target</b>	<b>31/3/2022 Actual</b>
Portfolio average credit rating	A	A+

#### **(k) Liquidity**

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing.

<b>Liquidity Risk Indicator</b>	<b>31/3/2022 Target £m</b>	<b>31/3/2022 Actual £m</b>
Total cash available within 3 months	20	98.6

**(l) Investment Limits**

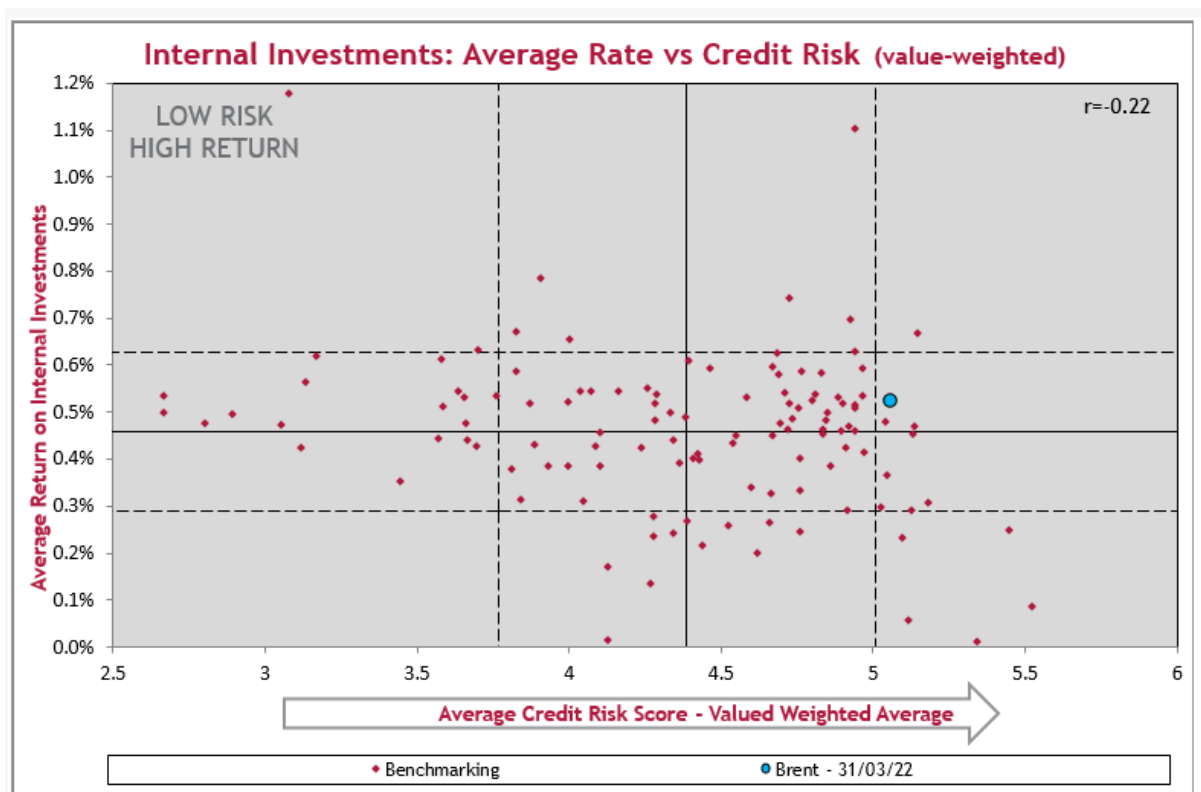
	<b>2021/22 Maximum £m</b>	<b>31.3.22 Actual £m</b>	<b>2021/22 Time Limit</b>	<b>Complied?</b>
Any single organisation, except the UK Government	20	£20m	n/a	Yes
UK Government	Unlimited	-	50 years	Yes
Local Authorities & Other Government Entities	Any	-	25 years	Yes
Banks (unsecured)	£20m	-	13 months	Yes
Building societies (unsecured)	£20m	-	13 months	Yes
Registered providers and registered social landlords	£20m	-	5 years	Yes
Secured investments	£20m	-	5 years	Yes
Money market funds	Lower of 5% of total net assets of the fund or £20m	£20m or 5% of total net assets of the fund where appropriate	n/a	Yes
Strategic pooled funds	£20m	-	n/a	Yes
Real estate investment trusts	£20m	-	n/a	Yes
Other investments	£50m	-	n/a	Yes

**(m) Debt Limits**

	<b>2021/22 Maximum (£m)</b>	<b>31.3.22 Actual (£m)</b>	<b>2021/22 Operational Boundary (£m)</b>	<b>2021/22 Authorised Limit (£m)</b>	<b>Complied?</b>
Total debt	1,100	710.2	1,100	1,300	Yes

## Appendix 3

### Internal Investments: Average Rate vs Credit Risk as at 31/03/2022



The Council measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities against similar Council's through benchmarking provided by Arlingclose. The average credit ratings of our investment counterparties are higher than the average for other local authorities for those obtaining similar yields

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 <b>Brent</b>	<p align="center"><b>Full Council</b> 21 September 2022</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Report from the Corporate Director, Governance</b></p>
<p><b>Amendment of the Constitution</b></p>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	N/A
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1: Proposed changes to Constitution
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Debra Norman, Corporate Director, Governance E: Debra.norman@brent.gov.uk T: 0208 937 1578

## 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report proposes changes to the Constitution, primarily to reflect a new departmental structure and the Health and Care Act 2022.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the amendments to the Constitution set out in this report and the Appendix.
- 2.2 To note that, to the extent that the changes set out in this report relate to executive functions of the Council, they have been approved by the Leader.
- 2.3 To authorise the Corporate Director, Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

## 3.0 Background

### New Departmental Structure

- 3.1 Changes are required throughout the Constitution to reflect changes in departmental structures and related job titles. The new allocation of functions between departments will be set out in amendments to Part 3 – Responsibility for

Functions Paragraph 9.4, as shown in the Appendix to this report. Job title substitutions will be made throughout the Constitution to reflect these changes. In addition all references to “Strategic Director(s)” will be changed to references to “Corporate Director(s)” and all references to “Operational Director(s)” (these are the senior officers with responsibility for service areas who report direct to Corporate Directors) will be changed to “Director(s)”.

### **3.2 Part 4 – Terms of Reference for Council Committees and Sub-Committees**

Changes are required to the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board to reflect the provisions of the Health and Care Act 2022. The proposed changes have been considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board and are contained in the Appendix to this report. It had been hoped that the comments of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny (JHOSC) meeting would have been received prior to this Council meeting, but unfortunately the meeting at which the JHOSC was due to consider the matter has been postponed. Should any changes be recommended by the JHOSC when they do consider the matter, these will be brought to the November meeting of Council for consideration.

A change is also proposed in this Part to the section on Scrutiny Committee to provide a process for the management of joint meetings between the Scrutiny Committees.

### **3.3 Part 5 – Codes and Protocols**

A recent Audit report recommended that the Members Code of Conduct contain an indication of when it was last reviewed and/or updated. It is proposed that the following be added to the Code in the Constitution as a footnote to provide this information:

“The Code of Conduct is reviewed at least annually by the Monitoring Officer and any changes are approved at a meeting of Council, usually at its annual meeting. The most recent changes were adopted 18 May 2022.”

## **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 equalities implications are considered to arise from this report.

## **7 Background Papers**

7.1 None

**Report sign off:**

***Debra Norman***

Corporate Director Governance

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## Appendix

### PART 3 - RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS

9.4 The Chief Executive, and ~~Strategic~~Corporate Directors listed below shall have responsibility for the following general and related areas:-

(a) **Chief Executive:**

Head of Paid Service. Managerial leadership of the Council including responsibility for overall corporate management and operational responsibility for all staff. Providing and securing of advice to the Council, and councillors, on strategy and policy. Acting in an executive capacity by making decisions or ensuring a system is in place for other officers to make decisions, as authorised by the Council. Delivering probity, value for money and continuous improvement.

Management of corporate planning, policy, performance, scrutiny, Executive and Member Services (including electoral and Mayoral services), returning officer for the election of councillors, electoral registration officer. Responsibility for communications conference and events, the energy team, assets of community value, partnerships, performance improvement, complaints (including data protection and freedom of information) and chief executive office support. Human resources, equalities, ~~legal~~, legal services, finance, audit and investigation.

~~(b)~~ **Strategic Director Customer and Digital Services:**

~~IT/digital services (including information governance), nationality service, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, customer services, revenue and benefits, strategic commissioning and procurement.~~

~~(c)~~ **Strategic Director Community Wellbeing:**

~~Statutory Director of (b)~~ **Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health:**

Adult Social Services, community services, direct services and client affairs, adult physical disability, learning disability, mental health services, services to older people, safeguarding adults, emergency duty team, asylum, reablement, adult social care complaints, commissioning and quality, support planning and review, any other function listed in Schedule 1 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 (not delegated to the ~~Strategic Director Children and Young People, public health, housing (including housing needs, homelessness, housing strategy, housing management, right to buy management, housing partnerships, private housing services and disabled facilities grants) leisure and cultural services (including arts, libraries, museums and archives), Corporate Director, Children and Young People) and Health inequalities and Public Health.~~

~~(cd)~~ **Strategic Corporate, Director Children and Young People:**

Statutory Director of Children's Services, school improvement service, outdoor education, pupil referral units, education tuition service, parent partnership service, exclusion teams, education welfare service, behaviour support, SEN assessment service, education psychology, youth and

connexions, family support, education, and schools organisation, child protection, [safeguarding, children's social care](#), adoption, fostering, placements, children with disabilities and all functions of the Local Authority not reserved to members including but not limited to early years education and school places, education and training provision for young people.

(de) **StrategieCorporate Director—, Communities and Regeneration and Environment:**

Regeneration, urban renewal, economic development, building new education facilities, environmental infrastructure services, capital programme management, [regulatory services](#), statutory land use, planning, development and building control, land charges, [street naming and numbering](#), housing regeneration, affordable housing development, [employment and skills \(including adult and community education\)](#), [Management of corporate planning, policy, performance and scrutiny](#). Responsibility for communications, conference and events, [the energy team, assets of community education](#), [environmental health, licensing, street trading, trading standards, mortuary, health & safety, contaminated land, pollution control, food safety and pest control](#). Community safety and public protection, public realm (including carbon project team), transportation, highways, parking, street lighting, waste management and recycling, refuse and street cleansing, parks and open spaces, cemeteries, environment, CCTV monitoring, emergency planning and business continuity, [property and facilities management, value and partnerships](#). Community Engagement and equalities. Community Safety and Prevent.

(e) **Corporate Director, Finance and Resources:**

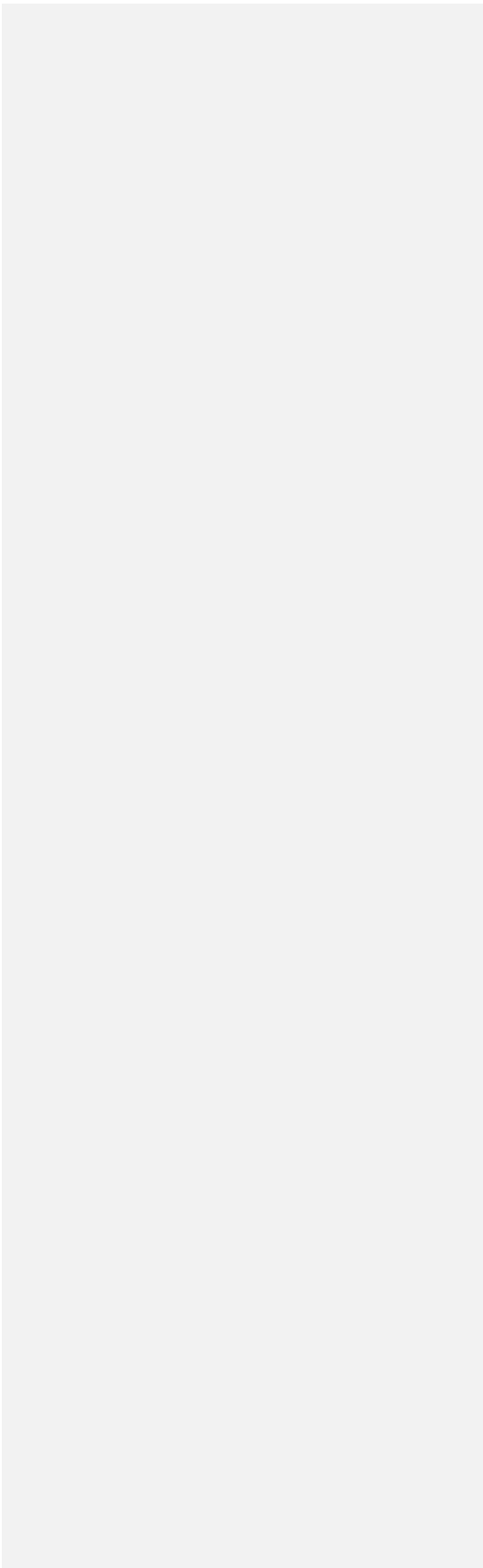
[Statutory s151 officer, finance, payroll and pensions, property and facilities management, IT/digital shared services, audit and investigations and insurance.](#)

(f) **Corporate Director, Governance**

[Statutory Monitoring Officer, SIRO, management of legal services, human resources, Executive and Member services \(including electoral and Mayoral services and Chief Executive office support\), complaints, health and safety and strategic commissioning and procurement.](#)

(g) **Corporate Director, Resident Services:**

[Nationality service, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, customer services, revenue and benefits, Housing \(including housing needs homelessness, housing strategy, housing management, right to buy management, housing partnerships, private housing services and disabled facilities grants\). Leisure and cultural services \(including arts, libraries, museums and archives. Regulatory services, street naming and numbering, employment and skills \(including adult and community education\), environmental health, licensing, street trading, trading standards, mortuary, contaminated land, pollutions control, food safety and pest control. Community safety and public protection, public realm \(including carbon project team\), transportation highways, parking, street lighting, waste management and recycling, refuse and street cleansing, parks and open spaces, cemeteries, environment, CCTV monitoring, emergency planning and business continuity. Transformation, including company governance, and data protection and freedom of information.](#)



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## PART 5 - TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Health and Wellbeing Board Membership

#### Membership

##### Voting Membership

- 5 elected councillors to be nominated by the Leader of the Council. Four councillors will be Cabinet members from the majority party. The fifth member will be an opposition member. An elected councillor will chair the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 4 representatives of ~~Brent CCG~~[North West London Integrated Care System Executive \(i.e. the Integrated Care Board\)](#)
- A representative of ~~Health Watch~~[Healthwatch](#)
- [A representative of the nursing and care home sector](#)

##### Non-voting Membership

- Chief Executive, London Borough of Brent
- ~~Strategic Corporate~~ Director ~~Community Wellbeing, Adult Social Care and Health~~
- ~~Strategic Corporate~~ Director, Children and Young People
- Director of Public Health
- ~~Strategic~~ Director ~~Regeneration and Environment~~[of Adult Social Services](#)

[An elected councillor will chair the Health and Wellbeing Board.](#) At least one of the ~~Brent CCG~~[North West London Integrated Care System](#) members shall be a GP.

All members of the Health and Wellbeing Board have voting rights, except council officers.

The quorum for the Health and Wellbeing Board is four voting members, with at least two councillors and two other voting members present in order for a meeting to take place.

#### **Terms of Reference**

Brent's Health and Wellbeing Board will:

1. Lead the improvement of health and wellbeing in Brent, undertaking duties required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
2. Lead the needs assessment of the local population and subsequent preparation of the borough's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy ~~and. It will ensure that both are updated at regular intervals and that integrated care strategies that are prepared by the Brent Integrated Care Partnership (Brent ICP) are taken into account in this process.~~
3. Oversee the implementation of the priorities in the ~~borough's health~~[Joint Health and wellbeing strategy](#)[Wellbeing Strategy](#) and other work to reduce health inequalities in Brent.
- ~~4. Develop initiatives between the council and health service partners to improve health and wellbeing, focussing on tackling Brent's health inequalities.~~
4. Promote integration and partnership working between health, ~~and the council,~~ [including](#) social care and public health, [across all ages](#) by ~~developing joined up commissioning plans.~~

~~Provide~~providing steer and oversight to ~~CCG and social care commissioning plans to ensure they meet the Brent ICP board to meet~~ borough's health needs and the wider strategic plans for health and social care wellbeing.

5. ~~Develop initiatives between partners to housing, education, maximise opportunities for early intervention and the environment prevention.~~

6. ~~Provide leadership to ensure that there is an integrated response to partner agencies on tackling health and wellbeing priorities and health inequalities resulting from disparities in Brent housing, education, climate emergency, air quality, physical activity, disability and poverty.~~

7. ~~Review and respond with its opinion on the Forward Plans that are provided by the North West London Integrated Care System and if appropriate within its discretion, give its opinion on the Forward Plans to NHS England.~~

8. ~~Contribute to the implementation of strategies developed by partners such as the council's Borough Plan, the NHS Long Term Plan and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.~~

9. ~~Seek assurance of partner plans to responding~~ to a health related emergency, e.g. pandemics.

10. ~~Agree~~ the borough's pharmaceutical needs assessment, which ~~requires updating~~is updated every three years.

11. Agree an annual work programme for the Board.

12. ~~Consider representations from Brent Scrutiny Committees and Healthwatch Brent on matters within the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board.~~

13. ~~To receive updates on partner investments into the local health and wellbeing system and make representations at local and national level on sufficiency of resources (e.g finance, estates and workforce).~~

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## SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

### General

The general membership rules and terms of reference of the Council's scrutiny committees are set out below. Each scrutiny committee may exercise any of the functions set out in the general terms of reference only in respect of those functions which are relevant to the remit of the committee. Any additional functions which are specific to individual committees are set out separately.

The terms of reference of the scrutiny committees reflect the functions the Council must ensure its scrutiny committees can exercise as well as those functions which the Council has decided to delegate to its scrutiny committees. Scrutiny committees are unable to exercise any other functions.

From time to time an issue may arise which fall within the terms of reference of both Scrutiny committees. On these occasions, it may be convenient for the two committees to meet together to consider an item relating to that matter. Should this occur, as the committees remains separately constituted, each committee will continue to be required to meet its own quorum requirements, vote on recommendations at the end of the item (if a vote is required) and be chaired by its own chair.

In order to facilitate an orderly discussion of the item by members of the two committees, the committee chairs will seek to agree between them which of them will co-ordinate proceedings at the joint meeting. In the event that agreement is not reached, agreement will sought at an informal pre-meeting of both committees.





## Item 17.1

**Full Council – 21 September 2022**

### **Conservative Group Motion**

#### **Kingsbury Curve**

Residents living either side of the Jubilee line between Kingsbury and Wembley Park have to put up with the excruciating noises when the trains go past on what is known as the Kingsbury Curve. On Fridays and Saturdays, it goes on through the night.

The noise is so bad that it can be heard in people's homes even with all the windows shut! It often exceeds the maximum sound levels recommended by the World Health Organisation.

The track has been there for around 90 years, yet it is only in the past 4 years that these noises have started which coincided with the removal of trees and shrubs from the bank together with replacing the sleepers with concrete ones and relaying the track.

TFL are aware of the problems and have tried to resolve the problem, albeit unsuccessfully.

Those affected are suffering from mental health issues & sleep deprivation. They can't sell their houses and move away because of the noise. They can't use their gardens in the summer or leave their windows open. Their children can't study because the noise is a serious distraction.

#### **This Council is asked to recognise:**

The legal duty it is under to take such action to enforce those who create excessive noise, whether that be by loud parties, music, cars revving their engines, or even night time deliveries, duties which this Council does its best to carry out.

It's duty to protect its residents from this intrusive and excruciating noise.

#### **This Council therefore resolves:**

To utterly condemn TFL for allowing these noises to go unresolved for nearly 5 years.

To request that TFL rectify the faults forthwith to stop this noise. This could and possibly should include relaying of tracks to the way they previously were.

To request that TFL close down the network over the winter holiday period to fully address the problem and that the New Year becomes a period where residents can enjoy noise free solution from that point onward.

Councillor Michael Maurice  
Kenton Ward

**Full Council – 21 September 2022**

**Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Conservative Group Motion**

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

**Kingsbury Curve**

Residents living either side of the Jubilee line between Kingsbury and Wembley Park have to put up with the excruciating noises when the trains go past on what is known as the Kingsbury Curve. ~~On Fridays and Saturdays, it goes on through the night.~~ Following the return of Night Tube services on the Jubilee line, a speed restriction has been applied during Night Tube services.

The noise is so bad that it can be heard in people's homes even with all the windows shut! ~~It often exceeds the maximum sound levels recommended by the World Health Organisation.—The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that noise exposure levels should not exceed 70 dB over a 24-hour period, and 85 dB over a 1-hour period to avoid hearing impairment. Residents have suggested that this section of the track regularly exceeds these levels.~~

The track has been there for around 90 years, yet it is only in the past 4 years that these noises have started which coincided with the removal of trees and shrubs from the bank together with replacing the sleepers with concrete ones and relaying the track.

~~TfL are aware of the problems and have tried to resolve the problem, albeit unsuccessfully.~~ work continues to find the right solution but it is anticipated that it will be a long-term piece of work. TfL have conducted trials over the summer period and are reviewing whether a small reduction in speed could be applied to all trains in this section of the track without adversely impacting the service we provide to passengers. However, speed restrictions are implemented sparingly given the impact on timetables across the entire Jubilee line.

~~Those affected are suffering from mental health issues & sleep deprivation. They can't sell their houses and move away because of the noise. They can't use their gardens in the summer or leave their windows open. Their children can't study because the noise is a serious distraction.~~

We appreciate that residents have raised multiple concerns about the impact of the noise on their wellbeing and their quiet enjoyment of their home. They cannot fully enjoy their gardens in the summer or leave their windows open and children struggle to study because the noise is a serious distraction.

**This Council is asked to recognise:**

The legal duty it is under to take such action to enforce those who create excessive noise, whether that be by loud parties, music, cars revving their engines, or even night time deliveries, duties which this Council does its best to carry out.

It's duty to protect its residents from this intrusive and excruciating noise.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

~~To utterly condemns TFL for allowing these noises to go unresolved for nearly 5 years.~~

~~To request that TFL rectify the faults forthwith to stop this noise. This could and possibly should include relaying of tracks to the way they previously were.~~

~~To request that TFL close down the network over the winter holiday period to fully address the problem and that the New Year becomes a period where residents can enjoy noise free solution from that point onward.~~

To request that TfL work with residents and Brent Council to address the noise concern with a robust engineering-led procedure to prioritise works as quickly as possible.

To request that TfL provide residents with a named contact, with ready access to experts that are working to tackle the root cause of noise. This involves visits to residents' homes to measure noise levels both before and after any work is undertaken.

To request that TfL explore measures to mitigate the impact of the noise over the Christmas holidays.

To lobby the Secretary of State for Transport for additional capital investment to upgrade and improve the infrastructure that helps keep London on the move such as the track on the Kingsbury curve.

**Full Council – 21 September 2022**

**Liberal Democrats Group Motion**

**Ending Heartless ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’**

**This Council notes:**

That the Cost-of-Living Emergency declared at our last Full Council meeting will have a huge impact on all who live in Brent, including many here who are unjustly excluded from any financial or legal support from the state.

There are a growing number of people in our Borough who, through no fault of their own, are unable to access the help they desperately need. This number will almost certainly increase as we approach what will be an unprecedented and difficult few months ahead.

Elected Members and Council Officers are currently effectively prevented from supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community, because of Section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, which states that a person will have ‘*no recourse to public funds*’ if they are ‘*subject to immigration control*’.

The restrictions in this section of the law do not recognise the reality on the ground, which currently means we have individuals sleeping rough outside our very own Civic Centre and elsewhere across Brent.

‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ restrictions have pushed migrants and their families into severe poverty and in some cases homelessness.

The limitations in our ability to support individuals with ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ and the need to apply further political pressure on the Government to act.

The commendable efforts of the voluntary, charity sectors and many in our community who seek to give individuals who currently have ‘no recourse to public funds’ the support they need, whether by offering shelter, food or legal advice.

**The Council calls on the Government to:**

1. Reduce the risk of people experiencing destitution and acknowledge that the current laws around eligibility for financial and legal assistance means that we are leaving far too many without any help at all

2. Ensure that no one is excluded from social services' support which operates as a short-term safety net
3. Urgently suspend 'No Recourse to Public Funds' conditions in order to offer needed assistance to people who are currently ignored by the state

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Work in a cross-party way to lobby the Government to remove the heartless 'No Recourse to Public Funds' restrictions on migrants and their families
2. Immediately ask the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group to sign an open letter to the new Home Secretary and Ministers in the Home Office highlighting our local authorities' huge concerns about the number of people with 'No Recourse to Public Funds' being pushed into acute poverty and therefore requiring immediate financial assistance
3. Make public the number of known individuals in our borough who are currently barred from any support whatsoever, due to them not having 'Recourse to Public Funds', as a way of highlighting the extent of the problem we face
4. Further strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary and charity sector and community groups who are already giving support to individuals who have 'No Recourse to Public Funds', by inviting them to the Refugee Summit (as agreed at the July 2022 Full Council meeting) in order to establish ways the Council can also intervene and offer any resource we have to help with the work that they do
5. Work with Praxis and other similar organisations, who have expertise in supporting people with 'No Recourse to Public Funds', to develop an easy access document, which consolidates all possible avenues of help (*largely in the voluntary and charity sector*) that can be distributed across the Council to make it easier for Elected Members, Council Officers and others to offer the best possible advice and guidance when approached for help
6. Produce a similar public document that the Council will make available to all interested groups in the community and voluntary and charity sectors, that can also be shared on the Council website and online channels.

Cllr Anton Georgiou  
Alperton Ward

**Full Council – 21 September 2022**

**1<sup>st</sup> Labour Group Motion**

**A Place to Call Home: Safety and Security for tenants during the cost-of-renting crisis.**

**Full Council notes:**

1. London is one of the most expensive places to rent in Europe, while Brent is the second most expensive outer-London borough.
2. Rents have risen three times faster than wages since 2010 and continue to rise, by 15.8% in the year to May 2022. The London Renters Union branch in Brent is regularly seeing rent increases of 30%, 40% or even 50%, contributing to the cost of living emergency and pricing residents out of the borough.
3. Brent has also seen a significant dent in first-time buyer affordability, with the average price paid up by more than double the national average. Those buying their first home in the borough now pay a huge £89,753 increase compared to pre-pandemic market values.
4. People under 30 are facing a growing cost-of-renting crisis. According to recent reports, 4 in 10 of this age group are now spending more than 30% of their pay on rent.
5. In Brent there are over 22,880 households containing 53,644 individuals that remain on the housing waiting list, with an average waiting time for a 3-bedroom council property typically over a decade.
6. Brent Council is continuing to tackle the demand for affordable homes by increasing supply, with a target of 5,700 affordable homes to be built by 2028, of which, 1,700 will be built by the Council.

**This Council further notes:**

1. While the government has rejected calls for intervention, rent controls are common practice in Europe, both regulating the initial rent that landlords can charge, and the rate of rent increase within tenancies.
2. Brent Labour has made a commitment on behalf of renters to use its voice to call upon the government to introduce new legislation to regulate rent

increases, strengthen enforcement and improve the energy standards of the rental sector.

3. That the government is consulting on capping rents for council and housing association homes to prevent them from rising significantly. Although welcome, it will come at significant cost to councils and registered providers that will absorb the brunt of inflation, with no funding announcements made by government to match the steep shortfall in income.
4. Like inflation, energy bill increases serve only to impact residents that are already struggling in some of the worst housing conditions.

**This Council believes:**

1. That the pandemic has shown that regulating the actions of landlords is a political choice and they can be regulated for the public good at times of crisis.
2. Without intervention in the private rented sector, rents will continue to rise causing economic hardship, instability and homelessness for tens of thousands of Brent residents.
3. The government must rethink mechanisms to regulate the cost of rents and ensure that low and middle income tenants do not have to spend more than a third of their income on rent.
4. The Renters Reform Bill is an essential piece of legislation for renters' security. In order to meet its aims, rent rises within tenancy must be limited so that landlords cannot evict through massive rent hikes.
5. As energy bills soar, private tenants' right to a warm home should be protected and landlords should be required by the council to meet the legislation relating to energy efficiency.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Publicly support the Mayor of London's call for a two-year rent freeze within the private rented sector and the introduction of rent controls to help ease the cost of living crisis facing Londoners.
2. Work with the Mayor of London to make the case for Brent to participate in the "right-to-buy-back" scheme – and help bring more properties back into public ownership.
3. Create a new Private Renters Strategy, mapping out the council's approach to enforcement, our support available to tenants; and our plans to bring more of the 2,734 empty properties in Brent back to the market.
4. Work with London Renters Union and Advice for Renters to support the case for a borough-wide selective licensing scheme covering the 40,000 PRS properties in Brent that would drive up standards.



5. Urge the new Secretary of State to expedite the commitments to renters in the recent white paper, including: the removal of Section 21 evictions, the introduction of a rental sector ombudsman, the outlawing of discrimination against benefit claimants, and the application of the Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector for the first time.

Councillor Tony Ethapemi  
Brondesbury Park Ward

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**Full Council – 21 September 2022**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Labour Group Motion**

**Transport for London Funding**

**This Council notes:**

1. With Brent residents currently facing an unprecedented cost of living crisis, as well as a climate emergency, it has never been more important that residents can access an affordable, green and publically funded transport network across our capital.
2. London is the only major city in the world that does not consistently subsidise its public transport. TfL relies upon passenger fare income to fund seventy-two per cent of its costs. By comparison, fares income covers only thirty-eight per cent of transport network costs in New York and in Paris, with public funds providing the remainder.
3. This is largely down to the fact that the Government took the decision, in 2015, to remove TfL's £700 million annual operating grant from April 2018 onwards. As a result TfL has faced a 37% cut to their budget in just five years.
4. The root of TfL's financial problems is the pandemic. Before the pandemic, TfL's finances were in good health and it was on track to record an operating surplus for the first time in TfL's history.
5. The Mayor of London has stood up for our capital during a tough month of negotiations with a zombie government to find a new funding settlement. He has successfully fought to ensure TfL no longer faces moving into managed decline.
6. However, the government has been clear that its war against London is not over. Ministers are still refusing to provide enough funding for our transport network, which will likely mean TfL will be forced to increase fares in the future and proceed with some bus cuts. If this happens, Londoners should know that it will only be the government that's to blame.

**This council believes:**

1. A sustainable funding deal for TfL is an essential component of any pandemic recovery programme, it supports the growth of jobs, housing and community

wealth; and crucially reduces carbon emissions in the capital by taking cars off of the streets.

2. That TfL desperately requires new funding sources, taking inspiration from other global cities that have raised additional revenue through land value capture and emission charges.
3. It is inexcusable that of the funding announced there is no new monies to expedite the delivery of new rolling stock on the Bakerloo Line, with the oldest trains in use in the United Kingdom. It could also jeopardise potential funding for the new West-London Orbital line, a shovel-ready new Overground line that could transform regional transport connections.
4. It is a travesty that TfL has been forced to propose the scrapping of 22 bus routes and a service reduction on almost 60 more. In particular, the removal of the number 16 and number 31 route will severely impact residents in Brent.
5. Brent's Labour Council has always worked to support residents with cheap and sustainable travel options. The implementation of School Streets, publishing of a Climate Emergency Strategy and ongoing provision of the freedom pass for residents show our commitment to supporting active travel and providing accessible transport options for every resident.
6. A decrease in the funding made available by TfL to London boroughs will negatively impact our residents and our ambition to keep Brent on the move.

**This council therefore resolves:**

1. To request that the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change write to Transport for London's Commissioner Andy Byford expressing this chambers opposition to the scrapping of 22 bus routes, including the number 16 and number 31; and the reduction of provision more generally.
2. To voice its opposition to unsustainable funding arrangements for TfL, calling upon the incoming Secretary of State for Transport to close the funding gap once and for all, during the next round of negotiations.
3. To request that each respective Group Leader considers writing to local branches of ASLEF, RMT and Unite showing support for their industrial action against the impact on jobs, terms and conditions of these proposed cuts.

Councillor Kathleen Fraser  
Barnhill Ward