



## SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday 21 November 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: 11 November 2022 (republished on 16 and 21 November 2022)

**For further information contact:** James Kinsella, Governance Manager  
Tel: 020 8937 2063; Email: james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:  
**[democracy.brent.gov.uk](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 of trade union).
- (b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

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

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

# Agenda

## 1 Apologies for Absence

## 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 38

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 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 & Brent Youth Parliament

39 - 46

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

Members are asked to note that three public questions have been received, which have been attached along with their written response.

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

One question has been received under this item, which has been attached along with the written response provided.

## 8 Petitions (if any)

For Members to consider any petitions with more than 200 signatures on which a debate has been requested, in accordance with the Council's Petition Rules and Standing Order 66.

**9 Reports from the Leader and Cabinet** 47 - 68

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.

**10 Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members** 69 - 76

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

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

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

**11 Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees**

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

11.1 Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 77 - 96

11.2 Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 97 - 118

(Agenda republished to include Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Chair's Update report on 16 November 2022)

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.

**12 Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee** 119 - 122

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

**13 Non Cabinet Members' Debate** 123 - 128

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:

### **Building the Homes our Community Needs**

The motion submitted as the basis for this debate has been attached along with a proposed amendment submitted by the Labour Group.

(Agenda republished to include the motion accompanying the Non Cabinet Member debate on 16 November 2022 and proposed amendment from the Labour Group on 21 November 2022)

## **14 Brent Licensing Cumulative Impact Assessment Review 129 - 176**

To receive a report from the Corporate Director Resident Services seeking approval, following a review of the Cumulative Impact Assessment, to renew the existing ten Cumulative Impact Zones (CIZs) and to extend the Licensing Policy to cover two new areas within the London Borough of Brent.

**Ward Affected:**

All Wards

**Contact Officer:** Anu Prashar, Senior Regulatory

Service Manager

Tel. 020 8937 5515

[anu.prashar@brent.gov.uk](mailto:anu.prashar@brent.gov.uk)

## **15 Changes to the Constitution 177 - 194**

To receive a report from the Corporate Director Governance detailing proposed changes to the Constitution, primarily to reflect the recommended changes following an Independent Review of the Planning Code of Practice.

**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)

## **16 Motions 195 - 204**

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

Members are asked to note:

- The motions submitted for debate have been attached.
- 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.

## 17 Urgent Business

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



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

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



## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

### Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Wednesday 21 September 2022  
at 6.00 pm

#### PRESENT:

**The Worshipful the Mayor**  
Councillor Abdi Aden

**The Deputy Mayor**  
Councillor Orleen Hylton

#### COUNCILLORS:

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

1. **Mayors 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 Conneely, Gbajumo and Shah.

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Donnelly-Jackson.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 11 July 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) Remembrance & Tributes to HRH Her Majesty the Queen

Following HRH Her Majesty the Queen's state funeral earlier in the week, the Mayor began his announcements in remembrance and tribute following the passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

Having led the period of mourning across the borough, the Mayor advised that he had also written to the new Sovereign and Royal Family to express condolences and deepest sympathy on behalf of the borough following the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

In paying tribute to the late Queen, the Mayor felt it important to recognise not only her long and valued service to both the country and commonwealth but also the leadership provided throughout her reign as sovereign. Reflecting on her commitment to public and voluntary service, the Mayor also felt it important to highlight the inspiration she had provided for so many, especially in relation to young people, the preservation of wildlife and the environment.

The Mayor then invited comments from representatives of each Group in memory and tribute to the late Queen and began by inviting Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to speak on behalf of the Labour Group.

Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) opened the tributes on behalf of the Labour Group by also recognising and commending the Queen's long commitment to public service and reflecting on the deep respect in which she had been held not only across the country and commonwealth but also across the world. On a personal basis, he recalled his and his own family's personal

engagement and interaction with the Queen and Royal Family, including during various visits to the borough and recognised how much she would be missed, given her length of service as Monarch.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Maurice to speak on behalf of the Conservative Group, who also felt it important to recognise and respect the sense of loss expressed during the period of national mourning from around the world. In highlighting the Queen's strong commitment to public service and in representing all those who had settled in the United Kingdom from across the world, he also took the opportunity to wish the new king well in his transition as sovereign.

As a final contribution, Councillor Georgiou was then invited to speak on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group. In supporting the sentiments already expressed he also paid tribute to the late Queen's long and selfless commitment to public service and felt it important to reflect on the comments made by the Archbishop of Canterbury in welcoming world leaders attending her state funeral in relation to those who serve often being loved whilst those who cling to power and privilege were often forgotten.

The Mayor thanked members for their contributions and tributes and as a mark of sympathy and condolence to both the new Sovereign and Royal Family invited all present to join him in observing a moments silence in memory of the late Queen.

*All present then stood to observe a moments silence in remembrance of HRH Her Majesty the Queen.*

## (ii) Community Cohesion

The Mayor then moved on to advise members that one of the things he was most proud about in holding office as Mayor of Brent was the level of diversity across the Borough and way in which different communities were able to live side by side in peace and harmony. This was most recently demonstrated in the way different communities in Brent had come together in response to the pandemic and also during the period of national mourning for the Queen, which he was keen to reflect upon given recent community tensions elsewhere in the country.

Referring to the way Brent was able to pride itself on the peaceful relationships that existed between its diverse and multicultural communities the Mayor felt it was necessary to always remain vigilant to ensure community cohesion was maintained. In light of recent events and community tensions elsewhere in the country he therefore invited Carolyn Down (as Chief Executive) to read a statement from the Brent Multi-Faith Forum.

The statement referred to by the Chief Executive was as follows:

“As people of faith we work for the flourishing of all people and stand against violence and aggression between any different groups. We stand with our brothers and sisters in Leicester working for community cohesion and urge everyone to be wary of fake news items and rumours, which aim to stir up fear and anger against those who are different from us.

We acknowledge that there are differences between us due to the traumas of history and let us engage in honest dialogue where we listen to each other with kindness as good neighbours. We ask you to pray and work for continued peace and unity here in Brent.”

Having noted and expressed support for the statement, the Mayor (recognising the importance of the issue) then invited comments from representatives of each Group on the Council.

Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) speaking on behalf of the Labour Group opened by thanking Brent Multi Faith Forum for their statement and stance taken in seeking to enhance and support community cohesion across the borough. He pointed out these were values strongly supported by the Council in seeking to stand against anyone looking to create division, hate or discrimination. Referring to personal experience, he felt it important to recognise the destabilising impact any form of hatred or aggression created between different communities. As an alternative, he was therefore keen to discourage any activities which sought to create division or tension and ensure the Council continued to recognise the contributions made by different communities across such a diverse borough along with actively encouraging unity and collaboration in order to allow the borough to continue moving forward together.

Councillor Kansagra was then invited to speak on behalf of the Conservative Group, who also highlighted the importance in standing against anyone seeking to stir up fear or tension between different communities within the borough. In valuing the strong and longstanding level of community cohesion across Brent he felt local councillors also had an important role to play in seeking to provide leadership within their local communities and discourage the spreading of rumours or fake news on social media in order to work for continued unity and peace in Brent.

As a final contribution, Councillor Georgiou was also invited to speak on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group. In endorsing the comments made by each of the other Group Leaders he was also keen to support the efforts being taken to calm and maintain community and cultural relationships across the borough. Highlighting the focus and unity between councillors representing different communities serving on the Council, he felt this provided a strong message that could be taken back in order to ensure that tensions being experienced elsewhere were not able to affect the cohesion between communities across Brent.

The Mayor thanked each Group Leader along with the Brent Multi Faith Forum for their contributions and urged all members to support the approach outlined in what he felt remained such an important issue for the borough.

### (iii) Brent Care Awards for Social Care Staff

Moving on with the remainder of his announcements, the Mayor advised that he had been pleased, as part of a full programme of engagements, to have attended the recent Care Awards for Social Care Staff in Brent. Commenting on the awards, he advised he had been honoured to have been able to recognise and celebrate the achievements of so many social care staff across the borough.

(iv) Brent Summer reading challenge

Another event the Mayor advised he had been pleased to attend was the Brent Libraries Summer reading challenge awards. He informed members that one of the particular highlights had been witnessing how much fun those children involved had experienced in completing the reading challenge and in being able to congratulate them for their achievements.

(v) 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**

The Mayor advised that there were no appointments to Council Committees, Sub Committees and other bodies which had been received for consideration so moved straight on to the next item.

**7. Deputations (if any)**

The Mayor advised that he had accepted a request for a deputation to be presented at the meeting by Mr Keith Anderson, representing the Kilburn Village Residents Association three neighbouring Resident Associations and the Kilburn Forum, regarding the Kilburn Square Infill Scheme.

Unless otherwise indicated by members, the Mayor advised that he intended to allow Mr Anderson up to five minutes to present the deputation. He would then allow Councillor Knight, as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, up to two minutes to respond to the deputation.

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

Whilst recognising the impact of the increasing demand for affordable, family sized social housing within the borough, Mr Anderson began his deputation by highlighting concerns expressed about the proposed scale and shape of the Kilburn Square Infill scheme and resulting impact on the wellbeing and quality of life for both new and existing residents in the surrounding area. In noting the reduction in scale of the proposals from those originally planned and benefits from some of the landscape and infrastructure improvements proposed, it was felt that the revised scheme would still have a detrimental impact on existing amenity space (involving the removal of green space and trees) and in terms of damaging the estates existing sense of place. Concerns were also raised, as part of the deputation, in relation to the extent of the consultation and engagement undertaken with local residents and overall balance of the scheme when taking account of the views expressed by the local community. As a result, Mr Anderson advised he was asking the Council to reconsider the current scale of the proposals in advance of the final planning application being submitted.

In responding to the deputation Councillor Knight, as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, whilst understanding the concerns highlighted felt there was also a need to recognise the scale and impact of the current level of housing need and demand for affordable social housing across the borough. In seeking to address the balance between meeting this need and minimising the impact on existing local residents she felt it important to recognise the level of engagement undertaken, which alongside the planned enhancements to communal amenity space and public realm across the estate, had resulted in significant changes being made to the overall scale and design of the Kilburn Square scheme. In acknowledging the concerns raised and thanking Mr Anderson for the deputation it was felt the current proposals needed to be seen in the context of providing a balance that sought to minimise the impact of the development on new and existing residents whilst also assisting to address the demand for affordable social housing within the borough.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Knight 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**

The Mayor advised that the following eight questions had been received from members of the public:

Question 1 from Pete Firmin to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security regarding the maintenance of communal areas and housing blocks within the Alpha Place estate, Kilburn.

Question 2 from Amitabh Ghuwalewala to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, regarding food waste collection and resident parking for a multi storey housing block on North End Road, Wembley Park.

Question 3 from Neil Ireland to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, regarding the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods.

Question 4 from Peter Maguire to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, regarding Wembley event day traffic management.

Question 5 from Rok Rajar to Councillor Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning, regarding the planning obligation agreement and service charges for a block within the Wembley North West Lands development.

Question 6 from Martin Francis to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, regarding Building Fire Safety Regulations and issuing of Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs).

Question 7 from Marc Etukudo to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security regarding the impact of a proposed housing development at Newland Court on neighbouring amenity and local residents health and wellbeing.



Question 8 from John Poole to Councillors Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, and Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care regarding the action being taken to tackle pollution and flooding within Wealdstone Brook.

Members noted the written responses provided on each of the questions, which had been circulated with the agenda. The Mayor advised that each member of the public had been invited to attend the meeting. Whilst Amitabh Ghuwalewala, Neil Ireland, Peter Maguire and Rok Rajar had been unable to attend, members were advised that Pete Firmin, Martin Francis, Marc Etukudo and John Poole were all present in order to ask a supplementary question following the written responses provided to their questions.

The Mayor welcomed them all to the meeting and the following supplementary questions were asked of the relevant Cabinet Member(s).

**Question 1: Supplementary Question from Pete Firmin to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security**

Having noted the written response provided, Mr Firmin highlighted ongoing concerns regarding the maintenance of communal areas and housing blocks within the Alpha Place estate, Kilburn. Despite a plan of action having been developed he outlined issues still needing to be addressed in relation to communal bins, litter, broken paving slabs, steps and damage to footpaths and the highway as a result of flooding. In addition, concerns were raised in relation to changes affecting access to green areas on the estate and outstanding faults reported in relation to footpath lighting, which were still to be addressed. As a supplementary question he therefore asked the Cabinet Member for her views on the efficiency of the Housing Estate repairs and maintenance process.

In taking the opportunity to thank Mr Firmin for his question, Councillor Knight advised that a number of the concerns raised had now been addressed although the extended timescales involved were acknowledged. Highlighting her commitment as Cabinet Member to improve services where standards were not being met Councillor Knight also outlined her focus in seeking to support development of the area, which had included the allocation of funding to redesign and improve the waste management provision in the area. This had included the introduction of new bins and a second weekly collection, as an interim measure, along with the provision of a dedicated Housing Officer assigned as a single point of contact for Housing Management issues. In recognising the concerns raised, Councillor Knight assured Mr Firmin of the Council's commitment to addressing the general upkeep of the area albeit recognising the constraints on financial resources available.

**Question 6 from Martin Francis to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security**

Having noted the written response provided, Mr Francis referred to the final part of his original question regarding Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS) for tenants. Highlighting evidence provided as part of the Grenfell inquiry he outlined the development of national guidelines for evacuation of high-rise buildings, which

included the need for a secondary plan of action so that residents could evacuate to a place of safety if stay put was not a viable option. Attention was also drawn to a statement made by the Mayor of London supporting the development of PEEPS for vulnerable tenants and as a supplementary question he therefore asked the Cabinet Member if she could advise whether any PEEPS had been issued for tenants in Brent and, if so, how many.

Highlighting what she felt to be the comprehensive nature of the response provided to the original question, Councillor Knight responded by advising that the Council continued to work to the timescales for implementation contained within the Building Safety Act 2022 taking account of any further information published by the Government. Reiterating the Council's commitment to the provision of a specific timetable with Brent, once implementation dates had been confirmed, she advised that residents would continue to be updated accordingly.

**Question 7 from Marc Etukudo to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security**

In referring to the written response provided, Mr Etukudo highlighted the emphasis provided in relation to the Council's priority in addressing the shortage of affordable housing across the borough but felt this approach could be challenged in relation to the mix of tenure and way in which larger scale developments, such as the former Copeland School site were being taken forward. In terms of the development at Newland Court, he pointed out that whilst officers had met with local residents as part of the pre planning stage of the development, in order to feed into the design of the scheme, the proposed development had still involved the loss of a number of trees as well as a reduction in resident parking provision. Given the objections raised in relation to the development along with other concerns relating to waste and litter and the resulting impact on health and wellbeing, he asked (as a supplementary question) whether it was felt the Council had residents best interests at heart.

In responding, Councillor Knight took the opportunity to thank Mr Etukudo for his question and highlighted how much she had welcomed meeting local residents in Newland Court to review and discuss the development proposals. Whilst assuring residents that their welfare remained a top priority, she also felt it important to recognise the current challenges faced by the Council, including the need to address the demand for and shortage of affordable social housing across the borough. Increasing the supply of affordable social housing therefore remained a key priority for the Council, although this would be supported by the need to work with local residents to ensure any new developments worked as far as possible for everyone. She therefore encouraged residents to ensure that their views and objections were submitted for formal consideration as part of the planning process. Councillor Knight ended by thanking Mr Etukudo for his attendance and community leadership in raising the issue.

**Question 8 from John Poole to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action**

Mr Poole began by congratulating the Council and all those involved in the success achieved earlier in the day by Brent at the London in Bloom awards. In terms of a supplementary question he then asked the Cabinet Member what responsibilities it was felt Brent Council had with regards to the maintenance of the Wealdstone

Brook as it flowed through six wards in the Borough and what actions, if any, the Council would be taking to ensure that flooding arising from the Wealdstone Brook during severe weather events was addressed in order to prevent properties and business being damaged from flooding.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth thanked Mr Poole for his congratulations on the London in Bloom awards and advised, in relation to his supplementary question on flooding, that the Council had published a Flood Risk Management Strategy. This outlined the coordinated approach with key partner agencies such as Thames Water and the Environment Agency in working together to prevent and tackle any issues arising from flooding and clearly set out the key responsibilities of each agency. Councillor Sheth ended by advising she would be willing to provide Mr Poole with further details on the Strategy outside of the meeting, if required.

Having noted the responses provided, the Mayor thanked the members of the public in attendance for their supplementary questions and Cabinet Members for their response before advising that this now 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. Annual Report from the Leader of the Council**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, to present his Annual Report on the work of the Council and State of the Borough.

Councillor Muhammed Butt opened his annual report by reflecting on the passing of the Queen, which he felt marked the end of a long “Elizabethan” era for the country, which had demonstrated all the required values in terms of public service, including dignity and loyalty, as a benchmark for all in public life to follow. Whilst recognising that not every member in the Council Chamber was a natural monarchist, he felt it important to recognise and respect the late Queens sense of duty to the crown and people across the United Kingdom and Commonwealth she represented.

In recognising the succession as a period of renewal, Councillor Butt then moved on to focus on what he regarded to be the ongoing crisis in terms of public services presided over by the Conservative Government following their 12 years in power. Referring to the challenges in terms of Adult Social Care, the housing market, NHS, water pollution, energy supplies and the current economic climate he felt these reflected a broken and failed approach by the Government and lack of ideas and leadership at a time when these were most needed, given the ongoing impact on local residents of the cost-of-living crisis and failures in terms of Brexit.

In summing up, Councillor Muhammed Butt looked ahead to the Governments upcoming fiscal statement and hoped this was used as an opportunity to address the challenges identified by providing investment in public services rather than tax cuts for the wealthiest in society and to see a return to the values and qualities displayed by the late queen in relation to public duty, service and honesty in order to deliver what he felt was a much needed sense of renewal within the country.

The Mayor thanked the Leader for his Annual Report and then advised that he would open up the debate for contributions from other members, starting with a response from the Conservative and Liberal Democrats Group.

In responding to the Annual Report Councillor Kansagra, as Leader of the Conservative Group, felt it was important to recognise the poor financial state of the country inherited from the previous Labour Government in 2010 and nature of the challenges faced since then in relation to the fiscal deficit which had need to be addressed, delivery of Brexit and the Covid pandemic. Despite these challenges he felt there was need to recognise and commend the Government for the way in which they had implemented the roll out of the covid vaccine programme and dealt with the pandemic as well as the rise in energy prices and cost-of-living crisis arising as a result of the war in Ukraine. In highlighting the significant package of financial support provided for businesses and individuals to assist in managing the increase in energy bills, ongoing impact of the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis by the Government he concluded by questioning what funding, other than that provided by Government, the Labour Administration in Brent had specifically provided to assist local residents in tackling these issues.

As no members of the Liberal Democrat Group indicated they wished to speak in response to the Annual Report, the Mayor then moved on to open up the debate and invite contributions from other members.

In support of the issues highlighted by the Leader, within his Annual Report, Councillor Kelcher felt it was important to recognise the significant challenges and difficulties created as a result of the Governments fiscal policy and its impact on the economy. In challenging the stance taken by the Leader of the Conservative Group, he outlined the effect this was having both now and in the future on the average standard of living for local residents across the borough which were now falling behind those of many other countries across Europe.

Councillor Miller also sought to challenge the stance taken by the Leader of the Conservative Group in relation to the Government's handling of the pandemic given the UK's high covid mortality rate when compared to the rest of Europe. He felt this reflected a failure of Government policy to lockdown, to introduce appropriate measures for social distancing and provide the necessary support for the local economy at the right time. Reflecting on the disproportionate impact of covid on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities he welcomed the current enquiry into the handling of the pandemic, which he felt would also highlight the Government's significant shortcomings. He also challenged the fairness of the Government's approach in not seeking to impose a windfall tax on energy companies to assist in supporting households in mitigating against the rise in energy costs, which he pointed out would instead now fall on taxpayers to fund.

As no further members indicated they wished to speak, the Mayor then invited the Leader to sum up and close the debate on his Annual State of the Borough Report.

Councillor Muhammed Butt began his response by outlining concern regarding the potential impact of the new Chancellor and Prime Ministers upcoming mini budget, given their shift in political alignment and impact of previous austerity measures. In contrast, he took the opportunity to highlight and commend the work undertaken by the Council in continuing to ensure necessary support was provided for local

residents, especially those more vulnerable members of society. As specific examples, he highlighted ongoing delivery of the Council's affordable home building and regeneration programmes, the support being provided for schools to continue delivering excellent performance and in tackling the cost-of-living crisis and impact of the pandemic through the Resident Support Fund and Council Tax Support Scheme, which he felt would continue to ensure the best possible outcomes for local residents.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Muhammed Butt for his response and advised that this concluded the debate. As a result, it was therefore **RESOLVED** to formally note the Annual State of the Borough Report.

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

The Mayor then 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. In presenting the report, the Leader highlighted the work being undertaken to manage the Council's finances as efficiently as possible; to deliver the Council's new council housing programme alongside its wider estate and regeneration programme of activities; to focus on community safety and protection; to deliver the wide range of environmental improvements across the borough and ensure all children and young people had the opportunities needed to succeed; to support residents in tackling the cost of living crisis and to ensure the necessary levels of care, advice and guidance continued to be made available in relation to public health and adult social care with a focus around engaging and supporting the local community. Finally, members were asked to note that no Executive decisions had been taken under the Council's urgency procedures, since the previous update provided for the Council meeting in July.

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

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

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

12.1 Councillor Kelcher thanked Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, for the written response in relation to his question regarding the impact being created by the increase in movements of HGVs within Harlesden Town Centre and the surrounding area.

As a supplementary question Councillor Kelcher asked for an update on work being undertaken with the Old Oak & Park Royal Development Corporation (ODPC) and other partners to tackle the issues being created as a result of the current weight restriction on a nearby bridge affecting traffic flows in the area and in terms of available alternative access routes.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth advised that as the bridge referred to fell within the boundary of Hammersmith & Fulham the strengthening works would require identification of the necessary funding and also agreement between them, ODPC, TfL and Network Rail. Whilst discussions had been undertaken no firm plan had yet been agreed. As a result, Councillor Krupa Sheth advised that she would be willing to liaise further with relevant stakeholders along with the London Assembly Member in an effort try and progress discussions in recognition of the impact the current weight restrictions on the bridge had in limiting the options for diverting HGV traffic around the town centre and surrounding area. In addition, she advised that she would be willing to visit the area and undertake further discussions with local ward councillors in order to consider options for a longer-term solution to manage and mitigate the flow of traffic within the town centre and surrounding area.

- 12.2 Councillor Molloy thanked Councillor Mili Patel, as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform, for the written response in relation to his question on support for the Council's for Fair Tax Declaration. In welcoming the commitment outlined within the response, Councillor Molloy, as a supplementary question, sought further detail on the Council's plans to sign up to the Fair Tax Declaration.

In response, Councillor Mili Patel thanked Councillor Molloy for highlighting the work being undertaken by the Fair Tax Foundation with local authorities to collectively encourage fair tax practices amongst their suppliers. As such, she advised the Council was commitment towards supporting the Council's for Fair Tax Declaration which she was working with officers to bring forward for approval.

- 12.3 Councillor Kennelly thanked Councillor Grahl, as Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, for the written response to his question regarding the performance of pupils across the borough in relation to GCSE, A Level and technical qualification results. In welcoming and recognising the achievements of pupils across Brent, Councillor Kennelly as a supplementary question, sought further details about the ongoing support being provided in order to secure future levels of attainment, particularly following on from the impact of the pandemic.

In response, Councillor Grahl thanked Councillor Kennelly for recognising the achievements of young people given the significant challenges and disruption faced as a result of the pandemic, which she felt was testament to not only their hard work and resilience but also the support being provided by within schools and by young people's families and carers. In addition, Councillor Grahl took the opportunity to outline the support provided through the Council's School Effectiveness Team, both during and after the pandemic, which she pointed out had played an important role in ensuring that Brent's schools had continued to be rated by Ofsted as 'good' or 'outstanding'.

Reference was also made to success of the Holiday Activities and Skills Programme, in terms of the support being made available for young people and, looking forward, Councillor Grahl advised of the Council's ongoing commitment and investment in the Brent Works Programme and in the provision of apprenticeship opportunities as a means of continuing to ensure that every young person in the borough had the opportunity to succeed.

- 12.4 In noting the response to her question by Councillor Nerva, as Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, in relation to the discovery of the polio virus in samples collected from waterways in North and East London as well as Brent, Councillor Hirani, as a supplementary question, sought further details on the measures being taken to encourage the take up of the polio booster vaccination across Brent.

In response, Councillor Nerva thanked Councillor Hirani for highlighting the importance of the child immunisation programme which he was keen to promote and encourage parents to take up as a precautionary and preventative measure across the borough. He advised that that vaccination centre located at the Civic Centre matter continued to offer both the covid as well as polio vaccinations, which the Council were keen to promote and support in order to encourage as extensive a take up as possible.

- 12.5 Having noted the response to his question by Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, regarding the funding, timescales and programme of delivery for Active Travel schemes across Brent, Councillor Georgiou, as a supplementary question, highlighted what he felt to be the need to prioritise the delivery of active travel schemes and supporting infrastructure as a key means of addressing the current climate emergency and air quality across the borough. Whilst recognising the challenges in relation to securing funding and community support, specific concerns were highlighted in relation to cycling infrastructure across the borough and as a result further details were sought on proposals being developed to enhance this provision, working in conjunction with the Brent Cycling Campaign.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth, assured Councillor Georgiou of the work being undertaken with cyclists across Brent regarding development and implementation of Brent's Active Travel Plan, which included a range of measures designed to improve and enhance cycling and walking and the associated infrastructure. As the Council's Active Travel Champion, she also referred to the work being undertaken by Councillor Mitchell to support this process alongside the ongoing work being undertaken by the Council with TfL and their Cycling Commissioner to secure the necessary funding in order to support be able to progress various initiatives and related infrastructure improvements.

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. Questions relating to the following issues were raised and responses provided, as set out below:

- (i) Councillor Lorber seeking to explore concerns in relation to the use of Shared Ownership as part of the Council's package of Affordable Housing products and options.

In response Councillor Tattler, as Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning, advised that Shared Ownership was a product that could be used as part of a package of intermediary affordable housing tenure measures. Whilst recognising the need to explore the wider issues identified in relation to the demand, interest and impact of shared ownership schemes across Brent, Councillor Tattler felt it important to recognise the success achieved by the Council in delivering its programme of genuinely affordable housing across the borough, within which Shared Ownership remained one of a number of different products.

- (ii) Councillor Maurice regarding compliance of the current CCTV system to enforce bus lane restrictions across the borough.

In response Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, advised that she was not aware of any advice having been received about the current CCTV system being non-compliant for enforcement purposes.

- (iii) Councillor Afzal regarding the measures being taken to secure the necessary accountability from Housing Management companies in seeking to protect renters security during the current cost of living and housing crisis.

In response Councillor Knight, as Cabinet member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, thanked Councillor Afzal for his question given the importance of the issues raised in relation to the interests of renters across the borough, particularly within the private rented sector. Whilst pointing out that Registered Providers and Housing Management companies were not legally obliged to work in collaboration with the Council she advised that the Council remained committed to doing all within its power to safeguard the interest of renters across all sectors within the borough, recognising the ongoing challenges arising as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. In terms of specific actions being taken, Councillor Knight advised that she was already meeting on a regular basis with the main Registered Providers operating in the borough and encouraged members to highlight any concerns so they could be raised direct as a means of continuing to hold providers to account.

- (iv) Councillor Chan regarding progress in implementing the School Streets initiative and engagement with schools and parents in order to ensure the success of the programme.

In response Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, updated members on the progress with installation of the CCTV cameras in order to support implementation of the scheme, which were due to be completed and operational by October 2022. Members were also advised of the appointment of a dedicated officer to deal with any applications for exemptions and other queries relating to implementation of the School Street zones with all residents and businesses located within the areas having now been advised. Further communication



would be issued once the final “go live” dates were confirmed and final signage installed with the necessary Traffic Management Orders now having been amended to enable implementation.

- (v) Councillor Long regarding the inspection programme and process for reporting concerns regarding the condition of yellow parking restrictions and pedestrian crossings particularly where they were worn or in need of replacement, given safety concerns.

In response Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, advised how the Council continued to work with its contractors in order to ensure delivery of the necessary maintenance, repair and renewal programme for road markings. Whilst the renewal programme was prioritised through the asset management system and use of video condition surveys members were advised that improvements to the process for reporting issues were also being reviewed as part of the Redefining Local Services process.

- (vi) Councillor Miller regarding delivery of infrastructure to support cycling across the borough, including safe cycle storage facilities and cycle lanes.

In responding Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, highlighted the work being undertaken by the Council to respond to various requests for cycle lanes, hangers and supporting infrastructure, particularly within the south of the borough and on housing estates. She advised that engagement was continuing with local residents, which she would also be happy to discuss further with ward councillors, as required.

- (vii) Councillor Kansagra regarding the current planning requirements in relation to the installation of cavity wall insulation.

Whilst keen to ensure the planning process was operated as efficiently as possible, Councillor Tatler in responding as Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, felt it important to recognise the relevant planning policies which the Council was required to follow in respect of the assessment of individual planning applications. These had been designed to ensure the necessary building safeguards and protections were in place for each development, which she pointed out the Council would be required to continue operating under pending any subsequent change in legislation or relevant regulations.

- (viii) Councillor Kennelly seeking assurances on the actions being taken to manage and address fire safety within the Council’s parks and open spaces following the increase in summer temperatures being experienced and recent wildfires within his ward.

In responding Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, began by highlighting the importance and value of the meadows programme introduced within the borough’s parks and open spaces, from a biodiversity perspective. Given these spaces were now well established and appreciated by residents she confirmed there were no plans to remove any of the areas as a result of concerns relating to the risk of

wildfires due to the hot weather, although it was recognised that a sensible balance needed to be achieved in the way the risks identified were managed. As a result the Council had prohibited the use of BBQs in parks, through its Public Spaces Protection Order, supported by the Council's Parks Team and contractors through a programme of mowing and the provision and widening of fire break areas to protect wildlife and neighbouring properties on the boundary of these spaces. As further assurance members were also advised that this had also been supported by a communications programme to highlight the fire risks associated with the use of BBQs and dropping of cigarette's etc during such extreme hot weather.

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.

### **13. 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.

As Councillor Conneely had given her apologies for the meeting, the Mayor invited Councillor Long as Vice-Chair of the Committee to introduce the update report on the work being undertaken by the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, with the following issues highlighted:

- The broad ranging nature of the Scrutiny Committee's ongoing work programme for 2022-23. This had included recent updates on the plans being developed to address the uncertainties and risks associated with the current level of economic and financial uncertainty as part of the Council's budget setting process for 2023-24 and Medium Term Financial strategy alongside a progress update on delivery of the Council's Digital Inclusion Strategy.
- Other issues which had been subject to review included progress on implementation of the recommendations from the Baroness Casey review in relation to the management of events at Wembley following the UEFA Euro 2020 Final and on the actions being taken by the Council to support residents in managing the cost-of-living crisis.
- These reviews had led to a number of recommendations and suggestions for improvements being made, progress against which was now being regularly monitored through a scrutiny tracker update.
- As part of future reviews the Committee would be considering the Council's grants programme at their next meeting alongside the Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report with Councillor Long also highlighting the commitment to maintain a watching brief on items scheduled for decision on the Council's Forward Plan as part of the Committee maintaining a flexible work programme that remained responsive to the needs of members and local residents.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Long for her update and then invited Councillor Ketan Sheth as chair of the Community and Wellbeing 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 reflecting on the period of national mourning following the death of HRH The Queen, Councillor Ketan Sheth began his update by advising of the decision taken to postpone the last meeting of the North West London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) which had been scheduled to take place in advance of the state funeral. He confirmed this had now been rescheduled to meet in October.
- Key issues considered at the previous JHOSC had been an update on emerging issues highlighted through the recently established Northwest London Integrated Care System, a review of proposals for an elective orthopaedic centre at Central Middlesex Hospital and new community diagnostic centres in North West London along with proposals to develop a Northwest London framework for tackling health inequalities.
- Highlighting the ongoing importance in scrutiny continuing to work in partnership with the NHS to ensure the best outcomes were being delivered for local residents, members were advised that the next JHOSC was also due to review palliative care, access to primary care and GP services along with local A&E and London Ambulance Service performance.
- In terms of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, upcoming reviews included support for Brent's children with special educational needs and disabilities and the borough's preparedness for the implementation of the SEND Review, as set out in the government's Green Paper. Members were advised that the Committee were also due to review Brent's Early Help service as part of the process in seeking assurance regarding the way in which every child or young person was being supported across the borough.
- As a final update, Councillor Ketan Sheth also highlighted the establishment of a Task Group by the Committee in order to explore and review the use of social prescribing in Brent and the opportunities available through partnership working with key stakeholder in seeking to add value and make a positive impact for residents across the borough

The Mayor thanked Councillors Long and Ketan Sheth 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 question was raised and response provided:

- (i) In response to the update on the work of the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Kabir requested details on proposals to ensure the voluntary & community sector were engaged in the work being undertaken through the North West London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to review palliative and end of life care.

In response, Councillor Ketan Sheth, provided an assurance regarding the level of engagement planned with key stakeholders in relation to the review of palliative care across North West London, which he advised would include an opportunity for representatives of the voluntary and community sector to participate.

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

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

The Mayor invited Councillor Chan, as the 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 were in the process of reviewing and signing off the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts 2021-22 having considered the External Auditors report. The Committee were also continuing to monitor the Council's Strategic Risk Register which had included the recent addition of the impact arising from the cost-of-living crisis. As part of their focus on this issue, members had also received a demonstration of the Financial Inclusion Dashboard being used as a business tool to assist in targeting support for local residents and were also keen to develop cross cutting work with scrutiny around the same issue.

Councillor Chan advised the Committee were looking forward to continuing their work 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.

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

In accordance with Standing Order 34, the Mayor advised that the next item on the agenda was the non-cabinet member debate, with the subject chosen for consideration being the introduction of one hours free car parking on Brent's high streets.

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 Mistry to introduce the motion. As context for the debate, Councillor Mistry highlighted the difficulties that small businesses had faced in the aftermath of the pandemic, as acknowledged in Brent's Covid 19 Recovery Support Plan. As such, Councillor Mistry advised members were being asked to

consider proposals for a trial implementation of a one hour free on-street parking scheme designed to encourage an increase in activity within local high streets. Highlighting the high priority identified by local business in relation to parking, it was also felt the proposal would assist in terms of supporting 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 local economic growth whilst safeguarding jobs and creating new employment opportunities for Brent's diverse population.

Whilst recognising the initial financial implications, Councillor Mistry felt these would be offset as a result of the longer-term economic benefits for local businesses arising from the proposal and at the same time would address the lack of parity between businesses operating along the borough boundary on Kenton Road where Harrow had introduced a free on-street parking scheme. Given the benefits identified, Councillor Mistry commended the proposal to Council for consideration.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Mistry for introducing the motion and then opened up the debate for contributions from other members.

In responding to the motion, Councillor Krupa Sheth expressed her disappointment at what she felt to be the Conservative Group's lack of awareness and stance in relation to the climate emergency and measures being undertaken in Brent to address the position. In seeking to encourage car use she felt the proposal put forward for consideration was in direct conflict with Brent's goal in seeking to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and to promote cheaper, greener, healthier and more active modes of travel such as walking, cycling or utilising public transport. In terms of wider support to local business and the economy, Councillor Krupa Sheth felt that on-street parking charges in Brent remained competitive, and felt it important to highlight how the funding generated from parking was passed back to directly support Brent residents through the Freedom Pass scheme. In closing her response Councillor Krupa Sheth reminded members of the importance placed on supporting local businesses by the Council both pre and post pandemic and for the reasons outlined therefore encouraged members to reject the proposal and motion put forward for consideration.

Councillor Mitchell also spoke in objection to the proposal, again expressing disappointment at the impact it was felt any proposals designed to encourage an increase in car journeys would have on the priority identified in tackling the climate emergency and in working towards net zero. In terms of the local economy, Councillor Mitchell highlighted the detrimental cost to businesses as a result of increased congestion and felt it would therefore be more advantageous from a health and environmental perspective to encourage more active forms of travel as a means of increasing local footfall on high streets and ensuring high streets were a more safer, attractive and cleaner environment for pedestrians to use rather than prioritising car use.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Kansagra queried whether the concerns highlighted could be related more to any potential loss of parking revenue than the impact on the environment. Highlighting what he felt was a genuine need to support local businesses and employment, he considered the proposed introduction of a trial period of free on-street parking across the boroughs High

Streets would greatly assist as similar initiatives had provided a boost to local businesses in neighbouring boroughs.

These comments were supported by Councillor Mistry who, in summing up, felt the proposal would demonstrate a real commitment to support local businesses and economic growth by not only encouraging passing trade but also in seeking to address the confusion for businesses operating along both sides of Kenton Road.

As there were no further contributions, the Mayor then invited Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, to summarise and close the debate.

Councillor Krupa Sheth, assured members that the objections being raised in relation to the proposal were based on a desire by the Labour Administration to prioritise the environment, health and prosperity of Brent residents rather than income generation, with members reminded that revenue achieved through on-street parking charges was invested back into the community through the Freedom Pass scheme. In concluding the debate she highlighted the efforts being made by the Council to support local businesses and for the reasons outlined urged all members to join her in rejecting the proposal put forward for consideration as the basis for debate,

The Mayor thanked all members for their contributions and then moved on to put the motion to a vote. As a result of the vote the following motion was declared **LOST** and therefore not approved as the outcome of the 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."

**16. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2021-22**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Mili Patel, as Deputy Leader And Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform Leader, to introduce a report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources updating members on the Council's Treasury Management Activity during 2021-22. In introducing the report the Deputy Leader felt it important to recognise the significant economic impact and challenges created in relation to delivery of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy created as a result of the ongoing recovery from the pandemic, war in Ukraine and higher levels of inflation and interest rates, which had been reflected with the outturn report. In addition, members attention was also drawn to the changes made to CIPFA'S Prudential Code for Capital Finance and Treasury Management, which it was noted were due to be introduced during the 2023-24 financial year.

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

Council therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) 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) To note that for 2021/22 the Council had complied with its Prudential Indicators which were approved by Full Council on 22 February 2021 as part

## 17. **Changes to the Constitution**

The Mayor invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, to introduce a report from the Corporate Director of Governance outlining a number of proposed changes to the Constitution. In introducing the report it was noted that the changes had primarily been designed to reflect the new senior management structure and requirements within the Health & Care Act 2022 impacting on the Terms of Reference for the Health & Wellbeing Board.

As no other members had 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**:

- (1) To approve the amendments to the Constitution as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report reflecting the Council's new senior management structure, the updated Terms of Reference for the Health & Wellbeing Board; update in process for managing joint scrutiny meetings and review of the Members Code of Conduct.
- (2) To note that, to the extent that the changes related to executive functions of the Council, they had been approved by the Leader.
- (3) To authorise the Corporate Director, Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

## 18. **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.

### **18.1 1<sup>st</sup> Motion (Conservative Group) – Kingsbury Curve**

The Mayor invited Councillor Maurice to move the first motion which had been submitted on behalf of the Conservative Group. Councillor Maurice, began by providing context to the issue highlighted within the motion by sharing an audio clip of the sound made by trains travelling along the Kingsbury Curve section of the Jubilee line track running between Kingsbury and Wembley Park underground stations. In moving the motion he outlined the nuisance, disturbance and detrimental impact being experienced by local residents living adjacent to the Kingsbury Curve as a result of the noise generated by the frequency of services running along that part of the track. It was felt this had coincided with the removal



of trees and shrubs from the railway bank and re-laying of the track along that section of the line by TfL, with residents affected even when their windows were closed. In view of the detrimental impact on the quality of life, health and wellbeing of those residents living adjacent to the line the motion was calling upon the Council to take action to protect residents and to ensure that TfL took the necessary action to rectify the cause of the issues identified, which he hoped all members would support.

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

Councillor Muhammad Butt was then invited to move the amendment on behalf of the Labour Group who began by acknowledging the work also undertaken by Councillors Johnson and Fraser (as local ward councillors) to support local residents in their attempts to address the concerns highlighted relating to the impact of the noise being experienced. Whilst recognising the detrimental impact on local residents, Councillor Butt explained that the amendment moved on behalf of the Labour Group was seeking to strengthen the action being sought by looking to work in partnership with TfL and local residents in order to mitigate the ongoing impact whilst identifying a robust engineering-led solution and to prioritise these works as quickly as possible. The amendment also recognised the need to continue lobbying central government for the additional capital investment required to support the upgrade and improvement of TfL infrastructure which it was felt would also be key in addressing the concerns identified. On this basis the amendment moved was as follows:

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.

~~These 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."

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

Speaking in support of the amended motion, Councillor Johnson highlighted the work already undertaken in conjunction with Councillor Maurice and other local councillors, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Krupa Sheth (as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action), Krupesh Hirani (as London Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow) and Barry Gardiner MP to advocate on behalf of residents with TfL in seeking a resolution to the noise issues being experienced. One of the key issues identified had been the removal of trees and shrubbery from the bank of track along the curve and the failure to provide any replacement noise barrier, which had amplified the noise for adjacent properties. Whilst recognising the subsequent efforts made by TfL to identify a solution, the amendment also sought to recognise the impact of the current funding restrictions imposed on TfL by the Government. In welcoming the cross-party nature of support and work being undertaken in seeking a resolution for residents, Councillor Johnson felt the amendment moved would be able to secure the most effective actions moving forward.

As there were no further contributions, the Mayor then invited Councillor Maurice (as mover of the original motion) followed by Councillor Muhammed Butt (as mover of the amendment) to exercise their right of reply.

In summing up, Councillor Maurice advised that whilst the Conservative Group were not supportive of reference within the amendment to lobbying for additional funding to support TfL, believing that sufficient additional Government funding had already been provided to upgrade and improve infrastructure across the network, they were minded to accept the amendment in order to secure approval of the motion in the best interests of local residents

Given acceptance of the amendment moved, Councillor Muhammed Butt advised that he would not need to exercise his right of reply and the Mayor therefore thanked councillors for their contributions and moved 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 unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

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

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 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."

**18.2 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion (Liberal Democrat Group) – Ending heartless “No Recourse to Public Funds”**

The Mayor invited Councillor Georgiou to move the second motion which had been submitted on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group. Councillor Georgiou, in

moving the motion began by highlighting the plight and many challenges faced by individuals and families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) in Brent being able to access much needed support. Concern was expressed at the restrictions placed on local authorities in seeking to intervene and support these individuals as a result of the provision within the Immigration & Asylum Act, which it was felt did not recognise the reality or situations faced by those affected in terms of poverty and housing need. As a result, he pointed out, the motion had been designed to seek cross-party support in lobbying the government to act by removing the NRPF restrictions in order to ensure those most in need were not excluded from support, as well as recognising the efforts being made by the Voluntary & Community sector alongside charities in addressing the gaps and providing assistance for those he felt were currently being ignored by the Government. In highlighting this work, he advised the motion was also seeking to further strengthen the Council's relationship with these organisations to ensure their continued support in being able to offer such valued and much needed advice and guidance for those with no recourse to public funds. As a result, he hoped all members would support the motion as moved.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Georgiou for moving the motion and invited other members to speak on the motion, with the following contributions received.

Councillor Muhammad Butt thanked Councillor Georgiou for highlighting such an important issue which he felt was already reflected in the breadth of work being undertaken by the Council in seeking to ensure that as much support as possible was provided for refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Brent. As part of this approach he felt it important to recognise that Brent had been one of the first councils to welcome Syrian and Afghan refugees, as well as having provided support for Ukrainian refugees through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. In outlining the Labour Groups support for the motion, Councillor Muhammed Butt felt there was a need for the Government to recognise the negative impact of their current policies in supporting those most in need and in providing opportunities for them to succeed and make a positive contribution within the communities in which they lived. He was therefore supportive of a clear message being sent to the Government regarding the need to act and remove the restrictions currently being placed on support, particularly given the challenges faced as a result of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and in seeking to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to succeed and thrive in the UK.

Councillor Matin also spoke to express her support of the motion and reflected upon the difficult decisions that migrants and refugees faced when leaving their home country to come to the UK in order to seek safety and security. Councillor Matin felt it important to reflect on the fact that many migrants and refugees arrived with the intention to work and contribute to society, however, were often being pushed further into poverty as a result of the restrictions being placed on the support available for them. Given the impact cost-of-living crisis it was noted that the challenges being experienced by so many would be magnified for those with no recourse to public fund and, as such, she also urged all members to support the action outlined within the motion.

Councillor Kansagra, speaking on behalf of the Conservative Group, also advised that he welcomed and supported the motion and in doing so highlighted what he felt was the need to ensure that migrants and refugees were welcomed and provided

with the necessary and appropriate levels of support and shelter (irrespective of their status) pending their immigration claims being processed.

As no further members had indicated they wished to speak and the time allocated for the debate had expired the Mayor then invited Councillor Georgiou to exercise his right of reply as mover of the motion.

In exercising his right of reply, Councillor Georgiou expressed his gratitude for the cross-party support expressed towards the motion with a unified response, he felt, being one of the most powerful ways to work together in order to support effective change for one of the most vulnerable groups in society.

Having thanked Councillors for their contributions, the Mayor then moved put the motion to the vote which was declared **CARRIED**.

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

**18.3 3<sup>rd</sup> Motion (Labour Group) – A Place to Call Home: Safety and Security for tenants during the cost of renting crisis**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Ethapemi to move the first motion submitted by the Labour Group. In moving the motion, Councillor Ethapemi felt it was important to recognise the challenging environment for renters not only within Brent but across London with these pressures being further exacerbated as a result of the

cost-of-living crisis. Highlighting that Brent was one of the most expensive outer-London boroughs in which to rent he also referred to the continued surge in rental charges as well significant challenges in terms of affordability for many households and first-time buyers in seeking to purchase their own property. As a result of these challenges, along with the increasing demand for affordable housing he advised the motion was seeking to outline the impact of the growing cost-of-renting crisis. Whilst recognising and supporting the efforts being made by the Council to increase the supply of affordable housing across the borough the motion was also calling on the Government to expedite the implementation of proposals within the Renters Reform White Paper designed to enhance the security available for renters as well as seeking support for the Mayor of London's call for a two-year rent freeze within the Private Rented Sector and introduction of rent controls to help support renters in Brent and across London. Given the economic hardship, and instability being experienced by so many renters within the Borough he urged all members to support the motion and ended by also highlighting and commending the work of the London Renters Union and Advice for Renters in supporting the case for a borough-wide selective landlord licensing scheme covering the Private Rented Sector that would also assist in driving up standards.

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

Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam spoke in support of the motion, again taking the opportunity to highlight the severity of the hardship being experienced by so many within the Private Rented Sector. In doing so the extent of the average increase in rental costs over the past year was also noted. Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam shared his concern at the impact this, along with the cost-of-living crisis would have for many residents across Brent. In closing his comments, he also commended the London Renters Union for their support in bringing forward the motion and for the advice, guidance and support they were providing for renters across the Borough. He therefore also urged members to support the motion and work being undertaken by the London Renters Union and Advice for Renters in Brent.

Councillor Lorber then spoke and began by reflecting that whilst the wider challenges highlighted in relation to the impact of the current increase in energy prices and cost-of-living crisis remained an immediate concern and focus, the impact and hardship being created as a result of demands on affordable housing and rising costs in the housing rental sector remained of longer-term concern. As a result he supported the call on the Government for strong leadership and the necessary interventions to be taken in order to address the issues highlighted within the motion and to provide the necessary security for those in the housing rental sector. In noting the financial support provided by the Government in response to the energy crisis, he also felt urgent action was needed to ensure the necessary regulation of the private rental market whilst enhancing the security and standards for tenants. On this basis Councillor Lorber confirmed the Liberal Democrat Group would be voting in support of the motion.

In speaking on the motion, Councillor Hirani felt it was important to understand the context of the current cost-of-living crisis given the impact of the war in Ukraine and resulting rise in energy costs. She also felt there was a need to recognise the significant package of financial support provided by the Government for both



households and businesses, which she felt reflected their commitment to hard working families and also the most vulnerable in society.

Councillor Knight, in responding to and supporting the motion as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security, began by thanking Councillors Ethapemi, and Ahamdi Moghaddam along with the London Renters Union and Advice for Renters for bringing forward the motion in order to highlight such an important issue for many local residents. Reflecting on the challenges in supporting residents to secure affordable housing she felt it important to recognise that private rental accommodation in Brent outweighed all other tenures across the borough. Given the challenges highlighted in terms of the increase in rents and available supply of suitable and affordable accommodation she welcomed and fully supported the calls on the Government to take urgent action in order to extend the support available for renters in Brent whilst also thanking officers for the work being undertaken to deliver the Council's affordable homes programme and provide support, guidance and advice to those most in need.

At this stage the Mayor advised that he would not be able to take any further contributions as the time allocated for the debate had expired and therefore invited Councillor Ethapemi to exercise his right of reply as mover of the motion.

In responding Councillor Ethapemi thanked members for the support expressed. In contrast to the approach taken by the Government he felt the motion reflected a more caring attitude on the part of the Council which positively sought to impact on the severe challenges and hardship being faced by many of the boroughs residents as a result of the current cost-of-living and renting crisis.

The Mayor thanked members for their contributions and then put the motion, as set out below, to a vote which was declared CARRIED.

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

**18.4 4<sup>th</sup> Motion (Labour Group) – Transport for London Funding**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Fraser to move the final motion submitted by the Labour Group who began by expressing her disappointment at what she felt was the inadequate level of Government funding and support being provided for Transport for London (TfL). In recognising the importance of maintaining transport links across Brent it was felt a sustainable funding deal from the Government for TfL was required as part of the ongoing pandemic recovery programme in order to ensure local residents were able to continue accessing an affordable and environmentally sustainable public transport network, particularly given the ongoing impact of the cost-of-living crisis and climate emergency. In commending the motion to members, Councillor Fraser advised that the actions being sought included support for the current industrial action being undertaken by transport workers to safeguard their terms and conditions, whilst lobbying the Government in order to secure a fair and long term sustainable funding deal for TfL in order to provide the necessary forward investment to keep Brent on the move and avoid the scrapping of local bus routes relied on by so many residents across the borough.

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

In supporting the motion, Councillor Rubin outlined what he felt to be the adverse impact being created by the lack of a sustainable Government funding settlement for TfL and publicly funded transport system not only in assisting to tackle the

climate emergency and improve air quality but also in terms of support for economic growth, housing and community wealth. Referring to what he felt was the failed transport policy of the Conservative Government, he highlighted the importance in seeking to oppose any cuts in service and fare increases as a direct result of the Government's unsustainable funding arrangements for TfL and in seeking to stand in solidarity with staff and trade unions in protecting jobs and their terms and conditions.

Councillor Hack also spoke in support of the motion highlighting the need to protect workers rights as well as the importance of working together to protect and secure public services for local residents, including an efficient transport system. In sharing his frustration and concern at the approach adopted by Government in relation to the funding and protection of public services, the welfare state and workers rights, Councillor Hack advised he would be supporting the motion as a means of protecting universal access to public services and a sustainable public transport system.

In further support of the motion, Councillor Grahl felt it important to highlight the severe impact which the removal of bus routes within the borough would have on many local residents, particularly those on low incomes, with particular reference made to the proposal affecting the No.16 service. In supporting the need to protect and maintain public services, including a properly funded public transport system, she also took the opportunity to remind members of the fact that many TfL workers had remained on the frontline delivering essential transport services as key workers throughout the pandemic and therefore also deserved solidarity and support at this time.

In responding to the comments made, Councillor Jayanti Patel felt there was a need to recognise that the Government had sought to provide TfL with a long-term funding settlement, which, following the pandemic, had been designed to secure their financial sustainability rather than a reliance on ongoing Government support. This was, he pointed out, also in addition to significant funding support provided during the pandemic which taken together the Conservative Group felt had been sufficient to provide a sustainable funding solution at a time when resources were needing to be prioritised.

In responding to the motion Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, advised that she disagreed with the stance taken by the Conservative Group highlighting that prior to the pandemic TfL had been in good financial health and were in fact being forecast to deliver an operating surplus for the first time in their history. Recognising the impact of the pandemic, Councillor Krupa Sheth felt the approach adopted by the Government towards the funding settlement for TfL, when compared to the financial support provided for private train operating companies, had reflected their ongoing stance towards public services and also London as a whole. In recognising the importance of local residents being able to access an affordable and environmentally sustainable, publicly funded transport network alongside concerns relating to the potential loss of services and increase in fares, Councillor Krupa Sheth ended by advising the Council had formally opposed the loss of bus services across the borough whilst also supporting the case for investment in new rolling stock on the Bakerloo line and the West London Orbital scheme and therefore encouraged all members to support the motion.

As no further members had indicated they wished to speak and the time allocated for the debate had expired the Mayor then invited Councillor Fraser to exercise her right of reply as mover of the motion.

In responding Councillor Fraser expressed her disappointment at the Government's stance in relation to the funding and support for TfL given the negative impact on residents across Brent and London as a whole. In thanking members for the support expressed, she hoped the motion would be able to assist in delivering much needed support for local residents as well as those working for TfL.

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:

**"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."

**19. 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 he looked forward to seeing everyone again in person at the next Full Council which would be on Monday 21 November 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

COUNCILLOR ABDI ADEN  
Mayor

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## **Item 7.1: Questions from Members of the Public**

### **Full Council – 21 November 2022**

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

I am proud to be a part of Brent and think it is an all inclusive, forward thinking London borough, and I'd like to think we put climate considerations at the heart of governance. However, this awareness needs to include every aspect of council activities, including the provision of food.

Other London Boroughs, for example Lewisham & Enfield, have committed to serve only plant-based food at their meetings and events, or not to serve meat. Outside of London, Oxfordshire, Cambridge City, Faversham and Hythe councils have made similar commitments and I'd like Brent to do the same. This is the logical, and necessary next step after having declared a climate emergency. It will help normalise plant-based eating, which according to an Oxford University study is the single most effective thing an individual can do to reduce their environmental impact.

We are currently in a cost-of-living crisis. Meat and dairy products are almost always the most expensive part of a meal - whole food plant-based meals are considerably cheaper. By doing the right thing for the planet, and promoting eating for good health, the council can also save money by serving more plant-based foods. The multiple crises we are currently facing make it even more important to feed grain directly to humans, not to farmed animals. We can and must move away from meat and dairy, towards climate-friendly eating, and I believe councils can lead the way with this.

There have been substantial evidence-based recommendations calling for a move away from meat and dairy. The National Food Strategy, led by Henry Dimbleby last year, recommended a reduction in meat and dairy of 30% within ten years. A new report by the Boston Consulting Group, one of the world's biggest consultancy firms, states that investment in plant-based alternatives to meat is by far the biggest green investment that can be made.

I would like to see our council be part of the solution, not continue to spend money on meat and dairy, which we know to be part of the problem.

Given the climate emergency and Brent Borough Council's stated aim to reduce their emissions, will the Council therefore consider committing to serving fully plant-based food at any future catered meetings and events including the Mayors

Ceremony, as other councils have done, and introducing more plant-based food in schools where possible? This will be a positive and forward-thinking step, bringing its food policy into line with other climate-aware policies.

**Response:**

The council is committed to tackling the climate and ecological emergency and we continue to make strides on this issue through the implementation of our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (“the strategy”) and associated delivery plans. The first theme of the strategy focuses on Consumption, Resources and Waste, which reflects the issue being ranked as the number one priority of the Brent Climate Assembly and sets the objective of reducing the borough’s consumption emissions by two thirds from a 2019 baseline by 2030.

If humans are to be successful in our efforts to prevent the worst effects of climate change, then every single one of us has an integral role to play – whether at home, school or work. Sustainability should be at the forefront of our everyday lives. The Strategy acknowledges that eating less meat and reducing food waste is a significant factor of this. Last year we developed a community cookbook on planet-saving recipes from local residents [From Brent to Bowl](#) held a webinar specifically on [Food and its impact!](#) During our ‘A beginners guide to the climate emergency’ webinar series last year.

The council does not, and has not, served food at any of its meetings for a number of years, with the exception of the food being provided following the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and appointment of a new Mayor of the Borough. The food provision at the AGM is at the discretion of the Mayor each year.

With regards to Brent’s community schools, schools procure their meals provisions directly and independent of the council. The council has provided information and encouragement to schools to consider introducing plant-based food in schools as part of the ‘whole school’ approach to environmental sustainability. This has been promoted through a number of communication channels, including through the Head teachers bulletin and the Brent Schools Climate Champions Network, in particular. There are a number of Brent schools who have introduced such an approach, including introducing ‘meat-free’ days into their weekly catering calendar.

2. **Question from J. Audrey to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security**

You want to build additional homes as infill development at Windmill Court. Why are you forcing this excessive option in direct opposition to and to the detriment of existing residents?

Why are you not making any improvements or doing anything for the existing residents of Windmill Court?

Carrying out infill development whilst doing nothing for the existing residents or building is breaking the promises made by councillors and the Council. How can you justify the neglect?

How can you justify the negative impact on existing and future residents?

How is it acceptable to remove sunlight from every room in my home & to reduce my kitchen window light down to 0.4 and in winter to 0.0 ?

Other residents are also badly affected by loss of light in every room of their homes as well as the loss of outlook along with a total lack of privacy given we are being overlooked from head to toe within our own homes.

How can you justify excessive development that will have an adverse and overbearing effect that will create an unduly oppressive living environment for existing and future residents?

**Response:**

**You want to build additional homes as infill development at Windmill Court. Why are you forcing this excessive option in direct opposition to and to the detriment of existing residents?**

**How can you justify excessive development that will have an adverse and overbearing effect that will create an unduly oppressive living environment for existing and future residents?**

The Council has brought these proposals forward in response to the chronic shortage of genuinely affordable housing in Brent. There are 24,000 households on the waiting list, 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 have engaged with residents living on Windmill Court early on, to hear their views and create proposals that balance the needs of existing residents with those that do not have a safe, secure and affordable place to call home.

We appreciate the concerns voiced about the development proposal at Windmill Court and acknowledge that the building close to existing homes will have some impact on existing residents. The Council is working hard to mitigate the impact of new homes being built where reasonable.

**Why are you not making any improvements or doing anything for the existing residents of Windmill Court?**

**Carrying out infill development whilst doing nothing for the existing residents or building is breaking the promises made by councillors and the Council. How can you justify the neglect?**

The New Council Homes development at Windmill Court will deliver improvements for existing residents, this includes security improvements such as boundary fencing and CCTV, which we know are a priority for residents as well as landscaping to improve the communal green space.

Alongside the development of these new homes, it was recognised the need to improve standards for existing residents.

The Council will be spending approximately £40m over the next three years on its tower block refurbishment programme of which approximately £14m will be spent on Windmill Court, and we are already consulting with residents on this.

The proposed specification is comprehensive and includes repairs to the building fabric; new energy efficient cladding; new windows; roofing; upgraded heating; upgraded mechanical and electrical services; internal refurbishment of the dwellings; and refurbishment of the internal communal areas.

**How is it acceptable to remove sunlight from every room in my home & to reduce my kitchen window light down to 0.4 and in winter to 0.0?**

**Other residents are also badly affected by loss of light in every room of their homes as well as the loss of outlook along with a total lack of privacy given we are being overlooked from head to toe within our own homes.**

As part of the development process and planning application, a detailed assessment of the impact the proposed development at Windmill Court will have to existing residents light was carried out. This assessment ensures that the proposed development is in line with local, regional and national planning policy, which is clear about not permitting any new development that will cause an unacceptable loss of daylight or sun light amenity to the surrounding properties.

The findings of the assessment compiled in the report concluded that the vast majority of the neighbouring habitable windows and rooms will retain good levels of daylight and that the development is consistent with the British Research Establishment guidance and relevant planning policy in terms of daylight and sunlight.

This will be reviewed and considered as part of the planning application submitted for Windmill Court.

**How can you justify the negative impact on existing and future residents?**

Our commitment is to balance the building of new affordable family homes with improvements that will benefit existing residents whilst mitigating potential impact this will have on them. Whilst we understand and appreciate the concerns voiced, we are confident that the development project team will implement the necessary measures to minimise any disruptions or inconvenience to achieve a positive outcome for all.

**3. Question from S. Culhane Councillor Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning**

The Transport Consultant's document submitted as part of the full Planning Application for the Windmill Court proposed infill development contains swept path analysis showing how vehicles can access and negotiate the site layout.

This analysis does not include high-reach fire appliances, and the main tower is over 40m high. Did anybody in the Planning Department ask why?

Did anybody in the Planning Department ask or direct the Transport Consultants to conduct such an analysis ?

**Response:**

It should be noted that the fire service does not use very large vehicles as a starting point for firefighting, there are many other ways that they approach a fire, working mainly from the inside. A very tall appliance would only be used in the case of very significant failure of the other fire safety measures, and it would not be a requirement of Building Regulations (which is the main regulatory framework for considering fire safety measures, rather than planning).

The assessment of vehicular access for fire safety has been made based on the likely vehicles that would attend a fire at the site.

## **Item 7.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament**

**Full Council – 21 November 2022**

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

Brent Youth Parliament's (BYP) new campaign is 'Education for Life'. In the UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark ballot, young people in Brent voted for education as the most important issue.

Based on this mandate, BYP is now campaigning to improve how life skills are taught in schools in Brent to help young people prepare for life after education. For our campaign, we would like to ask Brent Council:

- How would you support local businesses to work with schools in Brent to help develop an 'Education for life' curriculum?
- Does the council have any funding to provide extra resources and staff capacity for schools to help them teach life skills and financial education?
- What other support can the Council provide for BYP in this campaign and to involve young people in decision-making in local education matters

**Response:**

- ***How would you support local businesses to work with schools in Brent to help develop an 'Education for life' curriculum?***

There are voluntary sector organisations that support extra curricula activities in schools to develop life skills and some are in partnership with local businesses. They tend to be based around projects that develop life skills, such as listening, leadership, team work, creativity, presentation and problem solving and technical skills. For example, a project designing an App for a charity, school or business would enable young people to understand how organisations function, applying perspective and skills of young people to a business challenges to find solutions, whilst at the same time young people develop financial literacy, digital skills, problem solving skills and so forth.

The Council will consider how information about such organisations could be shared with schools.

The Council will also look to use its suppliers, as part of the social value requirement linked to contract awards, to work with local schools on relevant life skills.

- ***Does the council have any funding to provide extra resources and staff capacity for schools to help them teach life skills and financial education?***

The Council does not have any funding to provide extra staff capacity in schools to help them teach life skills and financial education. Funding for the delivery of the curriculum is delegated to schools and school leaders decide how this funding is spent. They base their decisions on delivering their statutory requirements - such as the national curriculum and keeping children and young people safe - and also the areas of focus/improvement that they have identified as priorities in their schools. The national curriculum document states that “all schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice”. Details of individual school curriculums is available on their websites.

There are external organisations that run life skills and financial education programmes for young people, such as Barclay’s moneywise programme [LifeSkills | Barclays](#) and [Drugs, Alcohol and Resilience Training – through the Life Skills Education Charity](#) that schools can choose to access to enhance their curriculum offer. Some of these, however, would be at a cost to schools.

Again the Council will consider how information about such programmes could be shared with schools.

- ***What other support can the Council provide for BYP in this campaign and to involve young people in decision-making in local education***

Brent Youth Parliament already has a seat at the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee where local education arrangements are considered and scrutinised.


Individual schools may have school councils where pupils can be involved in decision-making within schools.

As well as encouraging active involvement in school councils the Council could help young people to understand how schools are led and how decisions are made that directly impact the pupils attending. For example, the Governor Support Team could provide BYP with an overview of school governance. School Governing Boards are responsible for:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, whilst ensuring the curriculum is well taught; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school, ensuring budgets are effectively and efficiently spent.

The Council could also work with BYP to consider how information about life skills development opportunities outside of education settings could be made available to young people as part of their campaign.



 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 21 November 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

### Top news since my last report:

#### Have you say on Brent's new Borough Plan

It has given me great pleasure to introduce Brent's Borough Plan, setting out Brent Council's roadmap for the next four years.

This plan is informed by your priorities, expressed through your vote for at the ballot box earlier this year and through insights from our Residents Attitudes Survey completed last year. The council's Cabinet has approved this initial draft Borough Plan so now we want to hear from you for your feedback.

Throughout this plan, my eyes remain on the same principle as always – to leave no resident behind. This will be more important than ever, as we stare down the cost of living emergency together.

In Brent, like every London borough – we face a constant balancing act between the many challenges that await us. We face unprecedented demand in housing services; many more residents requiring round the clock care in later life; an increase in interventions by children's social services; and the ever present need to keep our borough safe, secure and clean.

Over the last ten years, Brent Council has needed to cut close to £200m from its budgets. We have needed to be agile, cut back our workforce and reduce spend. We have innovated, using new technology and modern ways of working. But it is without doubt that cuts have consequences on what we dream to do.

Our ambitions for Brent are under attack by spiralling inflation and interest rates. The same rising cost of living that has affected us all individually has also cut our shrinking pot of funding even further. Increased inflation does not only drive up the price of everyday essentials, it stretches the cost of goods, services, supplies and running buildings too. This has obvious effects on what it is we can deliver for you.

However, despite the challenges, we will continue to protect the most vulnerable in our community through our Residents Support Fund and our Council Tax Support scheme and by getting services closer to you through our Brent Hubs.

We will continue to listen to residents on how best to weather the storm ahead; and support vital services like waste collection, libraries, education and public health.

Please visit our website to have your say in this consultation by 10 January 2023 and attend one the many engagement events we are holding across Brent.

Our priorities include:

1. **Prosperity, Pride and Belonging** in Brent by tackling inequality, easing the pressures of the rising cost of living and showing Brent is open for business.

2. **A Cleaner, Greener Future** by doubling down on anti-social behaviour, making cleaning services more responsive to local communities, working together to reduce our carbon footprint and giving local people more opportunities to help shape decision-making.
3. **Respect and Renewal** in Brent by creating more genuinely affordable housing and ensuring sustainability is central to the growth of our borough and local economy.
4. **The Best Start in Life** by giving young people opportunities to realise their aspirations, grow up in safe and secure environments and empower them to have their say.
5. **A Healthier Brent** by finding solutions to eliminate health inequalities with local communities and making it easier for everyone to live healthier lives.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me 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. Draft Budget for 2023/24 now published** - as reported to Cabinet in July 2022, due to demographic and inflationary pressures, the budget gap between 2023/24 and 2024/25 is estimated at £28m, which is the central case based on current budget assumptions and scenario modelling.

The accuracy of this is probably at best +/- 20%, and wider variations are entirely plausible. The actual figure required will not be known until a longer term Spending Review for Local Government is announced. The budget gap is profiled £18m next year and £10m the year after.

- There remains significant uncertainty over local government funding in the medium term in the absence of a longer term Spending Review and the outcome of other significant reforms to Local Government funding, for example the Fair Funding review and reforms to the business rates regime. In addition, at the time of despatch of this report, it is expected that the autumn statement that will be delivered on 17 November 2022 will include both tax increases and public spending cuts. In other words, another period of austerity for the public sector. As a result, further savings could be required in future years.
- The new proposals for 2023/24 are designed to limit, as far as possible, service reductions and the impact on front line services particularly during these challenging times. This does not mean that delivering these planned savings, if approved, will be managerially straightforward, or that front-line services will be entirely unaffected, or that they can be achieved without staffing reductions.
- Given the high-level of uncertainty over the economic environment and the funding of local government, the Council has decided to restrict its budget proposals to a single year, rather than the two-year programme that was customary practice.
- The Council has therefore now brought forward a series of new proposals totalling £18m which, if approved following consultation and scrutiny, would be implemented in 2023/24. These new proposals, and the updates to budget assumptions set out in this report, will enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2023/24. Any material changes to circumstances, such as a worse than expected local government finance settlement, would need to be addressed via the use of reserves; conversely, favourable changes could mean that some of the savings proposals would not need to be implemented.
- It remains to be seen whether the government will pursue a pragmatic approach to bridging the budget gap, or take an ideological approach to

reducing the size of the public sector. If the latter is the case, far larger reductions in public expenditure may be in train.

2. **Cost of living support** - 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.

In a recent attitudes survey by YouGov for the GLA, 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.

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. Urgent assistance is provided when residents are at risk of losing their home and when an application to the RSF is unsuccessful, the applicant is referred to a credit union for help with an interest-free loan. Further support is provided through signposting to other internal (e.g. Brent Hubs) and external (e.g. Citizens Advice) services.

During 2022/23 Brent has also supported 94,000 households with a £150 rebate on their Council Tax bill, funded from government grants, to help with the cost of energy bills.

**Council Tax Support (CTS):** 27,597 households are supported through CTS of which 18,999 are working age and 8598 are pension age. 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 around £30m per annum.

**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.

The most common needs which residents present with at the Hubs are food and fuel support (23%), housing costs (17%), 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-19 Winter Support Fund and COVID-19 Local Support Funds, which had been in place since December 2020.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me 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) Cabinet 12th September 2022: Draft Church End Masterplan Supplemental Planning Document (SPD) approved for publication and statutory consultation
- 2) Completion at Chippenham Gardens – 52 homes, 22 for residents of South Kilburn

EF, 42, moved into her newly built two-bedroom apartment in Wiggins House at Chippenham Gardens at the end of the summer with her teenage son. The mature student, who also has a grown-up daughter, said her new home was a great improvement on her previous flat.

“It’s a completely different environment.” said EJ, who is in her final year of studying politics and international relations at university. “There is more outside space, the balcony is bigger, it’s cleaner and it’s also more energy efficient. Your environment does have an impact on your general outlook on life. Now that we are living here, I feel more motivated with my studies and I’m a lot happier.”

Chippenham Gardens in part of the council’s redevelopment of South Kilburn: a 15-year programme to transform the area into a sustainable and vibrant neighbourhood. The plan aims to deliver around 2,400 new homes, half of which will be affordable homes for council tenants currently living in South Kilburn.

EJ, 68, moved into a ground floor apartment in Wiggins House with his wife, DJ, 81, who has mobility problems. “I am very happy with the property.” said EJ, a retired housekeeper. “We were living on the 16th floor in our previous home, and my wife was very scared about going in the lift because people would get stuck in there. Now we are in an apartment that is on the ground floor, which is wheelchair friendly if we ever needed one. It is a good size for a one bedroom apartment.”

The South Kilburn programme also aims to deliver a new and larger park alongside a new primary school, health facilities and retail outlets. To date, the programme has created 1,390 new high-quality homes, with a further 300 under construction.

The Chippenham Gardens redevelopment, managed by Octavia Housing Association, saw local council residents move into 22 homes in August this year, all of which received positive feedback from them.

Around the corner from Chippenham Gardens in the North West Quarter, the development of new community amenities, such as a gym, a health centre and affordable work spaces, is expected to be completed towards the end of 2023.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me 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) Brent CCTV Team hosted a visit from Police Officers from Sweden on 4 October to share best practice on how CCTV is used in Brent to help detect and prevent crime.

The Swedish Police were keen to learn best practice from a leading organisation to help improve their own operations.

There are over 243 active CCTV cameras in Brent and 50 cameras that have a rapid deployment capabilities that can spot crime while it is happening, deter criminals and help residents feel safer.

Many may not know that they also have many other uses. Including to catch dangerous drivers and illegal rubbish dumpers and help emergency services respond to serious incidents and locate vulnerable missing people

Johan Dalen, Inspector from the Swedish Police, said: “The Metropolitan Police recommended Brent Council to us so we could see the facilities. The best thing is how the council cooperates with the police and the fast response the public can receive with the CCTV cameras. We have a lot of good examples that we can use that we can use back home.”

### **Other news:**

- 1) **Nuisance Shisha Venues in LB Ealing** - Nuisance Control Team are working with Ealing Council to secure short-term and long-term solutions to nuisance noise and anti-social behaviours associated with shisha venues on Acton Lane, NW10, affecting Brent residents. These venues are unlicensed and unpermitted; and attracting a large and largely lawless crowd at noise sensitive hours
- 2) **Brent Community Tensions Reassurance** – a meeting took place in September. It was arranged as a result of ‘Leicester Tensions’ playing out in Brent. The council put forward a commitment to arrange quarterly ‘Brent Community Leaders Meetings’ in an effort to engage and understand any local tensions and safety issues.
- 3) **National Hate Crime Awareness Week** - we promoted awareness of ‘Hate Crime’ through various social media channels. An Information Stall was held on Monday 10th October in Brent Civic Centre, in partnership with PCSO’s from Harlesden Metropolitan Police. Publicity specifically chosen for the stall originated from the NHCAW website to highlight hate crime across the five strands of Disability, Faith &/or Beliefs, Gender Identity, Race & Sexual Orientation.

- 4) **No smoke without fire for local shop owner** - A local business's cash has gone up in smoke as it was handed a £1,650 fine, with the owner having to serve a custodial sentence for possessing over 16,500 illegal cigarettes. This follows a huge seizure of illicit tobacco and smoking products by Brent Council's Trading Standard team. The shop's stock was made a lot lighter as officers also seized 255 packets of counterfeit cigarettes.

I would like to thank Brent's Trading Standards Team which has worked hard to seize thousands of illegal smoking products, making sure that businesses have a level playing field.

If you suspect a business is selling illegal tobacco, please report them to Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me 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) **Vaccination** - for latest info go to: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/adult-social-care/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus/nhs-covid-19-vaccination-programme>
- 2) **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Healthy Places**

The Brent Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) agreed that the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy should focus not only on health and care services, as previous strategies had done, but should address the social determinants of health.

The October 2022 HWB received a report Healthy Places work stream illustrates this focus and demonstrates the partnership working across different Council teams, the NHS and the local third sector.

An update is set out below on each of the areas:

#### **We will ensure accessible, affordable physical activities for all Brent residents**

The council has partnered with Our Parks to deliver free physical activity in Brent communities to those less physically active. In 2022 to date, 288 Brent funded sessions were delivered, with 4059 attendances. 478 Brent Parkers took part. Ninety four percent (94%) were female, 63% came from an ethnically diverse background and 7% were classified as having a disability. Before signing up, 75% did fewer than 30 minutes of exercise. Five percent (5%) classified with having a mental health condition.

In 2022, physical activity classes at Silver Jubilee Park and Ashford Place have been started with the goal of improving people's mental health and wellbeing. Since April of this year, 138 clients have been attending weekly sessions (Yoga, Ladies fitness, Stretch, Chair aerobics, Dance) with a roughly 50:50 split between males and females (Female 68; Male 70).

The volunteer led walks programme in the parks is particularly popular with older residents. Feedback from walkers includes "They are retired and want to have good health, connecting with others and the social aspects of it all" and "Walkers are happier when they come out for a walk, fresh air combined with exercise gets the blood flowing and its healthy".

#### **We will increase usable green spaces in Brent**

Public Health and the Parks Service worked in partnership with the community to put in two planters in One Tree Hill for the local community to use, with WACARA being the lead community organisation. The planters were installed

in March 2022 and about 15 residents have been busy growing tomatoes and sunflowers. Further community growing projects are planned in response to residents' identifying the benefits to them of participation in communal green activities.

### **We will improve access for people with a disability to places, parks and events**

The Environmental Improvement team have visited four Brent Playgrounds with parents and carers to understand their needs in more detail. A new playground for Roundwood Park is about to be finalised with more inclusive designs and options. A bid has been submitted to add a specific swing that is accessible for wheelchair users in King Edward VII, Wembley. The team is currently awaiting the results.

### **We will ensure access to creative experiences for children and young people**

The Young Peoples' Advisory Board has been meeting regularly. The group has helped to develop a number of projects for the Brent Cultural Educational Partnership (BCEP) including logo design and branding and developing a project with Chalkhill Radio for young people, including Brent Youth Parliament, to talk about issues that are important to them. A BCEP newsletter is being disseminated to schools and partners organisations.

### **We will expand the use of our Family Wellbeing Centres**

The pilot for CAMHS under five in Family Wellbeing Centres has commenced in the Willow Centre. The aims of the service are to provide a de-stigmatising, culturally sensitive child mental health perspective through training/consultation and partnership working, develop a high profile of Under 5's mental health across existing services, and offer specialist assessment and evidence-based treatment when indicated.

The model adopts an early intervention approach and offers diagnosis and intervention for a range of emotional/mental health needs in young children:

- SEND
- Domestic Abuse
- Parental Mental Health
- Perinatal Mental Health
- Early Intervention for significant attachment/relationship difficulties.
- Working in Family Wellbeing Centres aligns with the CAMHS model for several reasons:
  - Joint specialist assessment to offer Under 5's mental health perspective
  - Specialist observation in children centres & nurseries
  - Specialist state of mind assessment of child to inform network Clinical assessment.

There have been 17 referrals for the CAMHS under five offer with 16 consultations from professionals. The CAMHS team worked with 14 families directly.

The Council is working in Partnership to expand the service offer to young people registered with FWCs. This now includes 1:1 therapy to young people registered to FWCs and creative arts therapy delivered both in group settings and in 1:1 for young people aged 10 or above. In addition, over 12 different activities are provided to young people by VCS organisations including arts, video, cartoon, script writing, drama, girls' only sessions, and drama therapy. These activities link to Youth Strategy themes of "access and awareness", "opportunity" and "places & facilities".

### **We will strengthen our community hubs**

The hub at the Civic Centre has been successfully established operating from Mon-Fri 10am-2pm alongside Customer Services colleagues and voluntary sector partners.

The number of Hub partners has now grown to over 50 and the team have developed strong links with Brent Health Matters and Family Wellbeing Centres.

Brent Hubs worked with Age UK and delivers digital cafes in Kilburn, Harlesden and Wembley on a weekly basis for older residents of Brent. The support offer in the cafes included:

- Registering and using the Council Portal
- Using the Housing Portal
- Completing online forms
- Using your phone or tablet
- Booking Medical appointments
- Setting up email addresses

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me 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) A couple of great initiatives have launched this month. Our working group bringing businesses and local stakeholders together to promote the Mayors Good Work Standard has had its first meeting. Our Green Skills Centre collaboration with CNWL – now open.
- 2) Online cost of living hub up and running and regularly updated. Please continue to send through links or sources of support that we haven't captured, see: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/costofliving>
- 3) High Street improvement works continues; joint commission with Camden for mural on Brondesbury Railway Bridge has commenced, with opportunities for residents to get involved.
- 4) Our outcome-based review on cost of living is progressing well, with a useful stakeholder session last month. Great ideas for improving the ways residents access support and for helping residents with costs of fuel and food were generated and will be tested out in the coming months.

### Other news:

- 1) **Customer access** - 2797 customers contacted the council in September 2022 (2846 in previous month). At the hubs, there was a 23% increase in enquires regarding food and fuel and housing/benefits advice is most commonly asked for. We'll soon have energy advisors in the hubs too.
- 2) **Resident Support Fund** - We are receiving an average of 180 applications per week. The team has increased resources to reduce backlog. Front line staff in Housing and Hubs can now make decisions on cases and award RSF to resident straight away, especially in emergency cases.
- 3) **Revenues and debt** - we continue to see very clear pressure on household and business budgets given the cost of living crisis, so the outlook remains difficult for residents and businesses alike. Across all lines of debt, the service continues its efforts to improve financial inclusion for residents and to recover debt in line with the ethical debt recovery policy.
- 4) **Wembley jobs fair** - 32 confirmed job outcomes so far: with 18 currently unemployed residents joining digital training run by Ultra Education. Bigger event planned for next summer.
- 5) **HGV Employment Programmes** - Recovery fund programme started strongly with engagement and opportunities from Veolia, a key employer locally. 11 residents enrolled on the programme and have begun the process. The programme is doing a second round of recruitment for 9 more residents.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me 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) **Injection Patching Programme** – The programme ran from 10th January to the end of September. During this period over 9600 defects have been repaired in around 275 roads. The contractor will be returning in January 2023.
- 2) **Highways Maintenance Contract** – Tender documents were issued on 29th August for the new contract that will commence from April 2023. A report will be presented to January's Cabinet seeking approval to award contract.
- 3) **Environmental Enforcement** – Resident in Chapter Road, NW10 caught dumping rubbish and issued a £200 FPN which has been paid.
- 4) **Environmental Enforcement** – Damage to the Highway by a resident in Barnhill paid over £800 to have the highway reinstated
- 5) **Environmental Enforcement** - Street Drinker in Wembley prosecuted and fined £344 at Wembley magistrates
- 6) **The Parks Service and Veolia** - won 8 London in Bloom Awards for our parks this year, and a further Best in Category Award went to Barn Hill Conservation Group for the Roe Green Walled Garden.
- 7) **TfL funding for 2022/23** - As expected, there has been a significant reduction in TfL funding overall following their negotiations with the government. Our normal LIP allocation is circa £2.25m. The total funding available for this year is circa £1.22m which represents a decrease of around £1m. The programme for this year is currently being agreed with TfL.

### **Other news:**

- 1) **Climate Action: Green Neighbourhoods Pilot** - The team's main focus at the moment is focusing on the process of developing the action plans for the Church End & Roundwood and Kingsbury Green Neighbourhood pilots. The team are focusing simultaneously on public engagement, and gathering ideas from the community, plus assessing projects for inclusion alongside relevant internal services.

The public engagement period ends on 31 October and Members are welcome to have their say on either the online survey or interactive map should they know the two areas well: <https://haveyoursay.brent.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/brent-green-neighbourhoods>

- 2) **Climate Action: Brent for Business: Energy Savings Grant** - we have recently launched a new grants scheme to support Brent businesses in dealing with the cost of business from the current energy crisis, particularly going into the



expected pressures this winter. <https://www.brent.gov.uk/business/support-for-businesses-and-employers/energy-saving-scheme-grant>.

- 3) **Climate Action: Together towards Zero Small Grants Scheme** - A report to Cabinet on 17 October sought approval for the next phase of the scheme, which would allow communities to apply for grants of £5k for greening or climate action projects.
- 4) **Climate Action: Other external grant bids** - We have submitted a £4.87m bid to the next phase of the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The bid is to fund energy efficiency improvement works for community schools as part of the council's schools estate.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me 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) Ground breaking of two affordable homes scheme and improved community provisions with £12.5 million invested in the Learie Constantine Community Centre project and 26 apartments built above it.
- 2) Brent Indian project will mean £15.64 million invested in a new community centre alongside 29 affordable homes. Brent Indian Community Centre will include a large multi-purpose hall, commercial kitchen, offices and an IT training room.

The Secretary of the Brent Indian Community Centre, said: “This new centre will be a huge help. Currently we have use of a building for just three hours a week, but when this new centre is built, we will be able to use it seven days a week. It will be a place for people to socialise and to keep warm in the cost of living crisis. We will also be able to let it out, which will help us to maintain and run the building.”

Residents and councillors also celebrated work beginning on a second community centre and 26 new affordable homes further down Dudden Hill Lane. The £12.5 million Learie Constantine Community Centre project will also see the construction of a new building with a community centre on the ground floor with 26 one to three bedroom apartments above it.

The Chair of the Learie Constantine Centre, said: “The Constantine Centre dates back to 1971. It is a place where people from the Black community have been able to come and organise themselves for the benefit of all. After 25 years, I feel very glad that this new building is finally happening. It has been a long story. We hope that when we are no longer here, this will be a lasting legacy for the Black community.”

- 3) Cabinet has formally approved the acquisition of approximately 10 properties for general needs as part of the GLA buy back scheme. The affordable housing units will be owned within the HRA and rents will be set at social rents.

### **Other news:**

- 1) **Have your say on licencing for private rented properties in Brent** - A borough-wide consultation on landlord licensing for privately rented properties in Brent has launched today (31 October 2022) for twelve weeks. The consultation is now live.

The online consultation is open to anyone to have their say on landlord licensing in the borough.

Three types of licensing schemes operate in the borough: mandatory, additional and selective licensing. Selective licensing applies to a single household renting a property, be that a family or just one or two tenants.

This consultation asks people whether they are in favour of selective licensing schemes in Brent.

Licensing has helped keep renters safe. Since we introduced our first selective licensing scheme in 2015, we've driven up housing standards, reduced overcrowding and tackled anti-social behaviour. Where landlords have fallen short, we have been relentless in taking action and will not hesitate to throw the full-force of the law at rogue landlords.

All wards, with the exception of Wembley Park, are being considered for selective licensing in Brent. Selective licensing previously applied to Harlesden, Wembley Central and Willesden Green, and presently applies to the old wards of Queens Park, Kensal Green, Kilburn, Dudden Hill and Mapesbury. But this current scheme ends on 30 April 2023.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me 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) **Brent's new SEND school** – recommendation made to DfE following interviews in September, we have made a recommendation to the DfE of a Multi-Academy Trust to run our proposed flagship new SEND school in Wembley and are awaiting their approval. The SEND Green Paper published this year outlines considerable pressures on SEND provision nationally, with over 2,000 children in Brent currently on an Education, Health and Care Plan. The new school will enable us to provide much needed support in this area.
- 2) **Consultation under way for the relocation of Islamia Primary School to Strathcona** - following the Yusuf Islam centre issuing the school with eviction notes from its current site in Queens Park, officers have been working on a proposal to relocate the school to Preston and a full consultation is now underway. We are working hard to ensure the consultation process is thorough and transparent and have been meeting with ward councillors to deal with any concerns they have.
- 3) **Kinship Care Week Family Fun Day held in Brent** - Brent held a commemorative event at the Civic Centre on Saturday 8th October to acknowledge the important role that Kinship carers provide. The event was well-attended and appreciated by families, whose role often goes overlooked and who play an essential role for some of our Looked After Children.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me 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) **The Anchor, The Drum, The Ship** - A new public artwork for Gladstone Park commissioned by Brent Council in partnership with Lin Kam Art was unveiled this October to coincide with Black History Month.

The artwork breaks new ground in the conversation over public spaces with links to the transatlantic slave trade.

The Anchor, The Drum, The Ship installation brings together a variety of plant species, native to Britain, the Mediterranean and Africa planted across three shapes: the Akan symbol for a Double Drum, a ship, and an anchor to evoke themes of Black migration, belonging, communication, music and collective renewal.

This is the first time in the UK's history that a public artwork of this kind has been used to acknowledge the contested history of a green space.

Gladstone Park was named after former British Prime Minister William Gladstone whose family owned plantations in the Caribbean and received the largest compensation payments made by the Slave Compensation Commission.

The Gladstone family name was identified for review as part of the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm, launched in 2020 to review statues, streets names and landmarks to help people have a better understanding of London's diverse histories.

- 2) We have received the evaluation of our **Reading Friends library events programme** for 21/22 which included 48 sessions and 545 participants. Overall 82% rated the events good or very good, 70% reported feeling more connected through attending and 60% felt more confident to try new things as a result.
- 3) **Autumn Libraries, Arts & Heritage programme** has launched with over 70 events and exhibitions happening across the service before Christmas. Brochures are available in all Brent Libraries and online here: [https://issuu.com/brentcouncil/docs/what\\_s\\_on\\_guide\\_autumn2022](https://issuu.com/brentcouncil/docs/what_s_on_guide_autumn2022)

### **Other News**

- 1) Six creative and cultural organisations in Brent will get a £5million boost over the next three years, ensuring more local people can enjoy fantastic, fulfilling art and culture on their doorstep. The funding from Arts Council England is part of their investment programme for 2023-2026. Congratulations to the successful organisations!

£5,061,423 is being split between the following organisations:

- Deafinitely Theatre, £795,249
  - Fresh Arts C.I.C, £300,000
  - Kiln Theatre, £2,837,703
  - Magic Sound Ltd, £450,000
  - Mahogany Community Ventures Limited, £473,532
  - The Children's Bookshow, £204,939
- 2) Brent Council has organised an in-person event, 'Stand against Islamophobia' taking place at the Civic Centre on 23 November from 6-8.30pm. The event will include talks from experts and Muslim history makers, including Mariah Idrissi, H&M's first ever hijab-wearing model, about the impact of discrimination.

Other events, which aim to show that discrimination and hate crime will not be tolerated, include a peace walk and tree planting organised by the Brent Multi-Faith Forum on 20 November to symbolise peace, unity and solidarity between all communities. The walk will begin at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (44 Wembley Park Drive, HA9 8HN) at 2pm and will end at Mount Pleasant Open Space at around 4.30pm with around 47 minutes walking in total.

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

**Questions from the Opposition and Other Non-Cabinet Members****Full Council – 21 November 2022****1. Question from Councillor Fraser to Councillor Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care**

The cumulative economic, health and social impact of Covid-19 will continue to be felt long into the future here in Brent, with many families still mourning the loss of a loved one, taken too soon. For many others that have experienced Covid-19, perhaps several times over, the consequences continue to live with them. The impact of Long-Covid is still poorly understood, with new research showing that one in five people with coronavirus develop longer term symptoms. Around 186,000 people suffer problems for up to 12 weeks, the Office for National Statistics found.

Will the Cabinet Member set out what support or sign-posting the council and its health partners are able to offer to residents still experiencing the impact of Long-Covid?

**Response:**

The most recent publication from ONS estimated that nationally 3.3% of the population are experiencing self reported symptoms of Long COVID at the beginning of October. For 73% of these, activities of daily living were affected. These estimates are derived from the ONS community survey not from the NHS and it should be noted that ONS do not ask whether those reporting Long COVID have contacted their GP.

The NHS has established a new service for **Post-COVID-19 syndrome**, which is defined as signs and symptoms of infection consistent with COVID-19, lasting longer than 12 weeks. GPs in Brent can refer to a NWL clinical triage service. Appropriate cases will be triaged to the NWL Post Acute Covid Services. The service is provided by a multidisciplinary team of a Consultant, therapists and psychologist. In Brent the service is based at Central Middlesex Hospital. The service received 54 referrals from Brent in Sept and 53 in October. The waiting time is currently 6 to 8 weeks

In addition, many residents have been affected by the social, emotional and financial legacy of “long covid”, including those who have experienced bereavement and would like support, IaPT services (talking therapies) are a useful first point of call and are open to self-referrals.

## **2. Question from Councillor Gbajumo to Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools:**

Every elected member and employee of Brent Council – along with our partner agencies, is a corporate parent to the children in our care. Our young people in care or who have left care have the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a responsible and good parent.

Will the Cabinet Member set out what support our looked after children receive from Brent Council; and how many young people the council is currently supporting?

Secondly, will the Cabinet Member join me in calling upon the Independent Review of Children's Social Care to reimagine what support looks like for care-experienced young adults; and end the expectation of 'independence' asked of young people as they approach 18.

### **Response:**

Looked After Children in Brent are supported in a variety of ways, including:

- Every Looked After Child has a dedicated social worker who is qualified and registered with Social Work England.
- Every Looked After Child has a dedicated Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) whose role is to scrutinise and ensure that care plans for children are in their best interests.
- Every Looked After Child is visited and seen on their own at least every 6 weeks, some children are visited more often depending on their individual needs
- Every Looked After Child has a dedicated Virtual School Officer to support their education and ensure they receive the best education possible as well as identifying any additional educational needs which they may have
- Every Looked After Child receive regular medical, dental and optical checks.
- Looked After Child live in a variety of placement settings such as foster care, with extended family, in residential or semi-independent accommodation. All placement settings are quality assured to ensure they are suitable for children's individual needs.

Looked After Children are entitled to a range of services including:

- ✓ Ensuring that their care, health, social and education needs are met by relevant professionals.
- ✓ Helping to remain in regular contact with family and friends.
- ✓ Being listened to so that their views, wishes and feelings are obtained and taking into account in care planning for them.
- ✓ Informing their parents as to what is happening and their progress in care.
- ✓ Ensuring the child/young person's cultural, religious and language needs are respected and promoted.



- ✓ Helping the child/young person prepare for adult life and independence at a time that is best suited to their needs and development.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 Brent was responsible for 331 Looked After Children.

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

Inflation is the cruellest tax of all and disproportionately impacts residents on the lowest incomes in our borough.

Under the current government, runaway inflation has hit a 40-year high and punishing interest rate rises (as result of the mini-budget) are increasing mortgage payments across Brent.

Will the Deputy Leader set out what impact higher interest and inflation rates is having on Brent Council services; and what the increases will do to our budget gap?

**Response:**

The Council published its draft budget for 2023/24 on Friday 4 November for the 14 November Cabinet meeting. As part of this report a detailed analysis was presented on the impact of high inflation on various Council services, in particular social care. The direct impact of inflation (for example on services, contracts and pay) is that growth in the budget is required to manage these higher costs. Coupled with increased demand for services, the budget gap for 2023/24 is estimated at £18m. The report therefore brings forward a series of new proposals which, if approved following consultation and scrutiny, would be implemented in 2023/24 in order to deliver a legally required balanced budget.

Rising interest are having a significant impact on the capital programme in terms of higher borrowing costs. Coupled with the rising construction costs from high inflation are making the viability of capital projects extremely challenging. For schemes within the Council's existing programme, work is ongoing to identify mitigations to allow delivery to continue; however, this may result in a scope reduction or pausing delivery for a further evaluation at a later date.

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

On Kingsbury Road motorists flout the cycle lane. Vehicles are constantly parking across the cycle lanes which were created on the wide footpath causing nuisance to cyclists and pedestrians. We believe there is total lack of enforcement.

Can we have an assurance from the Cabinet Member that enforcement action will be taken?

If the Council is serious about our environment and promoting safe cycling will the Cabinet Member ensure Enforcement Officers are present to issue penalty charge notices to deter vehicles parking across the cycle lanes and to enable safe passage to cyclists?

Furthermore, what other measures will the Council take to ensure that these cycle lanes are protected in order to ensure they meet their intended purpose and remain clear of vehicle obstructions?

In spite of residents constantly reporting when vehicles break the law and are parked on the pavements along Kingsbury Road, blocking these cycle lanes, we do not see any enforcement action taken or any penalty charge notices issued. As a result, there is considerable frustration from residents.

**Response:**

We are aware of recurring issues with vehicles blocking the cycle lane and pavement on Kingsbury Road shopping area, particularly on Sundays, and in the evenings. In recent months we have provided additional cycle symbols on the cycle lane and additional signs to help improve compliance. We also arranged more frequent Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) visits as part of the enforcement plans for the area.

The issue has been raised with Serco, our Parking Enforcement contractor and arrangements have been made to include Kingsbury Town Centre in our late enforcement plans over the coming weeks. Civil Enforcement Officers will attend in the evenings during busier weekdays and late evenings on Fridays and Saturdays (operating to 1 am the following morning).

To improve efficiency we are also using our CCTV control room to identify when these contraventions are taking place and will align our planned enforcement visits accordingly.

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

Proposals to change the way recycling is collected in Brent and plans to scrap regular street cleaning on local roads have left many residents confused and angry.

Whilst a trial period is ongoing in selected parts of the borough for a new recycling system, the original borough-wide consultation failed to reach enough people to collect meaningful data on how people really feel about the changes. We also believe it was also a false 'public consultation' as only one option was provided, because Veolia continue to have a total monopoly on the waste industry.

Can the Cabinet Member therefore confirm:

- (a) What was the general feedback from residents received by the Council, during the consultation period?
- (b) Specifically, what did residents make of scrapping of weekly street cleaning?
- (c) How often will local roads be cleaned, under this new arrangement?

In addition, can the Cabinet Member please detail how you see '*intelligence lead*' street cleaning working? Many residents believe these plans will lead to even dirtier local streets.

Many feel that the consultation was simply a tick box exercise. I understand that a new contract with Veolia has already been agreed. Can the Cabinet Member therefore also confirm:

- (d) If this is true, and if so when was the contract awarded?

Additionally:

- (e) How many suitable contractors were approached?
- (f) How many were invited to tender?
- (g) What date did the tender start?

**Response:**

- (a) What was the general feedback from residents received by the Council, during the consultation period?**

The results of the recent public consultation on future street cleansing and waste collections services will be made public in a report to Scrutiny later this year, together with the results of the recycling trial taking place this autumn.

**(b) Specifically, what did residents make of scrapping of weekly street cleaning?**

As above.

**(c) How often will local roads be cleaned, under this new arrangement?**

Cleansing frequencies remain subject to the procurement process for the new services. The outcome of this procurement, together with details of any proposed changes to services, will be included in a report to Cabinet early next year.

**In addition, can the Cabinet Member please detail how you see '*intelligence lead*' street cleaning working? Many residents believe these plans will lead to even dirtier local streets.**

Six rapid response teams – made up of one vehicle and two staff each – will be based in each Brent Connect area (two in the Wembley Connect area). They will plan their cleaning around reports from the Council's Neighbourhood Managers, councillors and residents. This will allow the service to be tailored to meet the particular needs of each neighbourhood and to be flexible enough to respond to changing demands as these arise.

It is important to note that scheduled street cleaning will still take place in order to maintain a good standard of cleanliness which would be supplemented by the intelligence-led approach.

Data management will be improved within the new contract with a new dedicated Digital Manager post sitting with the contractor and a live dashboard shared with the Council's contract monitoring team. This would be jointly monitored on a daily basis and would be used by the council to spot trends to determine locations which require changing levels of resource.

Joint regular inspections on street cleanliness standards (NI 195) between contractor and client staff would also continue in line with the current service.

**Many feel that the consultation was simply a tick box exercise. I understand that a new contract with Veolia has already been agreed. Can the Cabinet Member therefore also confirm:**

**(d) If this is true, and if so when was the contract awarded?**

The consultation was carried out while solutions remained at a formative stage as part of the procurement process for the new services.

This procurement process is still ongoing and the contract has yet to be awarded.

As aforementioned, the outcome of this procurement process will be included in a report to Cabinet early next year.

**Additionally:**

**(e) How many suitable contractors were approached?**


The Contract was advertised by publication of a Contract Notice in the Find a Tender Service and Contracts Finder as required by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Accordingly, it was open for all contractors to request to participate in the procurement in response to the Contract Notice by submitting a completed Selection Questionnaire.

**(f) How many were invited to tender?**

This information relates to an ongoing procurement process and therefore cannot be shared at this stage on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

**(g) What date did the tender start?**

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

	<b>Full Council</b> 21 November 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 and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 22-23
<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 of Engagement, Strategy & Communications 0208937 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 and North West London Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee since the last meeting of Full Council on 21 September 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 or relevant health service providers.

#### The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

- 3.4 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met for its second meeting of the municipal year on 22 September. Here the committee reviewed an item on the implementation of potential changes to services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the impact upon High Needs Block funding. The paper was introduced by Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools who explained the report was a response to the recently published Green Paper on SEND which signalled potential changes to the way these services are delivered. The committee questioned Brent's preparedness to implement these new changes, and how it would work with partners such as the Integrated Care Partnership to do so. Nigel Chapman - Corporate Director of Children and Young People also outlined the national and local context which has led to the current overspend in the High Needs Block.
- 3.5 The committee also reviewed a report on the council's Early Help strategy. This is delivered through 8 Family Wellbeing Centres across the borough in a hub based service delivery model; where residents receive a number of person centred services in one place. Councillor Grahl introduced the report and set out the background to the transition from Children's Centres to Family Wellbeing Centres from 2019-2021. It was highlighted that whilst Family Wellbeing Centres were created due to a savings requirement, Brent was now ahead of the national debate on Early Help as the government is now moving towards the hub model of service delivery nationally. The committee focused their questioning on outreach work being done to promote Family Wellbeing



Centres to the most vulnerable families, and also sought reassurances on funding and staffing capacity within Family Wellbeing Centres.

- 3.6 The next meeting of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will take place on 22 November. The committee will review the annual reports from the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children. These papers will set out how the council participates in multi-agency working to safeguard adults and children in Brent. The committee will also receive a 6 month update report on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the Transitional Safeguarding scrutiny task group.
- 3.7 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's Task Group on Social Prescribing is progressing in its work. Two out of four planned evidence sessions have been delivered, and the task group expects to bring its interim report to the 25 January 2023 Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

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

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Since the last report to Full Council the NWLJHOSC met at the London Borough of Richmond-upon Thames on 12 October for its second meeting of the municipal year.
- 3.11 During this meeting committee members reviewed a number of topical items that are current priorities for the North West London Integrated Care System. The first was an item on primary care strategy and performance across North West London, during which the Committee questioned how the NHS could better educate residents on how to navigate primary care systems to access services quicker. This is a key concern of many residents who are still adapting to the changes in primary care delivery as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The committee also highlighted a lack of current primary care performance data, which is reflected in the recommendations made to the NHS below:

- I. *To recommend that JHOSC members are proactively consulted with and have oversight of stakeholder and public engagement activities to share with their networks.*
- II. *To recommend that the workforce model is appropriately balanced in order to ensure that patients are receiving equity of care across NW London.*
- III. *To recommend that wait times for a routine GP appointment are collected and shared with the committee.*
- IV. *To recommend that the education and communication plan for navigating primary care systems is developed and shared when it becomes available.*

3.12 The committee then reviewed an item on Accident and Emergency Pathways and London Ambulance Service Performance in North West London. Here the committee questioned the London Ambulance Service on their plans to significantly improve Category 2 waiting time performance. Category 2 calls are related to serious conditions such as strokes or chest pains, which may require rapid assessment and/or urgent transport. The committee also requested that the London Ambulance Service reinstate providing performance data on a bi-monthly basis. The committee made the following recommendation to the NHS on this item:

- I. *To receive clear timescales and trajectory for when London Ambulance Service performance will improve*

3.13 The Committee then reviewed a paper on the Community Based-Specialised Palliative Care Improvement Programme, an item that had been reviewed by the Brent Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 5 July 2022. The Committee heard that the model of care working group would finish its work in autumn 2022 and begin the development phase of the programme. The palliative care improvement programme team outlined that any significant change to service delivery would require further consultation with North West London residents. The following recommendation was made to the NHS on this item:

- I. *To bring a paper summarising emerging findings from the Borough Based Partnership's self-assessments tools to a future JHOSC meeting.*

3.14 The last substantive item was a North West London Integrated Care System update, presented by Chief Executive Rob Hurd. The paper's main focus was the funding arrangements of the North West London Integrated Care System. The paper also outlined other key current work streams such as governance arrangements and vaccinations. Members restated their expectation that they are consulted with on decisions relating to healthcare arrangements in North West London, and made the following recommendation to the NHS:

- I. *For the JHOSC to be aligned with the ICB in agenda forward planning.*

3.15 Members of the JHOSC will keep a continuous watching brief to monitor the implementation of recommendations made at formal JHOSC meetings.

- 3.16 In Councillor Ketan Sheth's role as Chair of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Brent Civic Centre hosted a joint meeting of the four acute provider trusts in North West London on October 18 2022. The meeting was further welcome evidence of increased collaboration between acute trusts in North West London, and highlighted Brent's ambition to contribute to and support the vital work of the NHS in NW London.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

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

- 7.1 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

## 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, Integrated Care Partnership Director		Robyn Doran, Borough Director Brent Integrated Care Partnership

## 22 November 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-2023 *with a particular focus on cuckooing	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, 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	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care		

	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director, Children and Young People		
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### 25 January 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations	External Participants
Brent Housing Management Update to include: Fire Safety, Resident Engagement, Housing Inspection Framework	Cllr Promise Knight, Lead Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security	Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services		
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
Social Prescribing Task Group Interim Report	Councillor Ketan Sheth, Task Group Chair	Phil Porter, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care		

### 7 March 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations	External Participants
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Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Including CAMHS	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	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, Borough Director, Brent Integrated Partnership, North West London Integrated Care System
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, Integrated Care Partnership Director		Jonathan Turner, Borough Director, Brent Integrated Partnership, North West London Integrated Care System



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
Community Diagnostic Centres in North West London		Phil Porter, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care  Tom Shakespeare, Integrated Care Partnership Director		Jonathan Turner, Borough Director, Brent Integrated Partnership, North West London Integrated Care System
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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**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Strategic Directors</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>	<b>External Directors</b>
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, Integrated Care Partnership Director		Robyn Doran, Borough Director Brent Integrated Care Partnership

## 22 November 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-2023 *with a particular focus on cuckooing	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, 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	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Porter, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care		

	Cllr Gwen Grahl, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director, Children and Young People		
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## 25 January 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations	External Participants
Brent Housing Management Update to include: Fire Safety, Resident Engagement, Housing Inspection Framework	Cllr Promise Knight, Lead Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security	Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services		
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
Social Prescribing Task Group Interim Report	Councillor Ketan Sheth, Task Group Chair	Phil Porter, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care		

7 March 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Strategic Directors/ Director of Public Health	External Organisations	External Participants
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, Borough Director, Brent Integrated Partnership, North West London Integrated Care System

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, Integrated Care Partnership Director		Jonathan Turner, Borough Director, Brent Integrated Partnership, North West London Integrated Care System
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#### 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
Community Diagnostic Centres in North West London		Phil Porter, Corporate Director, Public Health and Adult Social Care  Tom Shakespeare, Integrated Care Partnership Director		Jonathan Turner, Borough Director, Brent Integrated Partnership, North West London Integrated Care System



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	<b>Full Council</b> 21 November 2022
	<b>Report from Director Engagement,  Strategy &amp; Communications</b>
<b>Resources and Public Realm 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>	Two Appendix 1 Committee Work Programme 2022-23 Appendix 2 Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	<p>Jason Sigba  Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy &amp; Partnerships  020 8937 2036  <a href="mailto:jason.sigba@brent.gov.uk">jason.sigba@brent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Tom Pickup  Policy, Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager  Strategy &amp; Partnerships  <a href="mailto:Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk">Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Lorna Hughes,  Director Engagement, Strategy &amp; Communication  020 8937 5068  <a href="mailto:Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk">Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk</a></p>

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide updates on the meetings and activities of the Resources and Public Realm Committee since the last Full Council meeting on 21 September 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.

### **2023/23 update**

- 3.6. Since the last update to Full Council on 21 September 2022 the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee has met one time (8 November 2022).
- 3.7. The Committee heard from Councillor Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities, and Culture; and received a paper from

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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>

Communities & Regeneration on the Council's grants programmes. This report highlighted the grants offered by the Council to support voluntary and community sector organisations, as well as to enable community action. The report also included detail on the 'You Decide' participatory budgeting initiative which has been used to distribute funding from the Carbon Offset Fund, Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL), and Brent Health Matters Health & Wellbeing grants. The Committee invited evidence from applicants and residents who participated in the 'You Decide' sessions to gain their insights and feedback on the initiative's delivery. Additionally, the Committee shared feedback on the grants presented, and commented on how future 'You Decide' programmes could be improved. The recommendations to the Executive mainly centred around ensuring the awarded grants are focused and targeted to support residents/areas in most need. Also, a request was made for measures to be implemented to ensure voters in the 'You Decide' process are representative of the borough's demographic.

- 3.8. The Committee also heard from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Muhammed Butt, who presented a report on the draft Borough Plan 2023-27. The draft plan is current under consultation with the aim of finalising the ambitions in February 2023. Highlights in the report included how the vision and strategic priorities were developed; and how the Council plans on engaging/consulting residents and partners to ensure the strategic priorities identified are fit for purpose. Members put forward a number of questions/concerns related to the development of the strategic priorities to date. For example, whether or not the strategic priorities were realistic, taking into consideration the Council's budget gap of £28m; and whether the language used to describe the outcomes under the strategic priorities is specific and accountable enough. These themes led to the Committee making numerous recommendations, which included ensuring that climate action featured more prominently in the strategic priorities, and that the outcomes listed under the strategic priorities are more specific and measurable in the final plan.
- 3.9. Members received the Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2021/22 to note, and were updated by Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, on the delivery of the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) priorities and objectives for 2021/22. The Committee also had the opportunity to provide recommendations to feed into the "Safer Brent – Community Safety Strategy" and related delivery for 2023 – 2025, which included for the Partnership to:
- i. Look further into the statistics of Homophobic, Biphobic, Transphobic, and Islamophobic Hate Crime in Brent, and should there be a strong evidence base, include these areas within the strategic priorities of the Strategy and related delivery for 2023 – 2025.
  - ii. Include a health representative on the Safer Brent Partnership Board.
  - iii. Develop proposals on how we specifically engage with communities in the crime hotspot areas identified in the Annual Report (2021/22).
  - iv. Look into how we can improve our communications in promoting safe ways of reporting domestic violence.
- 3.10. Following on from the previous item, Superintendent Tania Martin, Metropolitan Police, provided a verbal presentation to Committee Members on Police Engagement in Brent. Specifically, around the effectiveness of ward panels in the borough. The Chair then invited Committee members to share their experiences of ward panels. This led

to the Committee making a recommendation for local councillors to be better utilised by the police in increasing participation and engagement in ward panels.

3.11. The Chair of the Committee went on to highlight that changes had been made to the Scrutiny Work Plan 2022/23 (please see Appendix 1).

3.12. Lastly, the Chair highlighted the Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker (Appendix 2), which has assisted the Committee in monitoring the progress of recommendations, suggestions, and information requests made by members in past committee meetings. With regards to the suggestions for improvements related to the abuse of parking permits arising from the Committee Meeting on 19 July 2022, an update was provided by Resident Services (please see Appendix 2). Additionally, all information requests and suggestions for improvement made at the meeting on 6 September 2022 have been responded to, and can be found in Appendix 2.

Next meeting: 13 December 2022

3.13. The next meeting of the Resources and Public Realm Committee will be held on 13 December 2022, where members will review the following report:

- Redefining local services in Brent

3.14. The Scrutiny work plan (Appendix 1) 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

# Appendx 1

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee</b> 8 November 2022
	<b>Report from the Director of Engagement, Strategy &amp; Communications</b>
<b>Updates to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme 2022-23</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>	One Appendix A – Scrutiny Work Plan 2022-23 Table
<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, Director of Engagement, Strategy & Communications <a href="mailto:Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk">Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the changes to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Committee members note the report and the changes to the workprogramme within.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1** The work programme sets out the items which the Resources and PublicRealm Scrutiny Committee will consider during the municipal year.
- 3.2** The work programme of a scrutiny committee is intended to be a flexible, living document that can adapt and change according to the needs of a committee. The changes set out are reflective of this.
- 3.3** The agenda of the 8 November 2022 meeting has been updated to include an additional item on the Draft Borough Plan 2023-27, with the removal of the 'Q2Financial Report' item. Additionally, the wording of the agenda item, 'Police Liaison' has been updated to 'Police Engagement in Brent'.
- 3.4** An additional meeting has been added to the work plan for 13 December 2022. This is a special meeting convened to focus on 'Redefining Local Services' in Brent.
- 3.5** For the 24 January 2023 committee meeting, the wording of the agenda item relating to Budget Scrutiny has been updated to 'Budget Scrutiny Task Group Findings' on the work programme.
- 3.6** The updated work programme also contains amendments to the job title of LornaHughes, now the Council's Director of Communities.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1** There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, budget and financial issues are addressed in the 'Financial Implications' section of any reports to committee, requested as part of its work programme.

### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1** There are no legal implications arising from this report. However, legal implications are addressed in the 'Legal Implications' section of any reports to committee, requested as part of its work programme.

### **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** Ward members are regularly informed about the Committee's work



plan in the Chair's report to Full Council. There is ongoing consultation with other relevant stakeholders.

**Report sign off:**

***Lorna Hughes***

Director of Engagement, Strategy &  
Communications

## Appendix A

### 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	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform Cllr Shama Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning Cllr Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection Cllr Ellie Southwood, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Culture	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	Cllr Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection	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	Chief Executive/Corporate Directors/Operational Directors	External Organisations
An update on Brent Council grants programmes	Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Culture	Lorna Hughes, Director of Communities	
Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2021/22	Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection	Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive	Metropolitan Police
Police Engagement in Brent	Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection	Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive	Metropolitan Police
Draft Borough Plan 2023-27	Cllr Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council	Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive	

**13 December 2022**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Corporate Directors</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>
Redefining Local Services	Cllr Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action	Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services	

**24 January 2023**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members/Non-Executive Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Corporate Directors/Operational Directors</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>
Budget Scrutiny Task Group Findings	Cllr Rita Conneely, Chair of Resources and Public Realm Committee	Lorna Hughes, Director of Communities	
Climate Change	Cllr Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action	Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services	
Spaces for Community Use	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel, Corporate Director, Finance and Resources	

**22 February 2023**


<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Corporate Directors</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

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Corporate Directors	External Organisations
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, Finance and Resources	
<i>Spare slot</i>			
<i>Spare slot</i>			

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## Appendix 2

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee</b> 8 November 2022
	<b>Report from the Director of Engagement, Strategy &amp; Communications</b>
<b>Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<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 A- Recommendations Scrutiny Tracker
<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, Director of Engagement, Strategy & Communications <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 A).

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1** The Recommendations Tracker tabled at the 8 November 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 A) 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**

Director of Engagement, Strategy &  
Coimunications

## Appendix A

### Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (RPRSC) 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 RPRSC

Subject	Scrutiny Recommendation	Decision Maker & Executive Response	Cabinet Member, Lead Officer, and Department	Implementation Status	Review date
6 Sept 2022 - <b>Cost of Living crisis</b>	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	To follow.	Cllr Ellie Southwood, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience  Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services	To follow.	6 Jan 2023
	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.	To follow.	Cllr Neil Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care  Phil Porter, Corporate Director, ASC & Health	To follow.	2 Dec 2022

### 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>Wembley Events Management</b>	Review the abuse/use of parking permits on event days at Wembley Park.	Sandor Fazekas, Resident Services	<p>We are aware of the fraudulent use of event day parking permits, particularly in area in the close vicinity of Wembley Stadium. Officers have been working to tackle the issue and there have been operations over the summer to take action against permits abuse. The following provides details of the action we are taking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We continue to work closely with partners including; Wembley Stadium LTD, the Football Association, Quintain Estates and Development and the Metropolitan Police Service on event planning.</li> <li>The Parking Client team in Healthy Streets and Parking develop detailed plans for parking enforcement for Wembley Stadium events, focussing on</li> </ul>

			<p>areas where there are reports of illegal parking or potential misuse of permits. Monitoring and supervision of operations have also been improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serco (our parking enforcement service provider) have been briefing Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO's) on how to check printed permits and sample checks have been introduced. Where fraudulent use is suspected, permits can be confiscated, misuse reported to the Audit and Investigations team and vehicles issued with PCNs and removed.</li> <li>• The Healthy Streets and Parking Service are currently procuring two contracts for the provision of Parking and Traffic Enforcement services and Cashless Parking and Permits, from April 2023. This will provide the Council with the opportunity to improve the current permit system and potentially controls.</li> <li>• Officers are also in the process of reviewing our webpages, to include information on measures that we are taking to tackle fraud and discourage permit abuse.</li> </ul> <p>The Council intends to update the Parking Policy 2020 for approval by Cabinet, following 12 months of implementation of the new Parking and Traffic Enforcement Contract from April 2023. This will provide further information on tackling permit abuse.</p>
6 Sept 2022 – <b>Cost of Living crisis</b>	Improve our publicity of credit unions within the borough, highlighting how residents can use these services to navigate the cost of living crisis.	Rob Mansfield, Engagement, Strategy, and Communications	<p>Additional information will be added to Cost Of Living (COL) online hub:</p> <p><a href="https://www.brent.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help-and-advice">https://www.brent.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help-and-advice</a></p>
	Explore co-operative options with regards to the Community Shop model	Sadie East, Resident Services	<p>We are looking at examples of other community shops built on the cooperative model and will build this into the development of plans for a shop in Brent, which is one of <b>the</b> initiatives being taken forward as part of our response to the cost of living crisis.</p>
	Incorporate NHS support for residents into the Council's Cost of Living communications plan.	Rob Mansfield, Engagement, Strategy, and Communications	<p>Additional resources will be added to COL online hub.</p> <p>At the moment we signpost to the NHS 24/7 crisis line on this webpage.</p> <p>In addition, we have advertised the mental health support services available to residents in Brent, including talking therapy and various drop-in services.</p>

			<p>Furthermore we advertise widely NHS online support and promote the Samaritans:</p> <p><a href="https://www.brent.gov.uk/costofliving">https://www.brent.gov.uk/costofliving</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.brent.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing">https://www.brent.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing</a></p>
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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></p> <p>Stage 2 report can be found here: <a href="https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-2-report/">https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-2-report/</a></p> <p>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>
6 Sept 2022 – <b>Cost of Living Crisis</b>	Provide breakdown of different sources of funding for the Cost of Living initiatives (i.e. funding received from central government, including any new monies, as well as the funding coming from the Council's own income).	Ravinder Jassar, Finance & Resources	<p><b><u>Grant Funding from the Central Government</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Household Support Fund</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ COVID Winter Support Fund and COVID Local Support Fund, which commenced in December 2020. c. £5.5m has been distributed between Dec 20 and Mar 22</li> <li>✓ 2022/23 £2.7m grant to support Residents' going through financial difficulties (from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Additional £2.7m funding announced by government to be given to Brent (from 01 October 2022 until 31 March 2023)</li> <li>• £17.5m funding allocated to <b>Recovery Initiatives</b> funded from non-ring-fenced COVID grant</li> <li>• <b>£150 Energy Rebate Scheme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ £13.6m paid out under the scheme – one-off £150 council tax rebate payment to eligible householder's to help with rising energy costs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Brent Residents Support Fund (RSF)</b> paid out of non-ring-fenced COVID grant has supported 4,045 households. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ £3m was paid out in 21/22</li> <li>✓ £6m approved in total for 22/23</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Funding from the Council's budget</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Council Tax Scheme (CTS)</b> – 27,600 households are supported through CTS of which 19,000 are working age and 8,600 are pension age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ c. £29m relief granted in 21/22</li> <li>✓ £30m relief earmarked for 22/23</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Provide the Committee with a copy of the Financial Inclusion (FI) Dashboard Presentation that was previously presented to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on 1 August 2022	Tom Cattermole, Resident Services	Sadie East and Tom Cattermole presented the FI dashboard to Cllr Conneely – Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Committee. By the end of November 2022, Sadie and Tom will provide a presentation on the FI dashboard to the remaining committee members, as well as ward based heat maps/data centred around the information in the FI dashboard.
	Provide information on the support the Council and central government are offering to businesses impacted by the Cost of Living crisis.	Peter Cosgrove, Resident Services	<p>Business Support/Economic Development under Ala Uddin have offered advice through the weekly business e-newsletter, which goes to 13,000 recipients, regarding the energy bill relief scheme the government has made available, with a link to the webpage <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-bill-relief-scheme">Energy Bill Relief Scheme: help for businesses and other non-domestic customers</a> - GOV.UK (<a href="https://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>This has also been highlighted on the Council's business support webpage: <a href="#">Business advice and support   Brent Council</a></p>

	Provide a copy of the Cost of Living communications plan.	Rob Mansfield, Engagement, Strategy, and Communications	The Cost of Living communications plan was distributed to committee members.
	Provide feedback from the NHS on any support for residents to navigate the cost of living crisis.	Nipa Shah, ASC & Health	<p>An overview of the cost of living support offered by the Council was presented to the Health Inequalities and Vaccination Executive Group in mid-September. The group includes senior representatives from the council, NHS and Public Health. Following the presentation, it was agreed that the Brent Health Matters (BHM) team would support the communications drive once ready. The communications assets will be circulated to Local Councillors and Brent Health Matters stakeholders, which includes BHM staff, the community teams, voluntary community sector (VCS) organisations and NHS staff. Furthermore, the Director of Customer Access will present what support is available in an upcoming GP forum meeting and Primary Care stakeholder meeting, to raise further awareness across NHS staff.</p> <p>Awaiting further response on NHS support.</p>
	Provide intelligence/data (if any) to Committee on whether Gambling is a trend amongst Resident Support Fund applications.	Tom Cattermole, Resident Services	Currently, an RSF can be used for paying off debts e.g. credit card loans (where a resident will be referred to our credit union for an interest-free loan). There is no evident trend to suggest an increase in Gambling related debts. This will be monitored and any change in that trend can be reported to members of the Committee, if desired.



	<b>Full Council</b> 21 November 2022
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources</b>
<b>Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – Vice 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>	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 21 September 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 and ASC have met once since the last update.

## **3.2 Audit & Standards Advisory Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **3.2.1 Standards Report**

The purpose of this report was to update the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on gifts and hospitality registered by Members since the last update. The report also included an update on the attendance record for Members in relation to mandatory training sessions.

### **3.2.2 Complaints and Code of Conduct**

This report provided an annual review of the complaints received pursuant to, and a review of the Members' Code of Conduct Complaints procedure.

### **3.2.3 To review the performance, management and annual accounts of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd**

The Committee received an update on i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd's recent performance and their draft statement of accounts for the period 2021-22. The report also included an update on their risk registers and recent audit activity.

### **3.2.4 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 on an annual basis. This report outlined the progress made since the 2021 report, and detailed the type and number of incidents in Brent. The report also provided information on the initiatives and programmes of work under way to enhance the Council's resilience and response arrangements.

### **3.2.5 Statement of Accounts**

The Committee received an update in relation to the Council's 2021-22 Statement of Accounts. The report noted that the Council's draft statement of accounts for 2021-22 was published on the Council's website on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, three weeks before the deadline required by statutory regulation (31<sup>st</sup> July). The report noted that the infrastructure issue, which was noted by the Committee in June 2022, had still not been resolved with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities considering legislative prescription to resolve the issue.

The Committee was asked to consider the key issues and recommendations raised by the External Auditors, consider the corrected audit differences, delegate approval of the draft letter of representation to Grant Thornton to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, and delegate signing of the Council's 2021-22 Statement of Accounts to the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee.

### 3.2.6 Brent 2021-22 Audit Findings Report

The Committee received a report from Grant Thornton, the Council's External Auditors, providing an update on the 2021-22 Audit Findings.

### 3.2.7 Brent Pension Fund 2021-22 Audit Findings Report

The Committee received a report from Grant Thornton, the Council's External Auditors, providing an update on their Pension Fund Audit Findings for 2021-22.

### 3.2.8 Planning Code of Practice Review

The purpose of this report was to update the Committee on the outcome of the Independent Review, and the consequential recommended changes, in relation to the Planning Code of Practice.

## 3.3 **Audit & Standards Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### 3.3.1 Statement of Accounts

The Committee was asked to note the External Auditors findings and delegate signing of the Statement of Accounts to the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee, following its consideration by the preceding meeting of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee.

## 4. **Forward Plan Items**

4.1 Listed below are the reports that are due to be presented to the next Audit & Standards Advisory Committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022:

1. Interim Counter Fraud report
2. Interim Internal Audit report
3. Treasury Management mid-term report
4. Treasury Management Strategy
5. External Audit progress report

**Report sign off:**

**Minesh Patel**

Corporate Director of Finance and  
Resources

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## Full Council – 21 November 2022

### Motion for Non Cabinet Member debate

#### **Building the Homes our Community Needs**

##### **This Council notes:**

The pressures on Council Housing stock are immense and will not ease in the coming months and years, rather they will grow even more.

The Cost of Living Crisis, coupled with the disastrous macroeconomic situation in the UK, means it is increasingly likely that more local residents will turn to the Council to assume responsibility for their housing needs. As an authority, we need to be prepared for this.

Whilst we are grateful that Brent has made progress in seeking to supply Council Homes we need to see greater, more urgent resolve to deliver more Council Homes for Social tenants.

The latest report to Cabinet, entitled, '*Update on the supply of New Affordable Homes*', sets out where Brent is when it comes to the delivery of the *New Council Homes Programme* (NCHP).

On the 14<sup>th</sup> November, the Cabinet was asked to formalise a change of approach that would allow Brent Council to deliver only 50% of new stock at Council Rent and London Affordable Rent level in its own developments. While this approach will deliver some Social Housing on Council owned land, this will be at the expense of current Estate residents, reduction of amenity space, and will not achieve our overriding ambition to reduce the ever-growing housing waiting list in a meaningful way. Council Land will be de-facto used to build housing out of reach for most Brent residents.

There are also a growing number of local people in our area, who have been life-long residents of Brent and who are now being priced out of the borough, because housing is too expensive.

Developers, who are granted consent for their private schemes by Brent's Planning Committee, are not providing our area with the type of housing our community desperately needs.

##### **This Council believes:**

1. There needs to be greater clarity on terminology around housing, particularly what constitutes being 'genuinely affordable housing'.
2. Targets and policy around house building, must be focused on seeking to reduce the housing waiting list and reduce the number of local people currently in temporary accommodation
3. Shared Ownership schemes are not a '*genuinely affordable*' housing model and are not something that should be promoted by Brent
4. We need to be holding developers accountable and ensuring that a greater proportion of new stock built in our borough is genuinely affordable for local people

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Guarantee that the banner term 'affordable housing' is not used in communications, and instead council communications only refer to "genuinely affordable housing".
2. Amend the Local Plan to ensure Affordable Housing is defined as being purely Council Rent, London Affordable Rent, London Living Rent, which would exclude Shared Ownership and Affordable Rent (below or equal to 80% of market value rent).
3. Ensure all new developments taking place on existing estates within our borough must be seeking to provide more Social Housing and not Shared Ownership or Market Sale units.
4. Increase the target of affordable units within private developments to match neighbouring Camden at 50%, with a split of 40% social rent and 60% others, in order to ensure we are building the homes our community really needs.

Councillor Anton Georgiou  
Alperton ward

**Full Council – 21 November 2022**

**Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Motion for the  
Non Cabinet Member Debate**

*Proposed amendment – To add the wording underlined in red and delete the wording indicated*

**Building the Homes our Community Needs**

**This Council notes:**

The pressures on Council Housing stock are immense and in the absence of Government investment, will not ease in the coming months and years, rather they will grow even more. For example, in Brent there are currently 25,853 households on our housing waiting list, containing 53,644 individuals. Even at a record-breaking pace of building, without a renaissance in Government investment in the social housing sector, many of these families will regrettably wait many years for a home.

The Cost of Living Crisis, ~~coupled~~ compounded by a Government that has created a ~~with the~~ disastrous macroeconomic situation in the UK, ~~means it is increasingly likely that~~ has seen more local residents ~~will~~ turn to the council Council ~~to assume responsibility for their~~ for support with their housing needs, with a 33% increase in approaches in the last year. As an authority, we ~~need to be prepared for this.~~ are working around the clock to provide support to households effected by the Cost of Living Crisis, with a Resident Support Fund that has distributed £8.46 million to 4,045 households, aiding hundreds of families with Rent Arrears and Mortgage payments; and those in need of food and fuel support.

~~Whilst~~ We are ~~grateful~~ proud that Brent has made progress in seeking to supply Council Homes, with a record of consistently being one of the leading boroughs in providing social homes in London. There is still more to do and we need to see greater, more urgent resolve from all political parties to deliver more Council Homes for ~~Social~~ our tenants. There have been 20 ministers for housing in the past 25 years and four housing secretaries in just over a year. We desperately need action from our new Minister, on waiting lists for council housing, supporting private tenants that are made homeless, aiding cladding victims that remain trapped in unsellable flats and homeowners living in fear of their next mortgage bill. Finally, without the abolition of Right to Buy London will continue to see more council homes sold and private-let with 54,000 and counting across the capital.

The latest report to Cabinet, entitled, 'Update on the supply of New Affordable Homes', sets out where Brent is when it comes to the delivery of the New Council Homes Programme (NCHP), our programme to develop 1,000 new council homes by 2025. To date, the Council has developed and let 684 new homes to Brent households and there are 616 homes on site and on track to be completed before 2025. This programme has been made possible through a grant in excess of £100m from the Mayor of London, Labour's Sadiq Khan, and an investment of more than £200m of the council's own money.

Spiralling inflation, exacerbated by a botched mini-budget has not only impacted Brent residents, but has also put our council house building programme at risk. As such, on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, the Cabinet was asked to formalise a change of approach that would allow Brent Council to deliver much needed housing, within the challenging social and economic climate, only providing 50% of new stock at Council Rent and London Affordable Rent level in its own developments. While this approach will deliver some Social Housing on Council owned land, this will be at the expense of current Estate residents, reduction of amenity space, and will not achieve our overriding ambition to reduce the ever-growing housing waiting list in a meaningful way. Where appropriate, Council owned land will be de-facto used to build the next generation of council housing homes out of reach for most Brent residents and play our part in addressing the housing crisis.

There are also a growing number of local people in our area Brent and in our city, who have been life-long residents of Brent and who are now being priced out of the borough, because of a shortfall in the supply of housing, while demand continues to drive prices higher. ~~is too expensive.~~

There are no quick fixes to resolve the housing crisis and developers, who that are granted consent for their private schemes by Brent's Planning Committee, are not only part of the larger answer, if we are to provide our area with the type of housing our community desperately needs.

### **This Council believes:**

1. ~~There needs to be greater~~ The Government needs to provide greater clarity on terminology around housing, particularly what constitutes being 'genuinely affordable housing'. The Government must explore how more affordable housing can be secured through Land Value Capture and reforming viability assessments.
2. Targets and policy around house building, must be focused on seeking to reduce the housing waiting list and reduce the number of local people currently in temporary accommodation and deliver family sized housing units, most keenly needed.
3. Shared Ownership schemes are not a ~~'genuinely affordable'~~ housing model and are not something that should be promoted by top priority for Brent Council, but do form a valuable part of an overall housing mix, as they allow some people to get onto the housing ladder when they otherwise would not be able to afford a full deposit.




4. We should never make the perfect enemy of the good in housing policy whilst need to be holding developers accountable and ensuring that a greater proportion of new stock built in our borough is genuinely affordable for local people.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. ~~Guarantee that the banner term 'affordable housing' is not used in communications, and instead council communications only refer to "genuinely~~Lobby the government to simplify its terminology on affordable housing in order to give greater clarity across council communications.
2. ~~Amend the~~Call on the Government to address Land Value Capture and viability assessments to enable Brent to secure at least our Local Plan ~~to ensure Affordable Housing is defined as being purely~~targets for Council Social Rents, London Affordable Rent, London Living Rent, ~~which would exclude Shared Ownership and Affordable Rent (below or equal to 80% of market value rent).~~
3. Continue to work with the GLA and DLUHC to secure the funding needed to ~~e~~Ensure all new developments ~~taking place on existing estates within our borough must be seeking to provide~~ as much ~~more~~ as is financially viable. ~~Social~~ hHousing and ~~not Shared Ownership or Market Sale units.~~
4. ~~Increase the~~Continue to push Brent's Local Plan target of ~~affordable units within private developments to match neighbouring Camden at 50%~~ affordable housing, with a split of ~~70~~40% ~~social~~ low cost rent and ~~36~~0% intermediate housing ~~others~~, in order to ensure we are building the homes our community really needs.
5. Play our part in addressing the housing crisis across London, by driving up the supply of housing in every ward in Brent.

Councillor Shama Tatler  
Kingsbury ward

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 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 21 November 2022
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director Resident Services</b>
<b>Brent Licensing - Cumulative Impact Assessment Review</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>	Three Appendix A: Brent Cumulative Impact Zone Review Appendix B: Consultation responses Appendix C: Draft amendment of Policy 9 and Appendix 6
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Anu Prashar Senior Regulatory Service Manager Email: <a href="mailto:anu.prashar@brent.gov.uk">anu.prashar@brent.gov.uk</a> Tel. 020 8937 5515  Simon Legg Head of Regulatory Services 020 8937 5522 Email: <a href="mailto:simon.legg@brent.gov.uk">simon.legg@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Licensing Act 2003 requires that any Cumulative Impact Assessment is reviewed on a three-yearly basis. The current policy is due to expire on the 6 January 2023 and is found within the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy ('Policy'), which must be reviewed every five years.
- 1.2 This reports seeks approval to renew the existing 10 Cumulative Assessment Zones (CIZs) and to extend the policy to cover two new areas within the London Borough of Brent.

## **2 Recommendations**

### **2.1 That Full Council approve:**

2.1.1 The retention of the Cumulative Impact Assessment in the current 10 areas.

2.1.2 The creation two new CIZs in Wembley Park and Cricklewood Broadway.

2.1.3 The updates to Policy 9 and Appendix 6 of the Licensing Policy to reflect the agreed changes proposed in Appendix C of the report.

2.2 That Full Council note that the Policy including the Cumulative Impact Assessments will have to be reviewed within 2 years.

## **3 Detail**

3.1 Brent Council currently has 10 areas which are currently the subject of a Cumulative Impact Assessment. The Assessment was first conducted in 2019 on the introduction of a Cumulative Impact Policy for the area which sits within the Council's overall Licensing Policy Statement of Principles.

3.2 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 requires that any Cumulative Impact Assessments undertaken by the council should be reviewed every three years to ensure their continued relevance and that the authority still holds the opinion set out in any Assessment.

3.3 Cumulative Impact is described in the guidance published by the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 182 Licensing Act 2003 as "The potential impact on promotion of the Licensing Objectives of a number of licensed premises concentrated in one area. In some areas where the number, type or density of licensed premises, such as those selling alcohol or providing late night refreshment, is high or exceptional, serious problems of nuisance and disorder may arise outside or some distance from those premises. Such problems generally occur as a result of large numbers of drinkers being concentrated in an area, for example when leaving premises at peak times or when queuing at fast food outlets or for public transport."

3.4 The Secretary of State's guidance also reinforces the general principal of the Licensing Act 2003 that each application must be considered on its own merits and in accordance with the licensing authority's statement of licensing policy. If an application for a premises licence or club premises certificate has been made lawfully and there have been no representations from responsible authorities or other persons, the licensing authority must grant the application, subject only to conditions that are consistent with the operating schedule and relevant mandatory conditions.

3.5 A Cumulative Impact Assessment creates a rebuttable presumption that applications for new licences, or club premises certificates, or material variations to existing licences, will normally be refused, if relevant

representations are received, unless it can be demonstrated, that the proposed operation involved will not add to the Cumulative Impact on the four Licensing Objectives. The process creates a culture where the applicant is encouraged to fully consider the impact of their operation on the area and measures to meet the licensing objectives.

- 3.6 The Four Licensing Objectives are Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Nuisance, Protecting Children from Harm, and Public Safety. In respect of Public nuisance this can be in the most general of terms, problems with parking, litter, noise etc. In respect of public safety this relates to those persons using the licensed premises. The majority of the small groceries and newsagent businesses, rely on the sale of alcohol to maximise their income and continue to trade. This means there is high demand for high street grocery businesses wanting to sell alcohol and in general terms, there are already multiple shops selling alcohol in most of the boroughs high streets.
- 3.7 The council's Licencing team has undertaken a consultation as part of the Cumulative Impact Assessment, to review the need to retain the special Cumulative Impact Policy and to create an additional two areas.
- 3.8 The consultation has taken place in accordance with those individuals and organisations specified in Section 5A of the Licensing Act 2003. A list of all consultees contacted individually is included in the Assessment document. Views from the responsible authorities such as the Police, Nuisance Control Team and Trading Standards were also sought. A copy of the Cumulative Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix A. This was an evidence-based report from data supplied by the Community Safety Team.
- 3.9 Representations were received by 25 consultees and 3 responsible authorities. The majority were in favour in retaining the CIZs and adopting the further two in Wembley Park and Cricklewood Broadway. Their responses are attached as Appendix B (Consultation responses).
- 3.10 The council's Licensing Policy will be amended as required concerning the additional Cumulative Impact Policy.

#### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no additional resource implications arising from this report. Resources required to fulfil the Council's duties in respect of the licensing process are met from existing budgets.

#### **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Section 141 of the Police and Crime Act 2017 Act requires the Council to assess any Cumulative Impact Policy it has in place in respect of Section 5A of the Licensing Act 2003.
- 5.2 Section 5 - 8 of the Licensing Act 2003 allows for the policy to be determined by Full Council.

5.3 All the other relevant legal implications are addressed in the body of the report.

## **6 Equality Implications**

6.1 There is no significant impact on any of the protected characteristics. This is a statutory process which the council must follow. However, further Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out when the full policy is renewed.

## **7 Any Other Implications (eg HR, Property, Environmental Sustainability)**

7.1 None

## **8 Proposed Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

8.1 All Ward Members were consulted as part of the consultation process.

**Report sign off:**

**Peter Gadsdon**

Corporate Director, Residents Services

## Brent Cumulative Impact Zone Review

This paper outlines proposals for the review of the Cumulative Impact Zones (CIZs) in the London Borough of Brent.

### Introduction

Brent Council in line with many Licensing Authorities introduced a Cumulative Impact Policy for ten areas within the borough. That Policy formed part of its Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Cumulative Impact Policy was published in January 2020 and created a rebuttable presumption against granting off-licence premises licences for alcohol in those areas. Cumulative impact has been used as a term to describe the stress that a large number of licensed premises can have on crime and disorder, nuisance and the demand on local services. Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 describes cumulative impact as “...the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a number of licensed premises concentrated in one area.”

It is often not that licensed premises on their own are operating in a way that is detrimental to the licensing objectives, but it is the accumulation of the premises and the people attending them that creates the increased problems and demands on services. Under the Licensing Act 2003 (the ‘Act’), the London Borough of Brent recognises that a significant number and type of licensed premises in a particular area may lead to problems of crime, disorder and nuisance and notes that in accordance with the Home Office Statutory Guidance to the Act, the cumulative impact of such premises on the promotion of the licensing objectives is a matter for the council to consider.

Under the Licensing Act 2003 the Licensing Authority (the council) is required to publish a statement on licensing policy every 5 years. The Act has four licensing objectives:

- Prevention of Crime & Disorder
- Promotion of Public Safety
- Prevention of Nuisance
- Protection of Children from Harm

A policy must take into account any Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) published under section 5A of the Act. In the Act, cumulative impact is described as “**the potential impact on the promotion of licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area**”. A licensing authority can publish a CIA to help it limit the number or types of licence applications granted in areas where there is evidence demonstrating the number or density of licensed premises is having cumulative impact, circumstances which undermine the licensing objectives. In cumulative impact areas, there is a presumption that the licensing authority will refuse or impose limitations on applications which are likely to add to the cumulative impact unless the applicant can demonstrate that there will be no negative cumulative impact on the licensing objectives.

Within three years of the publication of its CIA, the Authority has a duty to consider if it remains of the opinion that it is likely that it would be inconsistent with the authority’s duty to promote the licensing objectives to grant premises in the relevant areas.

If the authority remains of the opinion that the number of off-licences with premises licences in the relevant areas is such that it is likely that it would be inconsistent with the authority’s duty to promote the licensing objectives to grant any further premises licences, or variations

of those licences, in those areas then a revised CIA must be published and contain a statement to that effect.

If the authority is no longer of the opinion that it would be inconsistent with the authority's duty to promote the licensing objectives to grant any further premises licences in respect to off-licences in the relevant areas, then it should issue a statement to that effect.

The Licensing Authority must consult in the same way as it would for reviewing its Statement of Licensing Policy. Therefore, the Licensing Authority must consult those specified in section 5(3) of the Licensing 2003, and subject to the outcome of the consultation, include and publish details of the Cumulative Impact Assessments in their Statement of Licensing Policy. Those who must be consulted are:

- a) the chief officer of police for the licensing authority's area,
- b) the fire and rescue authority for that area, i.e. London Fire Brigade
- c) The Council's Director of Public Health,
- d) such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of premises licences issued by that authority,
- e) such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of club premises certificates issued by that authority,
- f) such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of personal licences issued by that authority, and
- g) such other persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of businesses and residents in its area.

## Research Approach

The aim of this assessment is to identify locations across the London Borough of Brent where there is an emerging and/or are likely to negatively impact the promotion of the licensing objectives.

A data-led approach has been adopted to offer a transparent, consistent and replicable approach to evaluating the prevalence and degree of cumulative impact. However this approach does come with limitations, such as:

- Intelligence requirements cannot be met by existing data sets (due to lack of access, availability or suitability)
- Data sets offer limited insights (lacking spatial, temporal or descriptive granularity)
- Data may be collected for other purposes, such as operational service delivery, and is not always amenable to more strategic analysis (e.g. offers only a partial view of service demand or capturing limited categories)
- At the time of developing this assessment, the Metropolitan police are reviewing partnership access to data and currently limited access has been made available, so public data has had to be used in most instances. The main source has been crimemap software, available online.



In order to identify and assess potential areas of cumulative impact across the whole borough we have used two key data sets from Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) related offences recorded to Brent and also public available police data.

The recording of alcohol related criminal behaviour is not consistently reported via the Metropolitan Police and therefore this has been included alongside 4 other key reporting types:

- Anti Social Behaviour
- Public Order offences
- Robbery
- Violence and Sexual offences.

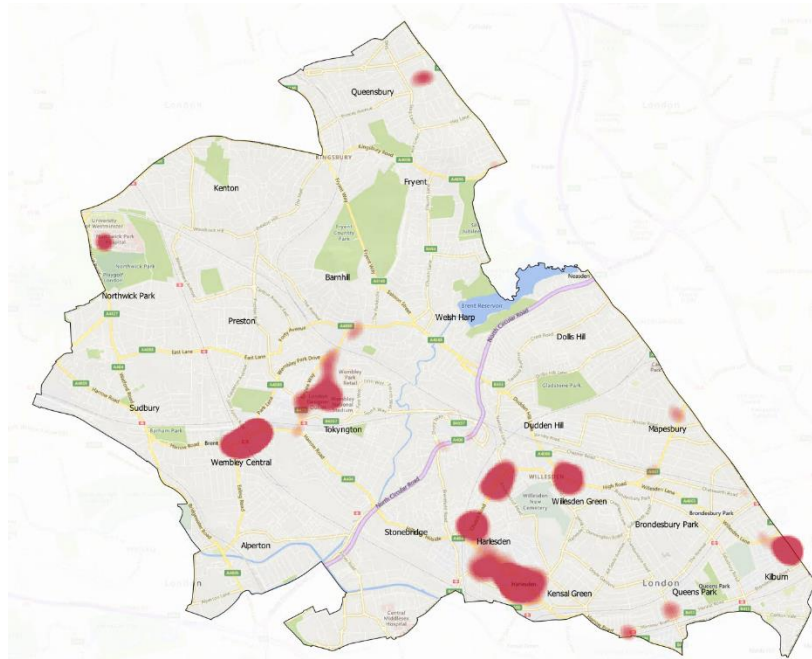
Additionally COVID has impacted on data with a reduction of recorded crime during the 'lockdown' periods of COVID restrictions, unless otherwise stated data used is between July 2019 and June 2022. This is to ensure a consistent approach and not a short period of time which may provide inconsistent approaches.

COVID restrictions reduced traditional street crime and this is reflected in both robbery and public order offences recorded over this period. Brent saw an overall reduction in all reported crime over the Covid 'lock down' periods.

### **London Borough of Brent**

Every year the Safer Brent Partnership produces a Strategic Assessment which looks at all aspects of crime and community safety issues. The most recent assessment was developed in April 2022 for the calendar year of 2021, below are some of the key information points about overall crime:

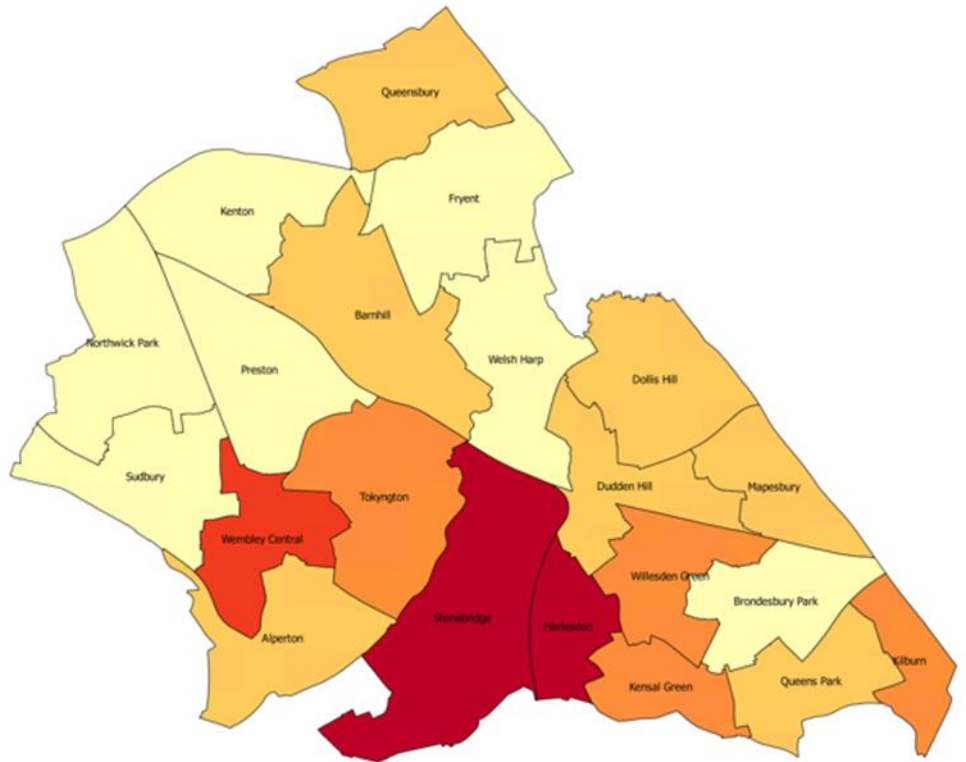
- Brent is among the top 20 safest Boroughs in London. The overall crime rate in 2021 was 82 crimes per 1000 people. This compares with London's overall crime rate of 87 per 1000 residents
- Brent was one of 16 local authorities to record a reduction in Total Notifiable Offences (TNO) in 2021.
- This reduction is particularly marked in boroughs with significant night-time economies or tourist attractions and likely due to the COVID restrictions.
- Brent recorded a decrease of 2.3% in TNOs compared with 2019.
- Hotspot areas are largely unchanged from 2020 and for the last previous 3 years. The only significant change is that the areas immediately around Wembley Stadium and Arena are again a crime hotspot – this is due to the return of events after Covid restrictions were lifted.
- Hotspots are often reflective of areas that have high levels of gang activity and deprivation – this applies to South Kilburn and Harlesden.
- Other areas are crime hotspots due to high levels of footfall – Wembley High Road and Willesden High Road. The map below highlights this.



This can be further broken down by Ward by the total number of offences in each ward. The darker shade on the map highlights the high all crime reported.

**TNO by Ward**

Ward	TNO	% of total
Stonebridge	2627	9.5%
Harlesden	2253	8.1%
Wembley Central	1897	6.8%
Willesden Green	1612	5.8%
Tokington	1570	5.7%
Kensal Green	1505	5.4%
Kilburn	1500	5.4%
Dudden Hill	1384	5.0%
Mapesbury	1349	4.9%
Queensbury	1278	4.6%
Alpertown	1166	4.2%
Barnhill	1145	4.1%
Queens Park	1131	4.1%
Dollis Hill	1111	4.0%
Welsh Harp	1032	3.7%
Preston	991	3.6%
Brondesbury Park	924	3.3%
Sudbury	874	3.2%
Northwick Park	868	3.1%
Fryent	839	3.0%
Kenton	656	2.4%



Similarly when comparing this with the available data where alcohol has been reported, noting that accuracy of police reporting is limited regarding alcohol related crime, there is a similarity between the top 6 Ward areas. There is a significant drop from 7 Ward onwards.

Any assessment and recommendation should ensure that a specific focus is given to these 6 ward areas as part of any CIZ review and proposal. Data provided in table below is from 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022.

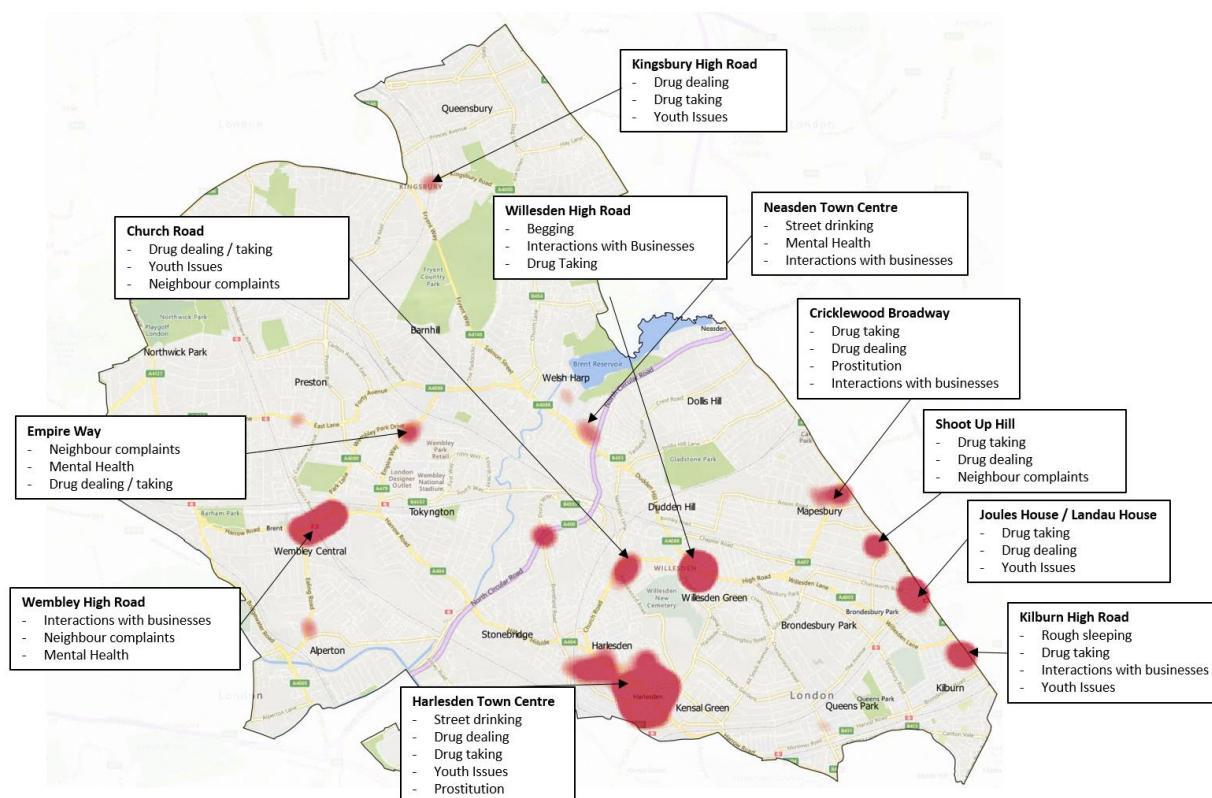
Ward	Police reports with alcohol reported	TNO Position
Wembley Central	63	3
Willesden Green	61	4
Tokington	58	5
Stonebridge	55	1
Harlesden	52	2
Kensal Green	36	6
Alperton	36	11
Kilburn	36	7
Northwick Park	34	19
Dudden Hill	33	8
Welsh Harp	33	15
Sudbury	31	18
Queensbury	30	10
Barnhill	29	12
Kenton	27	21
Queens Park	25	13
Mapesbury	24	9
Fryent	23	20
Preston	23	16
Brondesbury Park	22	17
Dollis Hill	18	14

#### ASB in Brent:

ASB is highlighted as a key concern for residents of Brent. ASB has increased across the Borough, and nationally. Locally, this could be down to increased reporting and an escalation in open drug markets and the impact of gang activities. Visible evidence of disorder through unchallenged ASB, leads to less secure communities and can impact negatively on feelings of safety and mental health. Environmental ASB is expensive to react to and leads communities to consider their neighbourhoods negatively, which in turn leads to social disorganisation.

When considering population, Brent had a slightly higher than average ASB incidents per 1000 population in 2021 compared with the rest of London. The average was 37.49 incidents per 1000 people with Brent at 39.35 calls per 1000 people.

The map below shows the hotspots of ASB in Brent. All the hotspots of ASB are in or adjacent to town centres. For each hotspot, the main ASB concerns are highlighted. Town centre areas continue to be affected by abusive or difficult residents with mental health or substance misuse issues including alcohol.



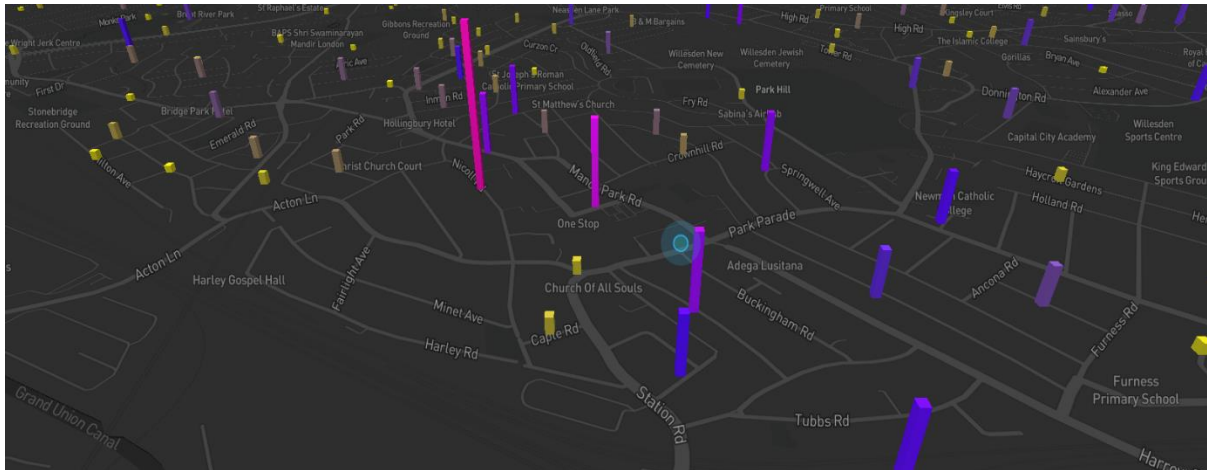
Data captured outlined in this document has been mapped and shown sufficient evidence to implement CIZs in the specified areas. In particular crime data and evidence shows a correlation between concentrations of off licences and anti-social behaviour where alcohol is often a significant issue.

The maps used below show reported crime data (Total Notifiable Offences) by postcode. This also protects victims of crime in order that they cannot be identified to low numbers of reporting when broken down lower.

## Harlesden

Harlesden town centre consists of a series of parades of shops that run along Craven Park, Craven Park Road, Park Parade and High Street Harlesden. The town centre falls between, Harlesden and Kensal Green ward and is one of the most deprived areas in the borough. Harlesden Town Centre is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and antisocial behaviour and street drinking. The data shows the whole of the town centre suffers from high levels of alcohol related issues, including residential streets off the main town centre such as Rucklidge Avenue, Wendover Road, Buckingham Road and St Albans Road.

Harlesden Town Centre is also the primary hotspot for reports of street drinking to police. All other town centres in Brent suffer from street drinking; however, in parts of Harlesden such as Craven Park Road and High Street, the street drinking interrelates with drug misuse and violent crime.



The higher the bar the higher the reporting of the chosen dataset is in the area.

Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	184
Public Order	28
Robbery	22
Violence/Sexual	87
TOTAL	321

The streets to be included in Harlesden are:

- Craven Park Road
- Craven Park
- High Street
- Park Parade
- Manor Park Road

### Wembley Central (Wembley High Road/North End of Ealing Road)

Wembley Central is a ward which includes two busy shopping parades on Wembley High Road and the north end of Ealing Road. Wembley central has areas of low to medium levels of deprivation.

Wembley Central is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and anti-social behaviour. The data shows the whole of the High Road from Ealing Road to Wembley Triangle experiencing high levels of crime associated with alcohol.



During the period of July 2019 and June 2022;

Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	118
Public Order	39
Robbery	18
Violent/Sexual	104
TOTAL	279

The streets to be included in Wembley Central are:

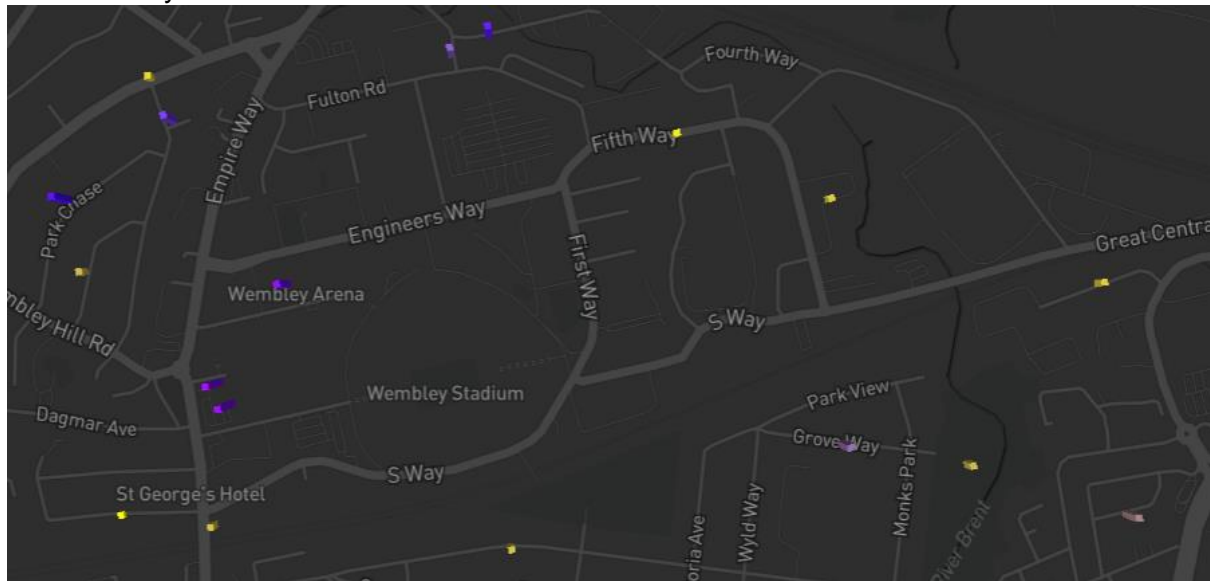
- High Road
- Lancelot Road
- Harrow Road – (Wembley- North of the North Circular)
- London Road
- Central Square
- Wembley Park Drive

### Wembley Park

Wembley Park will be a new CIZ which would include the new developments in the area. It includes the roads surrounding the Stadium. Due to the number of events and the increased number of shops the data shows there is a high level of ASB in the area.



This new area comprises of St John's Avenue and Park Lane which will be removed from the Wembley Central CIZ.



Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	147
Public Order	15
Robbery	5
Violence/Sexual	99
TOTAL	266

The streets to be included in Wembley Park are:

- Empire Way
- South Way
- Wembley Hill Road
- Engineers Way
- Grand Parade (Forty Lane)
- Olympic Way
- Bridge Road
- Wembley Park Drive

## Ealing Road

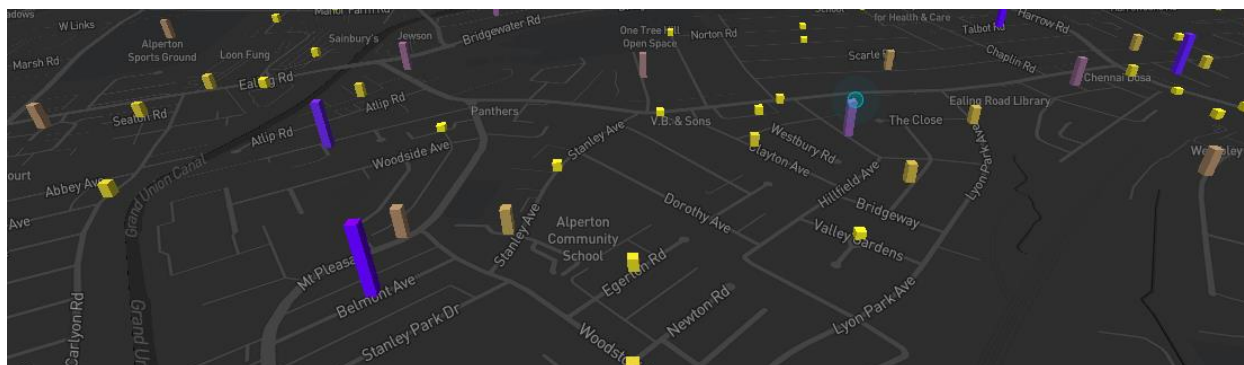
Ealing Road from the junction of High Road Wembley up to the junction of Bridgewater Road.

The CIZ area includes:

- Atlip Road
- Mount Pleasant
- Montrose Crescent
- Union Road
- Coronet Parade
- Heather Park Drive



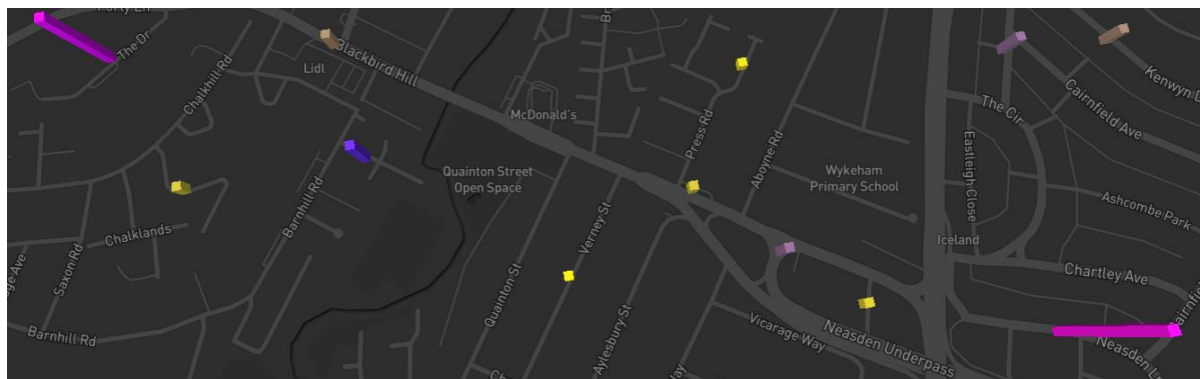
This is an area with medium to high levels of deprivation and is a hotspot for alcohol related calls to police. This area is also a high reporting area for street drinking and ASB related reports to Brent Council.



Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	72
Public Order	11
Robbery	9
Violence/Sexual	91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>

### Neasden Town Centre

Neasden town centre consists of a medium sized parade of shops that run along Neasden Lane which is just off the North Circular Road. The town centre is primarily in Dudden Hill ward and in an area of medium to high levels of deprivation. Neasden Town Centre is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police but not for crime and anti-social behaviour. However, Neasden Lane North, just outside the town centre, is a hotspot for both.



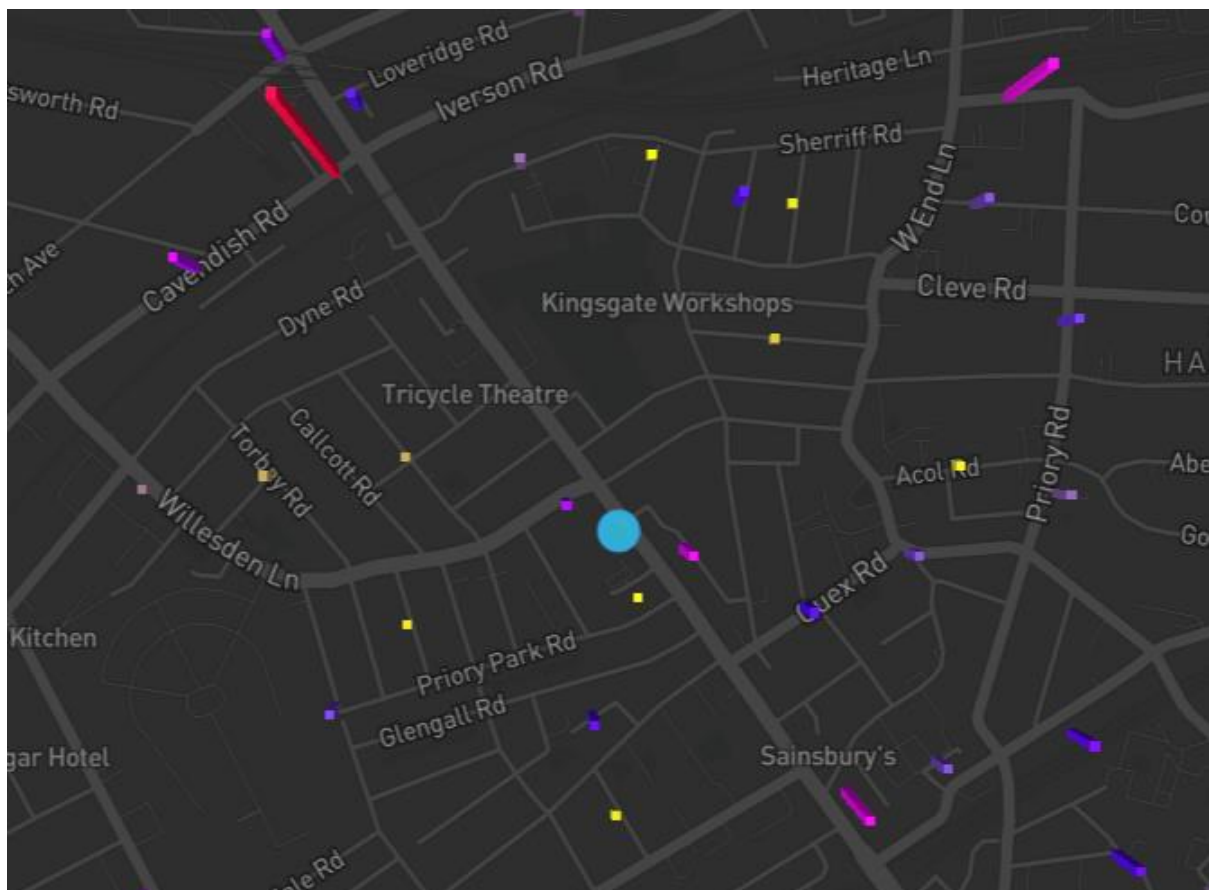
Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	91
Public Order	27
Robbery	13
Violence/Sexual	81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>212</b>

The streets to be included in Neasden Town Centre are –

- Neasden Lane
- Neasden Lane North
- Blackbird Hill
- Forty Lane (up until the road 'The Paddocks')

### Kilburn High Road

Kilburn High Road is a busy large shopping parade, which runs along the border of Brent and Camden. Kilburn High Road is predominately in an area of medium levels of deprivation apart from South Kilburn Estate, which has high levels of deprivation. Kilburn High Road is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and anti-social behaviour.



Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	263
Public Order	58
Robbery	10
Violence/Sexual	225
TOTAL	556

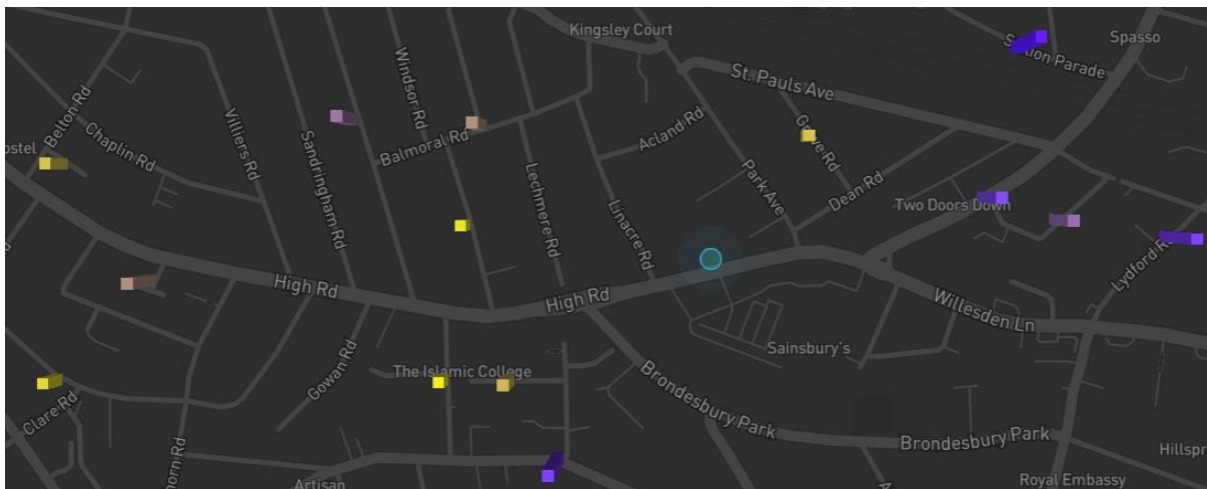
The streets to be included in Kilburn are:

- Kilburn High Road

- Glengall Road
- Willesden Lane
- Cambridge Avenue
- Salusbury Road

### High Road, Willesden

Willesden is busy large parade of shops in Willesden Green Ward. High Road, Willesden is in an area of medium to high levels of deprivation. High Road, Willesden is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and ASB. The data shows the alcohol related issues are primarily just outside the town centre around the junction of High Road, Willesden and Pound Lane.



Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	93
Public Order	31
Robbery	10
Violence/Sexual	106
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>240</b>

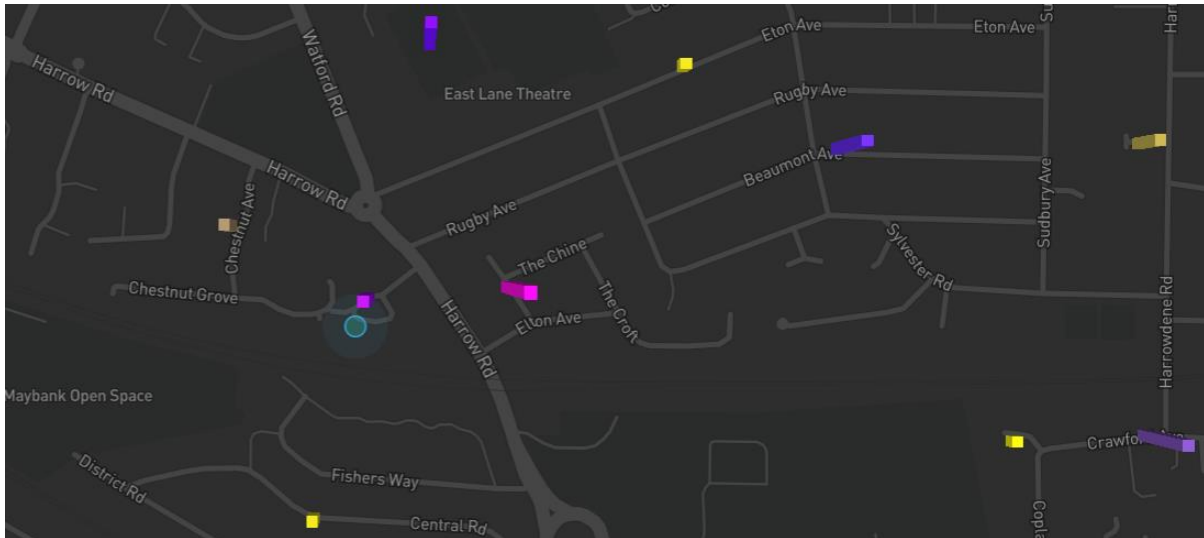
The streets to be included in High Road, Willesden are:

- High Road
- Dudden Hill Lane
- Walm Lane
- Station Parade
- Willesden Lane
- Pound Lane
- Church Road

### Sudbury Town Centre

Sudbury Town Centre is a medium sized shopping parade in an area of low levels of deprivation. Sudbury Town Centre is a minor hotspot for alcohol related police calls within

Brent. Calls are generally related to the area from the roundabout at Butler's Green to the junction of Sudbury Crescent and Harrow Road.



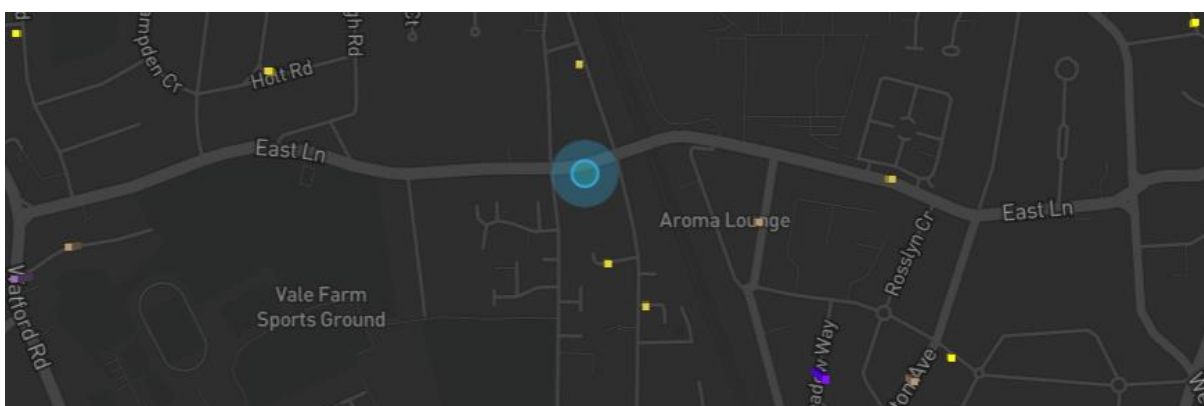
Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	114
Public Order	20
Robbery	3
Violence/Sexual	72
TOTAL	209

The streets to be included in Sudbury Town Centre are:

- Harrow Road - North of the North Circular
- Watford Road

### East Lane

East Lane in North Wembley is a small sized shopping parade in an area of Medium levels of deprivation. East Lane is not a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and anti-social behaviour. Recent data has shown a reduction in this area, however historically this has been a challenging location and sits between 2 other CIZ locations.



Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	84

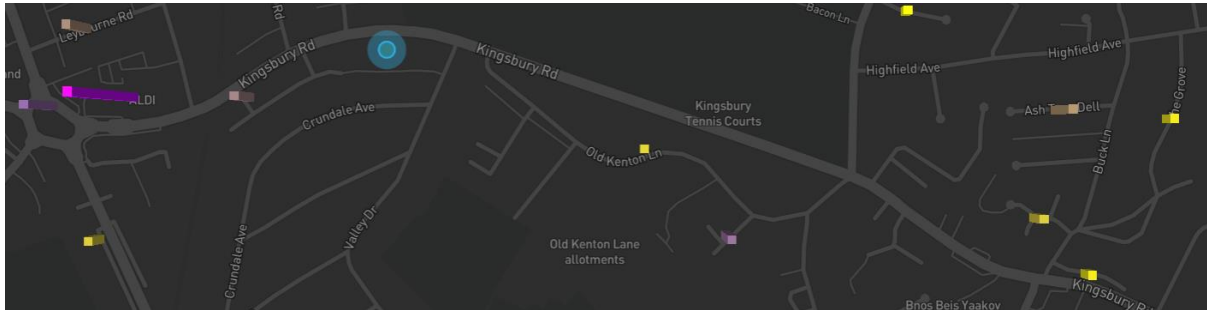
Public Order	5
Robbery	0
Violence/Sexual	31
TOTAL	120

The streets to be included in East Lane are:

- East Lane

## Kingsbury

Kingsbury town centre is busy shopping parade on both sides of a main road in an area of low to medium levels of deprivation. Kingsbury is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and anti-social behaviour in the north of the Borough. The hotspot area is around the London Underground station.



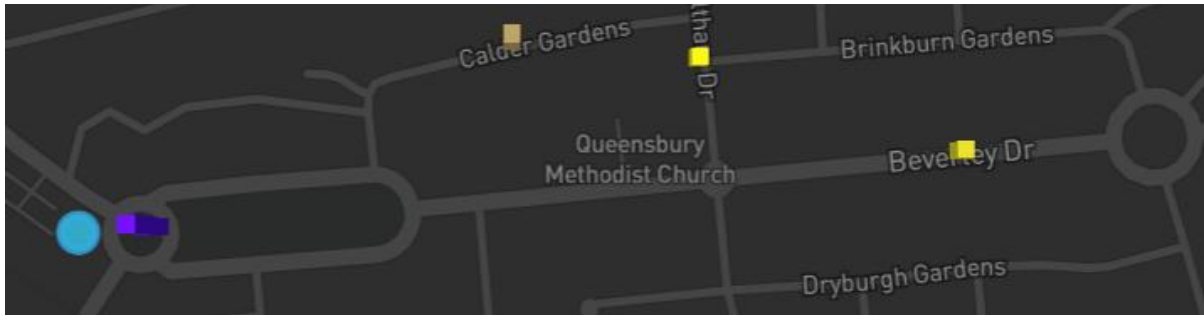
Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	73
Public Order	11
Robbery	6
Violence/Sexual	68
TOTAL	158

The streets to be included in Kingsbury are:

- Kingsbury Road
- Edgware Road
- Church Lane
- Hay Lane
- Kenton Road

## Queensbury

Queensbury station parade is a parade of shops, businesses and restaurants surrounding a green public area in an area of Medium levels of deprivation. Incidents of street drinking are high perception wise, although they are not reflected in calls to police. This is a significantly smaller geographical area compared to other CIZs.



Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	14
Public Order	4
Robbery	1
Violence/Sexual	24
TOTAL	43

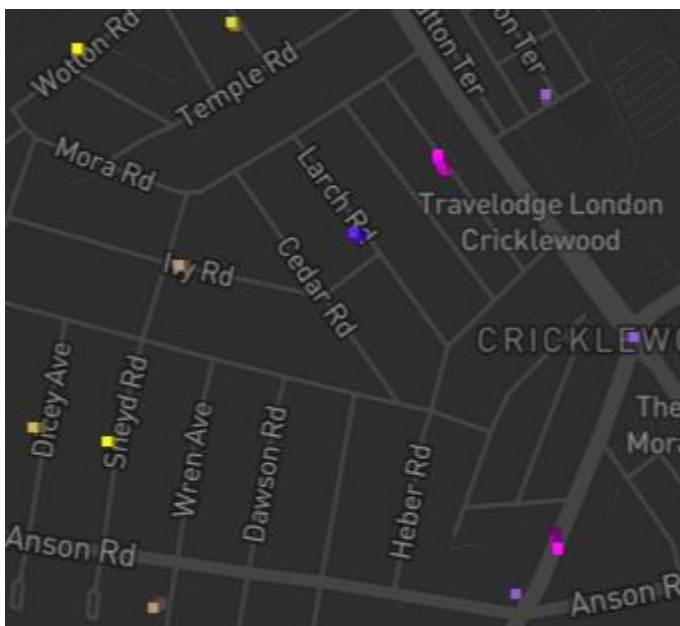
The streets to be included in Queensbury is:

- Queensbury Station Parade
- Burnt Oak Broadway
- Honeypot Lane

### **Cricklewood Broadway**

Cricklewood Broadway is a busy High Street with a variety of shops on one side of the Broadway which is in Brent. The data shows that there is a high level of ASB.

This will be a new CIZ for Brent.



Crime Type	Number of reports
ASB	149
Public Order	2
Robbery	6
Violence/Sexual	81
TOTAL	238

The streets to be included in Cricklewood Broadway is:

- Cricklewood Broadway

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Council continues to have in place the current ten CIzs. These are in the following areas;

Harlesden

Wembley Central

Ealing Road

Kilburn High Road

Willesden High Road

Neasden Town Centre

East Lane

Kingsbury

Queensbury Station Parade

Sudbury Town – Harrow Road and Watford Road.

The Council also recommends that two new CIzs are implemented in Wembley Park and Cricklewood Broadway.

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## Brent Cumulative Impact Assessment Review 2022 Consultation Report

### Introduction

A public consultation on the Brent's review and proposals for Cumulative Impact Zones (CIZs) took place from 1 September to 30 September 2022. Residents and/or businesses were invited to give their views and thoughts by completing an online survey. Emails and letters were sent to all the licensees and agents for their views. The questions asked how strongly participants agreed or disagreed with the current CIZs and the proposal to introduce two new CIZs. These participants were able to download and read draft copies of the proposals for Cumulative Impact Zones (CIZs) in Brent.

This report contains the data collected through this consultation. The data has been filtered to show the responses to key questions from residents, licensed premises and responsible authorities.

### Consultation Findings

A total of 23 responses were received, 22 through the online survey and one written submission. The first question asked participants to tell if they are responding to survey as a Brent resident, Owner / manager / employee of a licensed premises, Owner / manager / employee of a non-licensed premises, Brent business or other. Below is a breakdown of question 1.

Option	Total	Percentage
Brent resident	17	73.9%
Owner / manager / employee of a licensed premises	0	0%
Owner / manager / employee of a non-licensed premises	0	0%
Brent business	0	0%
Other	6	26.1%
Not Answered	0	0%

Below are the responses collected to certain key questions.

### Question 3 - Do you agree or disagree with continuing with the current CIZ

	Agree	Disagree	N/A
Harlesden	87%	4.3%	8.7%
Wembley Central	78.3%	13%	8.7%
Ealing Road	78.3%	13%	8.7%
Kilburn High Road	82.6%	8.7%	8.7%
Willesden High Road	82.6%	8.7%	8.7%
Neasden Town Centre	82.6%	8.7%	8.7%
East Lane	78.3%	8.7%	13%
Queensway	78.3%	8.7%	13%
Kingsbury Station Parade	82.6%	8.7%	8.7%
Sudbury Town	87%	4.3%	8.7%

**Question 4** - Do you feel that the evidence provided for the 10 current CIZ areas sufficiently outlines the issues to be addressed in terms of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour?

Yes – 78.3%

No – 21.7%

### Free text responses

**Question 5.** If you disagreed with any of the existing 10 CIZs please explain why and identify and additional evidence you would like us to consider.

Comment	Response
This is more of a social and cultural problem which would need to be implied closer. In the case of what was mentioned, increase police [presence] or community police officers would be more desirable.	Noted
East Lane has only a limited amount of premises that are currently or will be in the future, licensed. It [is] not the same type of area as those other 9 areas and doesn't have the same negative issues.	Noted
Evidence is not tailored specifically enough to local areas, needs and impacts. Appears to be too broad brush.	Noted
Just because someone buys alcohol in one place doesn't mean they cannot drink it elsewhere.	Noted
The CIZ should also be considered in respect to 'on licences'. We have seen from experiences at the Euros and certain concert or boxing events that many instances of ASB can be directly attributed to 'on licence' premises. The PSPO and it's slightly dubious controls over 'off licences' on event days and alcohol sales are already very tough but controls over 'on licence' premises are not equal.	Noted
Harlesden CIZ should include Station Road	Noted- Requested further evidence from Community Safety team
Crime [is] not related to alcohol shops	Noted
Event days - the cost of alcohol at a game is £6.75 a pint. Although I completely understand concerns not everyone who wants a drink [on] the	Noted

way to a game is causing an issue or unable to use a bin	
Shoot Up Hill should be part of the Cricklewood Broadway CIZ. Not Neasden. More geographically logical as Shoot Up Hill becomes Cricklewood Broadway. Harlesden Road should be added to Willesden. There is only one shop with a licence at 144. Litter from street drinkers is an issue.	Changes made to zones.
East Lane has a completely different structure and demographic	

**Question 6.** The proposed new areas for CIZs are Wembley Park and Cricklewood Broadway. Do you feel that the evidence provided sufficiently outlines the issues to be addressed in terms of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour?

Yes - 87%

No – 13%

**Question 7.** If you answered No above, please explain your answer.

Comments	Responses
This is more of a social and cultural problem which starts at home. In comparison, other nations where drinking is allowed on public streets do not have such a disorder.	Our policy cannot address this issue
Not enough evidence of direct cause of crime and disorder.	Comment is noted. No changes are required in the CIZ policy
There are obvious ASB issues around Wembley Park that predominantly occur during large events at Wembley Stadium. Since the EUROs final the PSPO in respect to 'street drinking has been enforced when, previously it wasn't. I would expect that there should be clear evidence available to support the new Wembley Park CIZ. With this in mind I must ask why Olympic Way and Wembley Boulevard are not in the proposed CIZ? There are many licenced premises on both Olympic Way and Wembley Boulevard and more units and buildings are being built and or opened on a weekly basis. Many of these are likely to apply for new premise licences or where	Comment noted. Olympic Way and Wembley Boulevard now included in CIZ.

existing premises may also asked for variations to extend hours etc.	
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**Question 8.** Do you agree or disagree that the proposed two new areas should be in a Cumulative Impact Zones?

A Agree - 78.3%

B Disagree 21.7%

**Question 9.** If you disagreed in question 8 please can you explain why, highlighting which area you are disagreeing with?

Comment	Response
All this won't reduce anything only place more wood to the fire	Comment noted
Wembley Central event day exemption	Comment noted
Needs shops	Comment noted

**Question 12.** The CIZs relate to applications for off-licences, do you feel this is the most appropriate way to use the CIZs to address the issues?

A Yes - 78.3%

B No - 21.7%

**Do you think there are additional areas that should be considered for a CIZ?**

Comment	Responses
Preston Road	Noted for next review
Bridge Road – Barnhill Burnt Oak Broadway - Queensbury Church Road – Roundwood Honeypot Lane - Queensbury Heather Park Drive – Alperton Mount Pleasant – Alperton Olympic Way – Wembley Park Ward Salisbury Road – Kilburn Wembley Hill Road – Tokyngton Ward Wembley Park Drive – Preston	Some have been added to the existing CIZs.

**Other comments;**

Comments	Response
The data appears to come from crime reports that are available to the public. This would have come from crime reports that were taken by police. Many ASB calls do not result in crime reports as ASB is not a recordable crime in most cases. It would be beneficial to gain another layer of data of calls to police relating to ASB to see if these correspond with the TNO data in the proposal.	Comments noted
Anecdotal it is known crime is under reported, especially 'low level' ASB. This is due to residents giving up on reporting to the police because no action is taken. The under reporting masks to real level of ASB that then escalates to more serious crime. Hence the police stats do not reflect the real crime situation which then impacts on deciding which areas are included in CIZ.	Comments noted
Minimum Unit Pricing should be mandatory for new/reviewed licences with a CIZ.	Comments noted
It no longer matches ward boundaries which may confuse people.	Comments noted
I agree with the need. I just think that on an event day people shouldn't be stopped from having a good time just because others have caused an issue. The limited selling just means that customers are able to be charged an extortionate fee at the event	Comments noted
CIAs are a sop to crime and disorder reduction. For example, we could just ban all licenced premises and that would then reduce crime?! This is not an adequate response to the issues residents' experience.	Comments noted

## Cumulative Impact Assessment Consultation Questions 2022

### 1. Are you a:

- ☐ Brent resident
- ☐ Owner / manager / employee of a licensed premises
- ☐ Owner / manager / employee of a non-licensed premises
- ☐ Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Please give your postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Do you agree or disagree with continuing with the current ClZ

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Harlesden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wembley Central	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ealing Road	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kilburn High Road	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Willesden High Road	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neasden Town Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
East Lane	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Queensbury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Kingsbury Station Parade	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sudbury Town	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**4. Do you feel that the evidence provided for the 10 current ClZ areas sufficiently outlines the issues to be addressed in terms of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour?**

**A Yes**

**B No**

**5. If you disagreed with any of the existing 10 ClZs in Question 3, please explain why and identify any additional evidence you would like us to consider.**

**6. The proposed new areas for ClZs are Wembley Park and Cricklewood Broadway. Do you feel that the evidence provided sufficiently outlines the issues to be addressed in terms of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour?**

**A Yes**

**B No**

**7. If you answered No above, please explain your answer.**

**8. Do you agree or disagree that the proposed two new areas should be in a Cumulative Impact Zones?**

**A Agree**

**B Disagree**

**9. If you disagreed in question 8 please can you explain why, highlighting which area you are disagreeing with?**

**10. Given the purpose of the CIZs in limiting the number of premises selling alcohol in specific areas, do you feel this is appropriate to reduce the impact of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour in these areas?**

**A Yes**

**B No**

**11. If you answered No above, please explain your answer.**

**12.The CIZs relate to applications for off-licences, do you feel this is the most appropriate way to use the CIZs to address the issues?**

**A Yes**

**B No**

**13. If you answered No above, please explain your answer.**

**14. Do you think there are additional areas that should be considered for a CIZ?**



**A Yes**

**B No**

**15. If you answered Yes above, please explain which additional area(s) should be included in the Cumulative Impact Assessment, providing their boundaries and the evidence to support your view.**

**16. Please use the space below for any other comments you wish to make about the Cumulative Impact Assessment:**

### **3. Attachments**

Please attach any written submissions or additional evidence you would like to be considered as part of the consultation process.

### **4. About you**

So we can best understand our service users and residents please complete this optional information about you. All information is used under the strict controls of the 1998 Data Protection Act:

17. What is your age?

**A 0-15**

**B 16-24**

**C 25-34**

**D 35-44**

**E 45-54**

**F** 55-64

**G** 65+

**H** Prefer not to say

18. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

A Yes

B No

C Prefer not to say

19. What is your ethnicity?

A Asian or Asian British

B Black or Black British

C White or White British Other ethnic group

D Other ethnic background

E Prefer not to say

20. What is your gender?

A Female

B Male

C Non-binary

D Prefer not to say

21. Is your gender identity different to the sex you were assumed to be at birth?

A Yes, it's different

B No, it's the same

C Prefer not to say

22. What is your sexual orientation?

A Bisexual

B Lesbian or gay woman

C Gay man

D Heterosexual or straight

E Other

F Prefer not to say

23. What is your religion or belief?

A No religion or belief

B Buddhist

C Christian

D Hindu

E Jewish

F Muslim

G Sikh

H Other

I Prefer not to say

Thank you for taking part in this questionnaire.

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## Policy 9: Cumulative Impact Policy

- Policy:** The Council has adopted a Cumulative Impact Policy to establish Cumulative Impact Zones for the following areas: Harlesden; Wembley Central; Ealing Road; Kilburn High Road; Willesden High Road; Neasden Town Centre; East Lane; Kingsbury; Queensbury Station Parade; Sudbury Town – Harrow Road and Watford Road; Wembley Park and Cricklewood Broadway. The Cumulative Impact Policy for these areas applies only to Off-Licences. Where an application for a new off-licence or for variations to off-licences is received (which would increase the sale of alcohol, including through longer hours), the presumption is that the application will be refused

The Council has established twelve (12) Cumulative Impact Zones (CIZs) in Brent. The purpose of these CIZs is to address levels of crime and disorder, and anti-social behaviour, particular that associated with street drinking. Therefore, the CIZs will specifically relate to applications and variations for off-licences.

The Cumulative Impact Policy will be reviewed every three years in line with requirements under the Licensing Act 2003, though the next review will take place in two years' time to bring it in line with the overall review of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

It is important to note that the CIZs adopted will not cause any existing licences to be changed. It can only apply to new applications and variations of existing licences. It is also not an absolute policy and where an applicant can satisfactorily evidence that their application or variation will not negatively impact on the licensing objectives the Licensing Authority will determine the application on its own merit.

The CIZs do not address the matter of the need for a premises. The need for premises is a commercial matter and is not a consideration for the Council in the discharge of its functions and this policy. Need is a matter for the planning authority and market forces.

It is also important to note that Policy 11: Voluntary ban on high strength sales is a separate policy and adoption of the voluntary condition(s) supported and encouraged in Policy 11 will not necessarily address the requirements under a Cumulative Impact Zone. Any licence application in a CIZ area will need to demonstrate with evidence that its operation will not add to any cumulative impacts that the CIZ is seeking to address.

See Appendix 6 for further details.

### ***Cumulative impact outside of Cumulative Impact Policy areas***

The Council recognises that the cumulative impact of licensed premises can be experienced by residents in areas where there is no current cumulative impact policy in place. Cumulative impact is not defined in the Licensing Act 2003 but is addressed in national guidance which defines it as "the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area". The guidance goes on to state that the cumulative impact of licensed premises on the promotion of the licensing objectives is a proper matter for a licensing authority to consider in developing its licensing policy statement.

The Council will consider any representation that refers to the impact of a number of premises in an area. The absence of a special policy in an area will not prevent any Responsible Authority or other person from making representations on the grounds that the premises will give rise to a negative cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives in the area in question. Representations referencing cumulative impact need to be evidence based and

show how the present number of licensed premises are impacting on the objectives and demonstrate how a specific licensed premises in a particular area will add to those problems.

## Appendix 6: Cumulative Impact Zones

The Council has determined that issues relating to the sale of alcohol from off-licences, specifically relating to crime and anti-social behaviour linked with street drinking, necessitate the introduction of Cumulative Impact Zones (CIZs). The areas in which these specific issues have been identified are:

- Harlesden;
- Wembley Central;
- Ealing Road;
- Kilburn High Road;
- Willesden High Road;
- Neasden Town Centre;
- Kingsbury Road and Queensbury Station Parade;
- East Lane;
- Sudbury Town – Harrow Road and Watford Road;
- Wembley Park and
- Cricklewood Broadway.

### What is a CIZ?

Cumulative Impact Zones are a tool outlined in the Licensing Act 2003 to address specific issues where the authorising of further licences in a specific area may be inconsistent as well as undermine the promotion of the licensing objectives.

A CIZ creates circumstances in which any new licence or variation to an existing licence that increases the scope for the sale of alcohol within the specified area will not be granted unless the applicant can evidence that the operation of the licence or licence variation will not contribute to the issues identified to be addressed by the CIZ.

The effect of adopting a CIZ is to “create a rebuttable presumption” that applications for licences which are likely to add to the existing cumulative impact will normally be refused (or subject to certain limitations) unless the applicant can demonstrate that there will be no negative cumulative impact on the licensing objectives. CIZs have proved to be a useful tool for tackling alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour for other licensing authorities. In May 2017, Parliament noted that there are now over 200 Cumulative Impact Zones (CIZs) in England and Wales.

### Why have CIZs in Brent?

The Council's current Licensing Policy came into effect 6 January 2020 at this time there were ten CIZs identified. Since 2020 there has been a significant and notable increase in alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour which is having an adverse impact in some areas and neighbourhoods generating complaints from residents, councillors and the Police. This is undermining the licensing objectives and also has potential to undermine the vitality of Brent's town centres and neighbourhoods.

Data captured from various sources including alcohol related police call outs have been mapped and have shown suitable evidence to implement CIZs in the specified areas. In particular crime data and evidence shows a correlation between concentrations of off-licences and alcohol related anti-social behaviour, particularly that associated with street drinking.

In areas which benefit from 24-hour tube service the Council not only has to ensure a safe environment that also supports a vibrant, diverse and successful night time economy in Kilburn and Wembley. This involves promotion of on-licences for restaurants, music venues etc that

support the culture and economy of these areas, whilst tackling the negative impacts created by too many off-licences in any given area.

In January 2020 ten CIZ's were established in the following areas;

- Harlesden;
- Wembley Central;
- Ealing Road;
- Kilburn High Road;
- Willesden High Road;
- Neasden Town Centre;
- Kingsbury Road and Queensbury Station Parade;
- East Lane;
- Sudbury Town – Harrow Road and Watford Road.

### **Which types of licences will this effect?**

The CIZs will only effect applications that relate to off-licences or variations to existing off-licences. This is specifically to address the public nuisance and crime and disorder (violence crimes in particular) that are caused through activities such as street drinking.

### **The Review of CIZ areas**

The maps below shows violence with injury crimes between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022.

The higher the bar the higher the reporting of the chosen dataset is in the area.

### **Harlesden**

Harlesden town centre consists of a series of parades of shops that run along Craven Park, Craven Park Road, Park Parade and High Street Harlesden. The town centre falls between, Harlesden and Kensal Green ward and is one of the most deprived areas in the borough.

Harlesden Town Centre is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and anti-social behaviour. It is also a hotspot for ambulance calls where the victim has sustained an injury. The data shows the whole of the town centre suffers from high levels of alcohol related issues, including residential streets off the main town centre such as Rucklidge Avenue, Wendover Road, Buckingham Road and St Albans Road.

Harlesden Town Centre is also the primary hotspot for reports of street drinking to police. All other town centres in Brent suffers from street drinking; however, in parts of Harlesden such as Craven Park Road and High Street, the street drinking interrelates with drug misuse and violent crime.

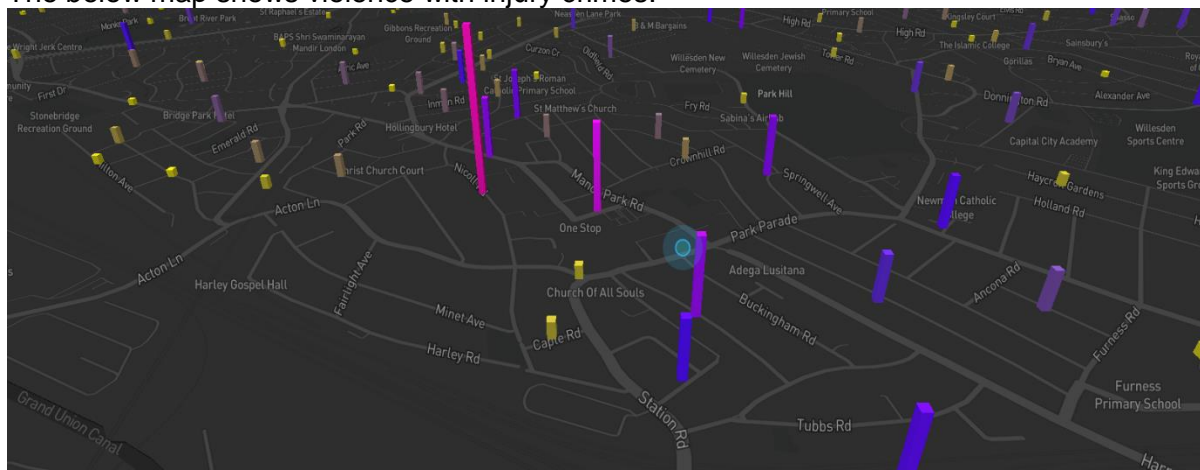
Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 321 reports to the police, including 184 relating to anti-social behaviour, 28 relating to public order breaches and 87 reports relating to violence.

The streets to be included in Harlesden are:

- Craven Park Road
- Craven Park
- High Street
- Park Parade
- Manor Park Road



The below map shows violence with injury crimes.



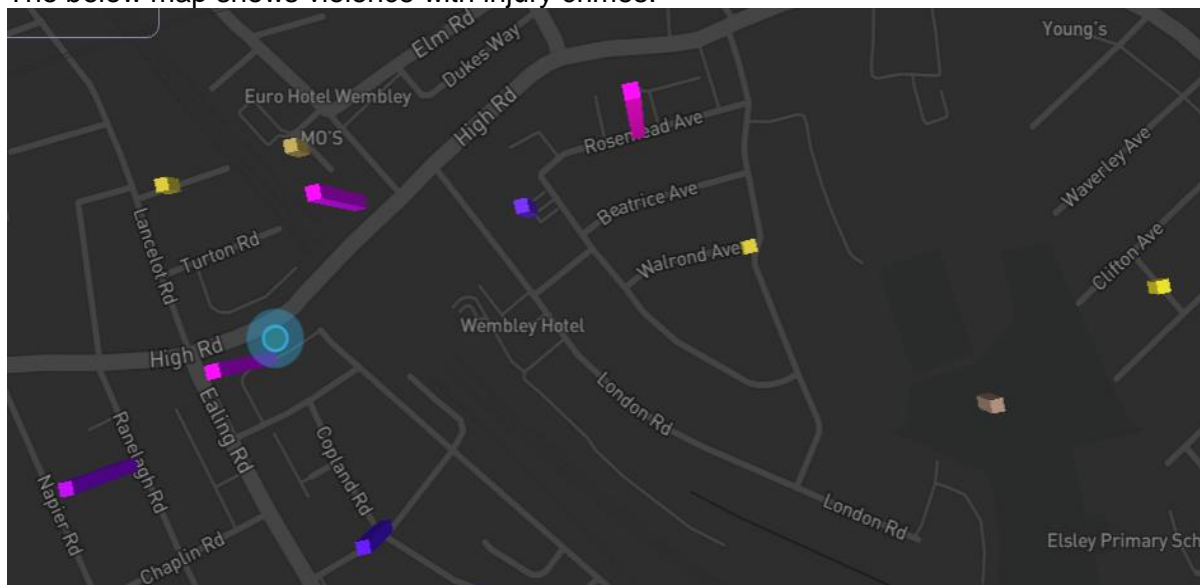
### Wembley Central (Wembley High Road/North End of Ealing Road)

Wembley Central is a ward which includes two busy shopping parades on Wembley High Road and the north end of Ealing Road. Wembley central has areas of low to medium levels of deprivation.

Wembley Central is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and anti-social behaviour. The data shows the whole of the High Road from Ealing Road to Wembley Triangle experiencing high levels of alcohol related issues.

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 279 reports to the police, including 118 relating to anti-social behaviour, 39 relating to public order breaches and 104 reports relating to violence.

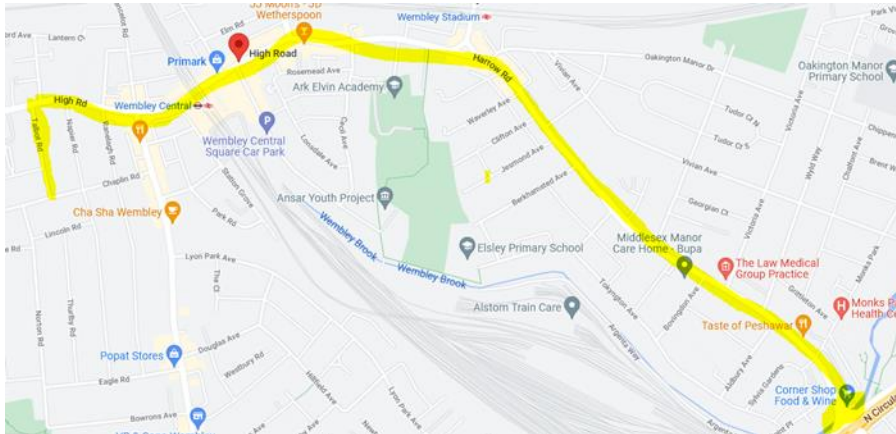
The below map shows violence with injury crimes.



The streets to be included in Wembley Central are:

- High Road
- Lancelot Road

- Harrow Road – (Wembley- North of the North Circular)
- London Road
- Central Square
- Wembley Park Drive



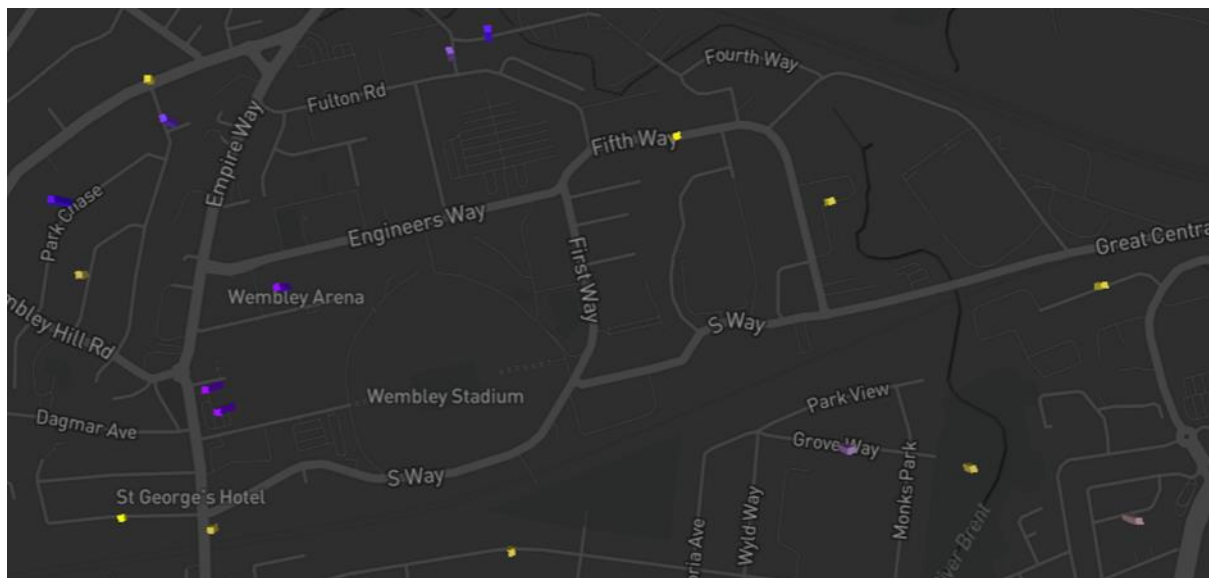
## Wembley Park

Wembley Park is a new CIZ which would include the new developments in the area. It includes the roads surrounding the Stadium. Due to the number of events and the increased number of shops the data shows there is a high level of ASB in the area.

This new area comprises of St John's Avenue and Park Lane which will be removed from the Wembley Central CIZ.

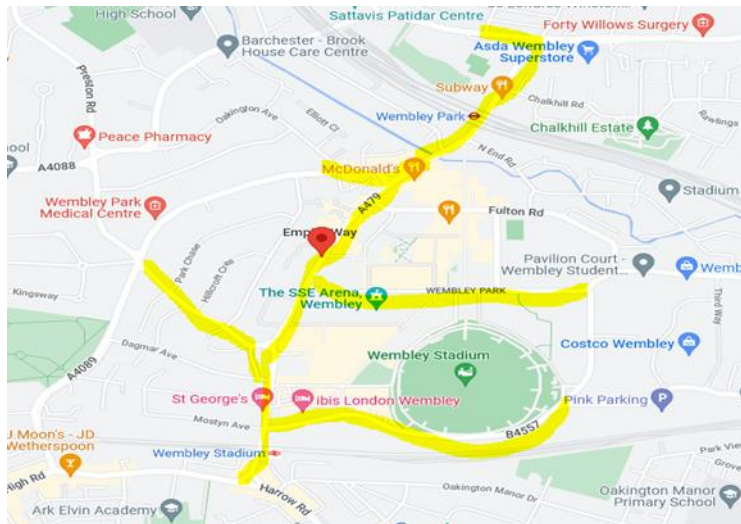
Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 266 reports to the police, including 147 relating to anti-social behaviour, 15 relating to public order breaches and 99 reports relating to violence.

The below map shows violence with injury crimes.



The streets to be included in Wembley Park are (starting at junction of Barn Rise & Forty Avenue to Wembley Triangle) are:

- Empire Way
- South Way
- Wembley Hill Road
- Engineers Way
- Grand Parade (Forty Lane)
- Olympic Way
- Bridge Road
- Wembley Park Drive



## Ealing Road

Ealing Road from the junction of High Road Wembley up to the junction of Bridgewater Road.

This is an area with medium to high levels of deprivation and is a hotspot for alcohol related calls to police. This area is also a high reporting area for street drinking and ASB related reports to Brent Council.

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 183 reports to the police, including 72 relating to anti-social behaviour, 11 relating to public order breaches and 91 reports relating to violence.

The below map shows violence with injury crimes.



The streets to be included are:

- Atlip Road
- Mount Pleasant Road up to the junction of Orchard Close
- Montrose Crescent
- Union Road
- Coronet Parade
- Heather Park Parade
- Mount Pleasant

### Neasden Town Centre

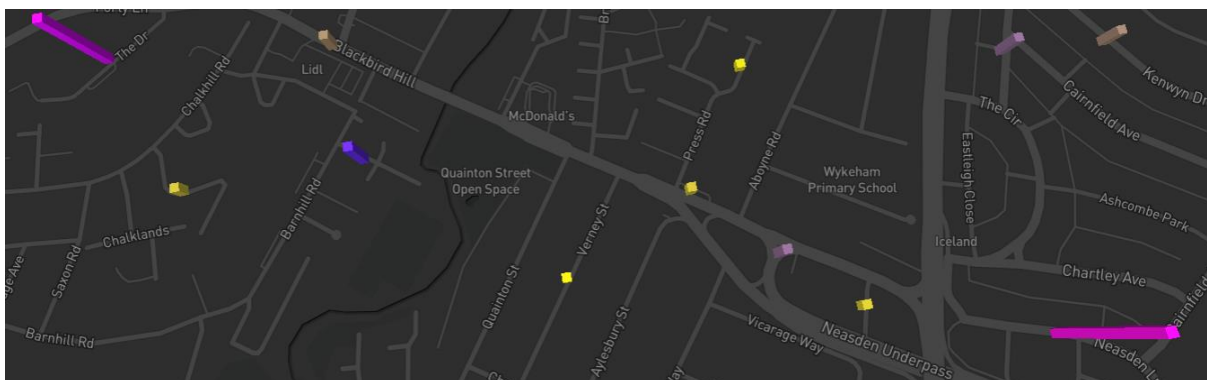
Neasden town centre consists of a medium sized parade of shops that run along Neasden Lane which is just off the North Circular Road. The town centre is primarily in Dudden Hill ward and in an area of medium to high levels of deprivation.

Neasden Town Centre is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police but not for crime and anti-social behaviour. However, Neasden Lane North, just outside the town centre, is a hotspot for both.

Changes in demographics in Neasden have seen a change in the street drinking profile, which ranges from social to problematic street drinking.

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 212 reports to the police, including 91 relating to anti-social behaviour, 27 relating to public order breaches and 81 reports relating to violence.

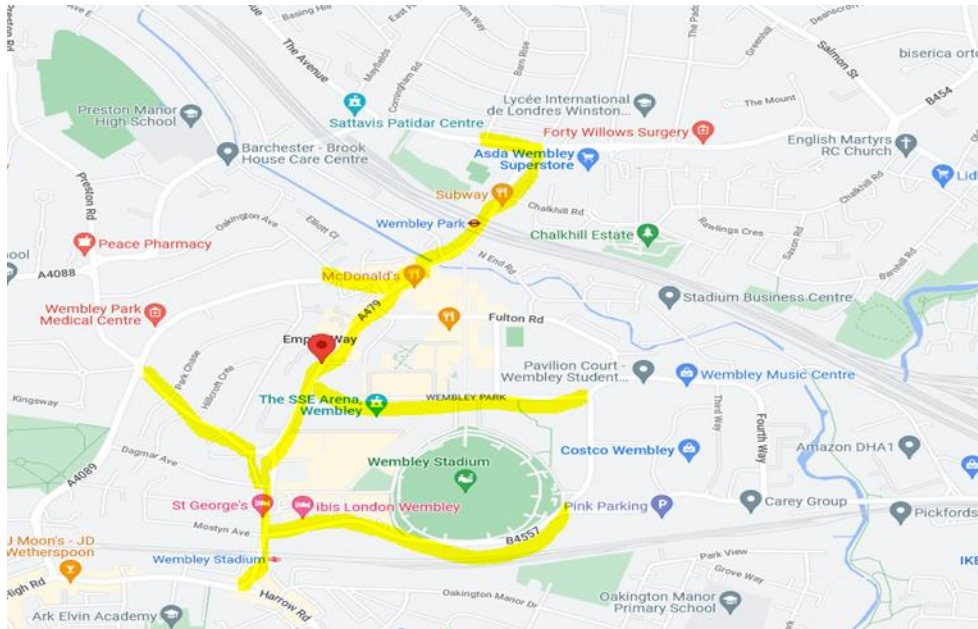
The below map shows violence with injury crimes.





The streets to be included in Neasden Town Centre are:

- Neasden Lane
- Neasden Lane North
- Blackbird Hill
- Forty Lane (up until the road 'The Paddocks')



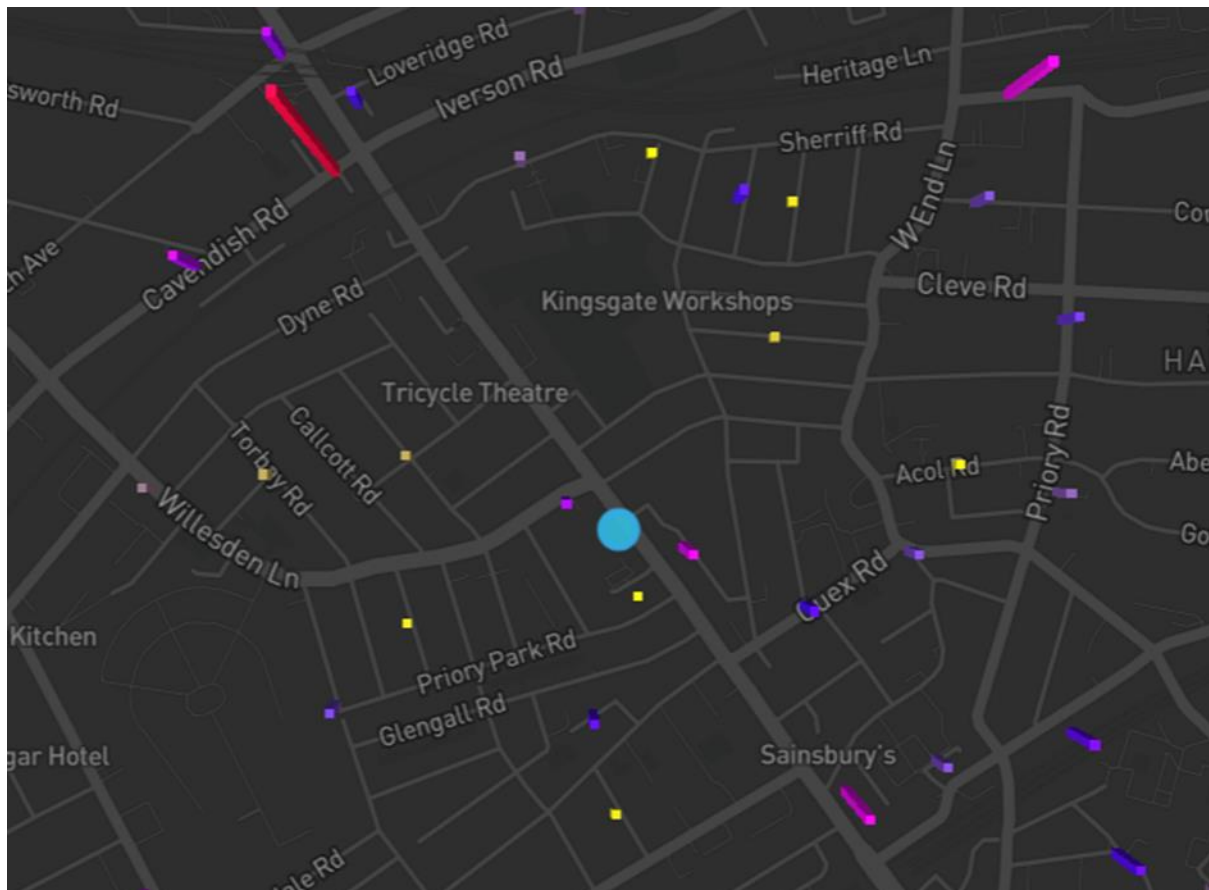
### Kilburn High Road

Kilburn High Road is a busy large shopping parade, which runs along the border of Brent and Camden. Kilburn High Road is predominately in an area of medium levels of deprivation apart from South Kilburn Estate, which has high levels of deprivation

Kilburn High Road is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and anti-social behaviour.

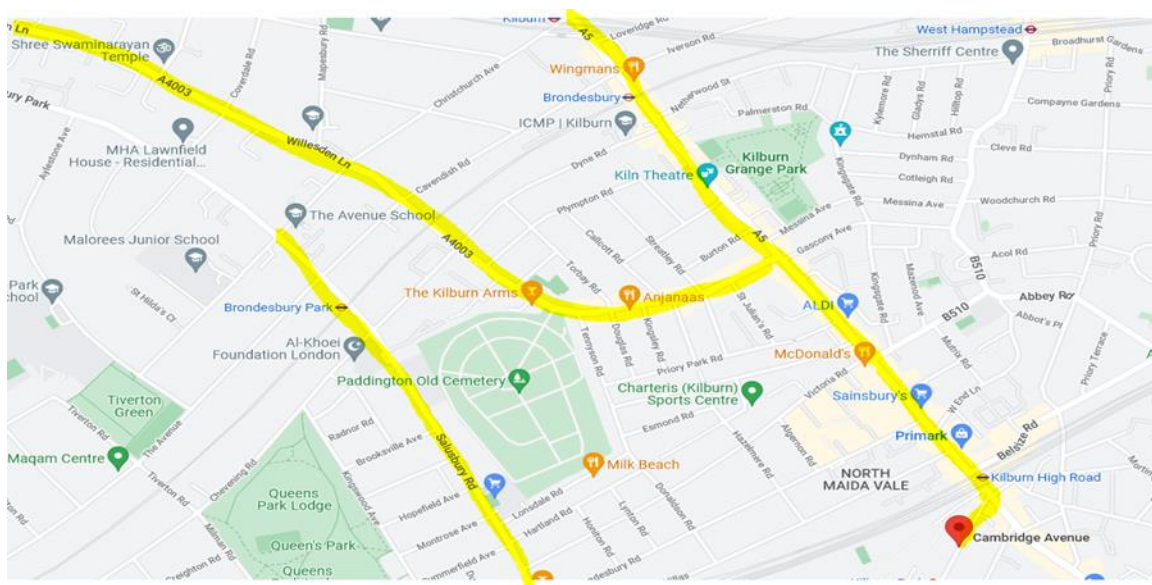
Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 556 reports to the police, including 263 relating to anti-social behaviour, 58 relating to public order breaches and 225 reports relating to violence.

The below map shows violence with injury crimes.



The streets to be included in Kilburn are:

- Kilburn High Road (starting at Christchurch Avenue to Cambridge Avenue)
- Glengall Road
- Willesden Lane
- Cambridge Avenue
- Salusbury Road

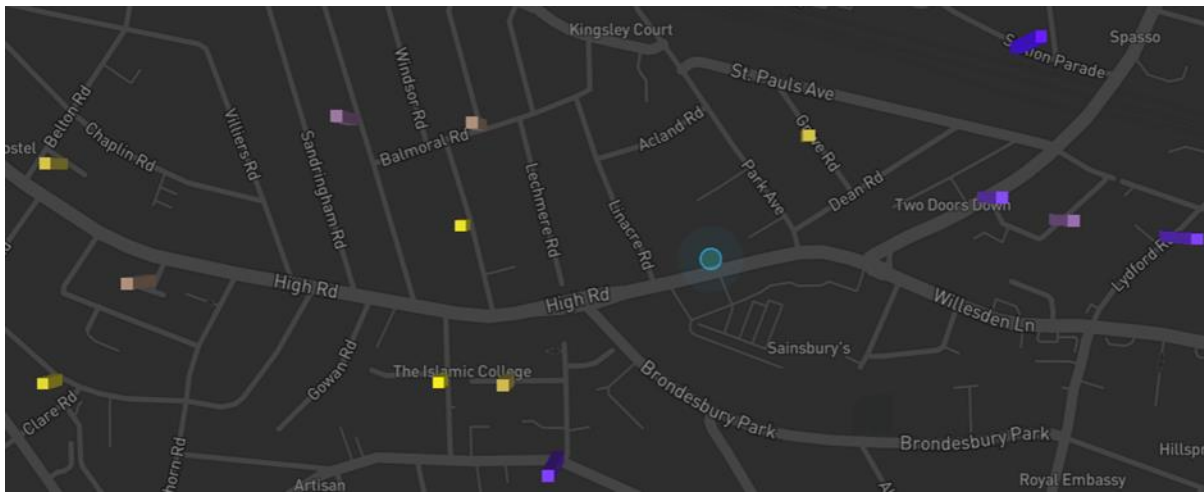


### High Road, Willesden

Willesden is busy large parade of shops in Willesden Green Ward. High Road, Willesden is in an area of medium to high levels of deprivation. High Road, Willesden is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and ASB. The data shows the alcohol related issues are primarily just outside the town centre around the junction of High Road, Willesden and Pound Lane.

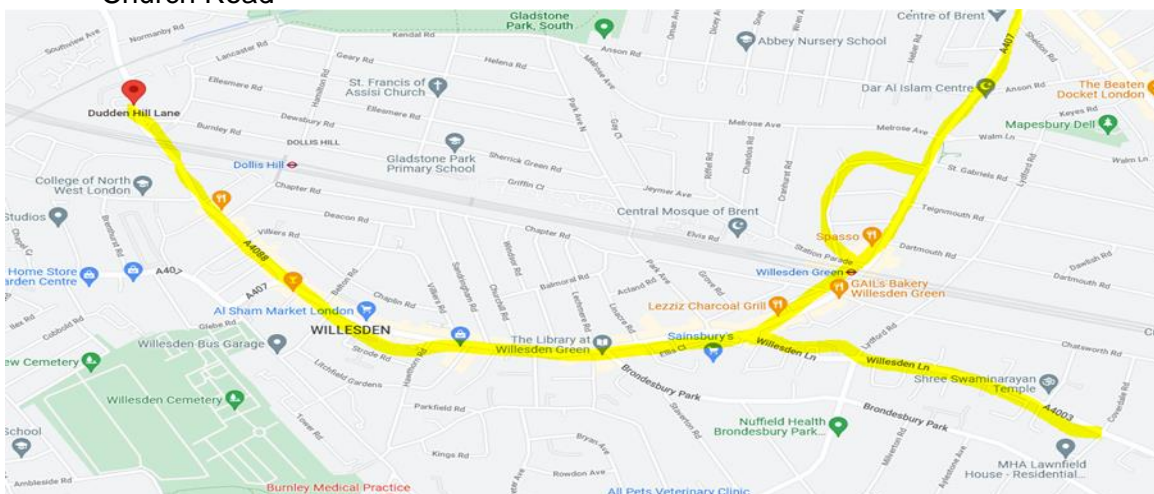
Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 240 reports to the police, including 93 relating to anti-social behaviour, 31 relating to public order breaches and 106 reports relating to violence.

The below map shows violence with injury crimes.



The streets to be included in High Road, Willesden are:

- High Road
- Dudden Hill Lane
- Walm Lane
- Station Parade
- Willesden Lane
- Pound Lane
- Church Road



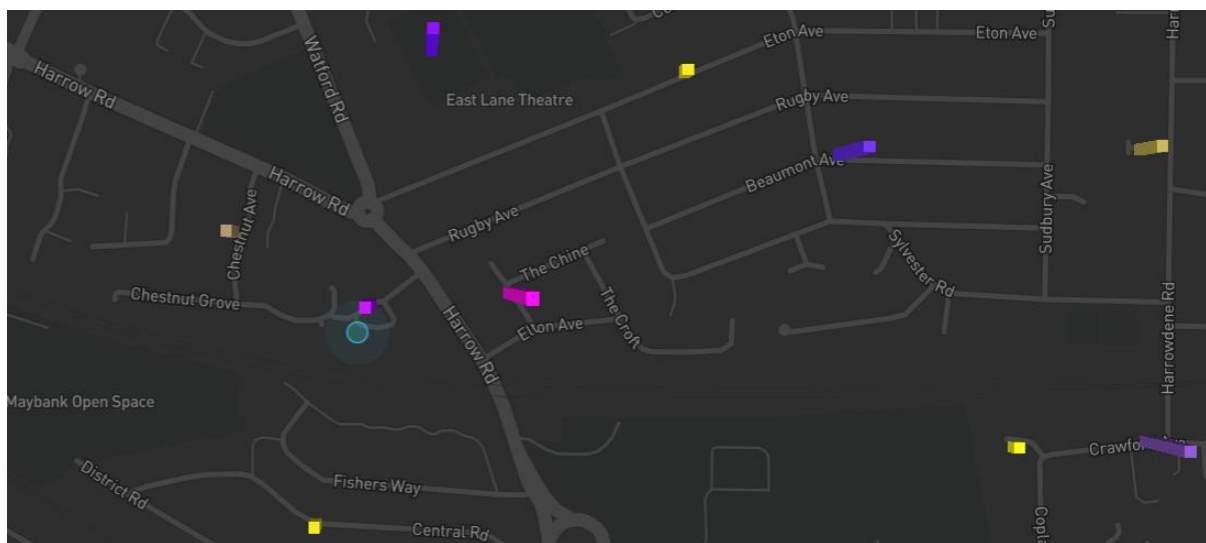
### Sudbury Town Centre

Sudbury Town Centre is a medium sized shopping parade in an area of low levels of deprivation.

Sudbury Town Centre is a minor hotspot for alcohol related police calls within Brent. Calls are generally related to the area from the roundabout at Butler's Green to the junction of Sudbury Crescent and Harrow Road.

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 209 reports to the police, including 114 relating to anti-social behaviour, 20 relating to public order breaches and 72 reports relating to violence.

The below map shows violence with injury crimes.



The streets to be included in Sudbury Town Centre are:

- Sudbury Town Centre (junction of Sudbury Roundabout (adjacent to District Road) up to the junction of Chestnut Avenue, along Watford Road up to the junction of Homefield Avenue)
- Harrow Road - North of the North Circular
- Watford Road

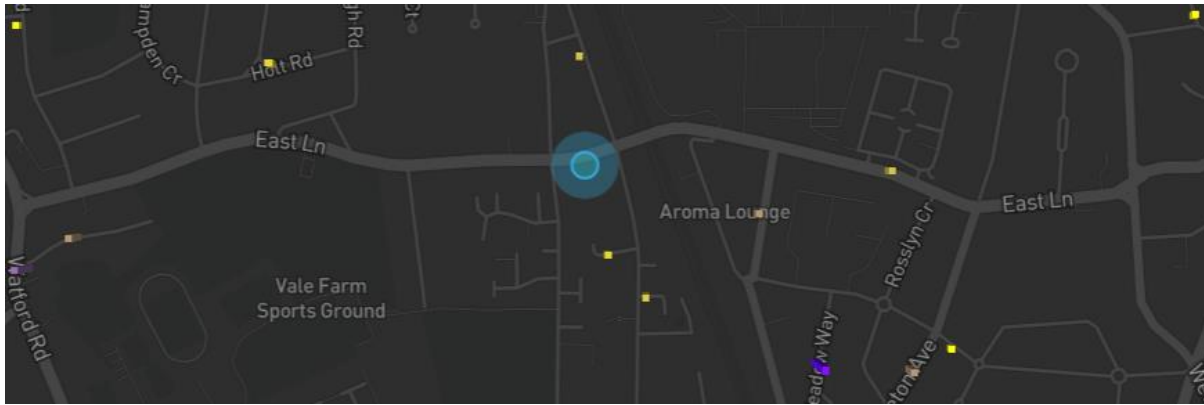
### East Lane

East Lane in North Wembley is a small sized shopping parade in an area of Medium levels of deprivation. East Lane is not a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and anti-social behaviour. Recent data has shown a reduction in this area, however historically this has been a challenging location and sits between two other CIZ locations.

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 120 reports to the police, including 84 relating to anti-social behaviour, 5 relating to public order breaches and 31 reports relating to violence.

The below map shows violence with injury crimes.





The street to be included in East Lane is:

- East Lane

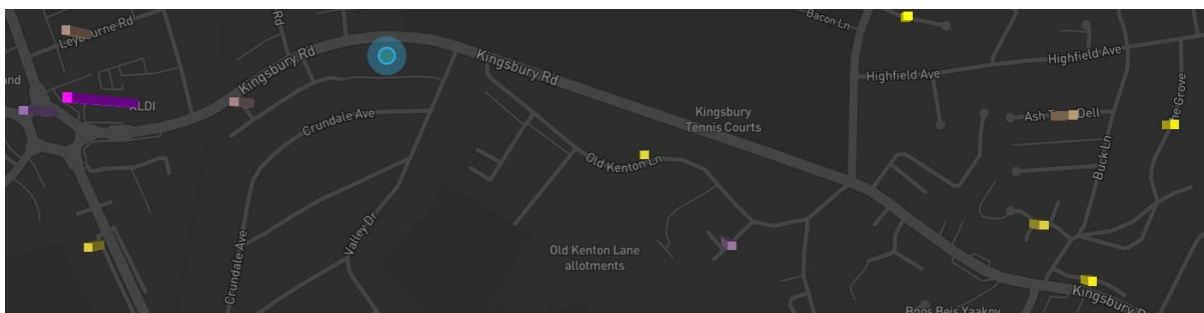
### **Kingsbury**

Kingsbury town centre is busy shopping parade on both sides of a main road in an area of low to medium levels of deprivation.

Kingsbury is a hotspot for alcohol flagged calls to the Police for crime and anti-social behaviour in the north of the Borough. The hotspot area circled is around the London Underground station.

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 158 reports to the police, including 73 relating to anti-social behaviour, 11 relating to public order breaches and 68 reports relating to violence.

The below map shows violence with injury crimes.



The streets to be included in Kingsbury are:

- Kingsbury Road
- Edgware Road
- Church Lane
- Hay Lane
- Kenton Road
- Fryent Way up to Wyndale Avenue

### **Queensbury**

Queensbury station parade is a parade of shops, businesses and restaurants surrounding a green public area in an area of Medium levels of deprivation. Incidents of street drinking are high perception wise, although they are not reflected in calls to police. This is a significantly smaller geographical area compared to other CIZs.

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 43 reports to the police, including 14 relating to anti-social behaviour, 4 relating to public order breaches and 24 reports relating to violence.

The below map shows violence with injury crimes.



The streets to be included in Queensbury are:

- Queensbury Station Parade
- Burnt Oak Broadway
- Honeypot Lane

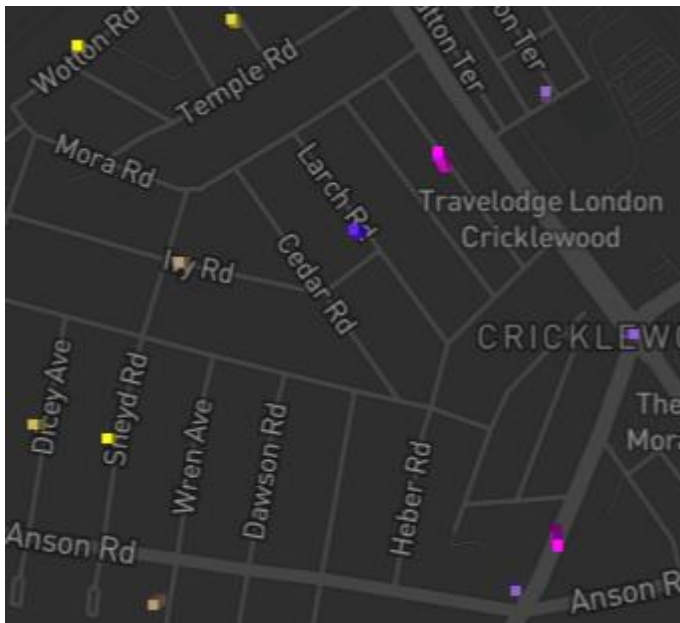
### **Cricklewood Broadway**

Cricklewood Broadway is a busy High Street with a variety of shops on one side of the Broadway which is in Brent. The data shows that there is a high level of ASB.

This is a new CIZ for Brent.

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 there were 238 reports to the police, including 149 relating to anti-social behaviour, 2 relating to public order breaches and 81 reports relating to violence.

The below map shows violence with injury crimes.



The street to be included in Cricklewood Broadway is:

- Cricklewood Broadway

 <b>Brent</b>	<p align="center"><b>Full Council</b> 21 November 2022</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Report from the Corporate Director, Governance</b></p>
<p><b>Changes to the Constitution</b></p>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<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 A: Proposed changes to Constitution – Planning Code of Practice
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Debra Norman, Corporate Director, Governance 020 8937 1578 <a href="mailto:Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk">Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report proposes changes to the Constitution, primarily to reflect the recommended changes following the Independent Review of the Planning Code of Practice.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the amendments to the Constitution set out in this report and Appendix A.
- 2.2 To authorise the Corporate Director, Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

### **3.0 Background**

#### **Planning Code of Practice**

- 3.1. Changes are required to Part 6 of the Council's Constitution containing the Planning Code of Practice (the Code), to reflect the independent review of the Council's Code which was undertaken in June 2022, by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) part of the Local Government Association. The Independent review is required by the Code to address the extent of "compliance with this Code by officers and members, contain an analysis of decisions being made against officers' recommendations and set out any appropriate recommendations for improvement."
- 3.2 A copy of the report containing the independent expert's findings, recommendations and the consequential action taken by officers was considered by the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on 29.09.22. Council should note that Audit and Standards Advisory Committee were advised that the recommendations pertaining to (a) and (b) below were still under consideration when the committee considered the report.
- (a) new section in the Code of Practice to provide guidance to Members of Planning Committee and other councillors on their engagement in the pre application process.
  - (b) consider additional sections in the Code of Practice to include councillor responsibilities in reviewing live planning applications and how they should be engaged in post decision matters.

These (a & b above) have now been addressed and included into Appendix A, under paragraphs 8, 13 and 14.

- 3.3 Officer's would like to highlight that the Independent Reviewer found that "Brent's Code of Practice should be considered as national best practice and used as a benchmark for other Councils to use to help them review their own codes of practice".
- 3.4 The changes to the Planning Code reflect the "fine tuning" recommended by the reviewer, in addition to addressing 3.2 (a) and (b) above.

### **4.0 Legal implications**

- 4.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this 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.

**Report sign off:**

**Debra Norman**

Corporate Director Governance

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## PLANNING CODE OF PRACTICE

### 1. PURPOSE OF THIS CODE

- 1.1. The Planning Code of Practice has been adopted by Brent Council to regulate the performance of its planning function. Its major objectives are to guide members and officers of the Council in dealing with planning related matters and to inform potential developers and the public generally of the standards adopted by the Council in the exercise of its planning powers. The Planning Code of Practice is, in addition to the Brent Members' Code of Conduct, adopted by the Council under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. Members must follow the requirements of the Brent Members' Code and apply this Code in light of the Members' Code. The standards of behaviour expected of officers is set out in a separate Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policy which all officers are required to follow. Councillors and officers have different, but complementary roles, however, both serve the public and act in the public interest. Both councillors and officers must make planning decisions openly, impartially, with sound judgment and for justifiable planning reasons. The Protocol for Member /Officer relations provides guidance to members and officers of the council in their relations with one another. In addition, employees have to follow all other relevant HR policies of the Council as well as the terms and conditions of their contract of employment. The purpose of this Code is to provide more detailed guidance on the standards to be applied by members specifically in relation to planning matters.
- 1.2. The Code seeks to ensure that officers and members consider and decide planning matters in a fair impartial and transparent manner. The provisions of this code are designed to ensure that planning decisions are taken on proper planning grounds, are applied in a consistent and open manner and that members of the Planning Committee making such decisions are, and are perceived as being, accountable for those decisions. The Code is also designed to assist members of the Council in dealing with and recording approaches from developers and objectors and is intended to ensure that the integrity of the decision-making process is preserved.
- 1.3. If a member does not abide by this Code the member may put the Council at risk of proceedings on the legality or maladministration of the related decision; and the member may be at risk of either being named in a report to the Audit and Standards Committee or Council; or if the failure to abide by the Code is also likely to be a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct, of a complaint being made to the Monitoring Officer.
- 1.4. If you have any doubts about the interpretation of this code, you should consult appropriate officers on the point.

### 2. THE PRINCIPLES OF PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING

- 2.1. Members of the Planning Committee shall determine applications in accordance with the relevant planning national, strategic, local and neighbourhood policy framework, unless material considerations indicate. The Brent Members' Code of Conduct and the law relating to Brent Council members' disclosable pecuniary interests and personal interests must be complied with throughout the decision making process. Decisions should not be influenced by the interests of Councillors or because of pressure exerted by applicants, agents or third parties. Members of the Planning Committee must take decisions in the public interest and take account only of material planning considerations. They should not allow themselves to be influenced by members of the public and applicants, agents or third parties who might approach them and they should not be directed by party politics.

- 2.2. The council's planning process is a formal administrative process and members of the Planning Committee have a duty to follow the rules of natural justice and in accordance with the council's duty to act in a way that is compatible with Convention rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 2.3. The rules of natural justice include: the duty to act fairly; the duty to give all those who will be affected by a decision the opportunity of a hearing before a decision is made; and the principle that no person should be a judge in his or her own cause. That principle means that members must be and be seen to be impartial and without bias, and that members should not take part in any decision that affects their own interests.
- 2.4. The Human Rights that are particularly relevant to Planning decisions are Article 6, the right to a fair hearing; Article 1 of the First Protocol, the right to peaceful enjoyment of a person's property and possessions; and Article 8, the right to respect for a person's private and family life, home and possessions.

### **3. BIAS AND PREDETERMINATION**

- 3.1. Members should not take a decision on a matter when they are actually biased (i.e. have a direct or financial interest in the application) in favour or against the application, or when it might appear to a fair minded and informed observer that there was real possibility of bias, or where a member has predetermined the matter by closing their mind to the merits of the planning matter before they come to take a decision on it.
- 3.2. The courts have sought to distinguish between situations which involve predetermination or bias on the one hand and predisposition on the other. The former is indicative of a "closed mind" and likely to leave the committee's decision susceptible to challenge by Judicial Review or complaint to the Ombudsman. The latter reflects the legal position that a councillor is entitled to have an opinion on a planning matter before it comes to committee provided that he/she remains open to listening to all the arguments presented at the meeting and the possibility of changing his/her mind as a result.
- 3.3. Section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 provides that a councillor should not be regarded as having a closed mind simply because they previously did or said something that, directly or indirectly, indicated what view they might take in relation to any particular matter.
- 3.4. Although the Localism Act recognises the reality of the role of members in matters of local interest and debate, it does not amount to the abolition of the concept of pre-determination. A member taking part in a decision on a planning matter must be open to any new arguments about the matter up until the moment of a decision. A member should not comment or make any commitment in advance as to how they intend to vote which might indicate that they have closed their mind. Any planning decision made by a member who can be shown to have approached the decision with a closed mind will still expose the council to the risk of legal challenge.

### **4. ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTERESTS**



- 4.1. Members of the Council who have business or other interests which may bring them into contact with the Council's planning system on a regular basis should not be considered for membership of the Planning Committee. Those interests ~~might~~ include acting as an agent or consultant with respect to planning applications in the borough.
- 4.2. If a member who is not a member of the Committee makes representations to the Committee, either in person or in writing, the member shall state the reason for wishing to do so. Such a member shall disclose whether or not he/she has been in contact with the applicant, agent, objector(s) or any other interested party concerning the planning matter.
- ~~4.3. If a member of the Council has a **personal interest** in any planning application or other matter before the Planning Committee, then the member shall, if present<sup>1</sup>, disclose the existence and nature of the interest before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent. If a member of the Council has a personal interest in any planning application which results in an actual or perceived conflict of interest they should declare that interest as soon they become aware of the interest and should not take no part in the consideration of that matter. If a member is unsure as to whether they must declare an interest or their involvement in respect of a planning matter they should seek advice from the Council's Legal Service.~~
- 4.4. If, in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Members' Code of Conduct, the interest is a '**sensitive interest**', the member must disclose to the meeting that he/she has an interest that is sensitive but need not disclose the nature of the interest or any other sensitive information. The member may then, subject to paragraph 4.4, speak and, if applicable, vote on that particular item.
- ~~4.3.4.5.~~ However, if the personal interest is such that a member of the public knowing the facts would reasonably regard it as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest, then the member must not take part in the discussion or vote on the matter, save that if a member of the public has the right to attend the meeting, make representations, answer questions, or give evidence, then the member will have the same right. Once the member has exercised that right then the member must withdraw from the room for the rest of that item and play no further part in the discussion or vote.
- ~~4.4.4.6.~~ If a member of the Council is aware he/she has a **disclosable pecuniary interest** in any planning application or other matter before the Planning Committee, then the member shall, if present, disclose the existence and nature of the interest before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent. If, in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Members' Code of Conduct, the interest is a 'sensitive interest', the member must disclose to the meeting that he/she has an interest that is sensitive but need not disclose the nature of the interest or any other sensitive information. If a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest in a planning matter the member must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held and not take part in the discussion or vote on the matter. If a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest these prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public. In other words, it does not matter in what capacity the member attends the meeting.

4.5.4.7. If a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest in any planning application or other matter before the Planning Committee, and the interest is not entered in the council's register, and is not the subject of a pending notification, he/she must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest before the end of 28 days beginning with the date of the meeting.

4.6.4.8. A failure to comply, without reasonable excuse, with the rules relating to disclosable pecuniary interests can be an offence.

4.7.4.9. If a member of the Council has a disclosable pecuniary interest or a personal interest (which is so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest) in a planning application or other matter before the Committee, he/she shall not exercise his or her discretion to require the application or other matter to be referred from officers to the Planning Committee for consideration.

4.8.4.10. For the avoidance of doubt, where a member of the Council is a Freemason or a member of a similar secret society and is aware that the applicant, agent or other interested party in relation to a particular planning application is also a Freemason or a member of the same secret society, the member shall treat this as ~~a personal~~ personal interest which is so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest.

4.9.4.11. The Monitoring Officer shall maintain a register of contacts made by applicants, agents or interested parties with individual members of the Council on each and every planning application, in which members of the Planning Committee must record approaches referred to in paragraph 26 and other members of the Council may record such approaches if they so wish.

4.10.4.12. If any officer of the Council who is involved in making recommendations or decisions on planning applications has had any involvement with an applicant, agent or interested party, whether or not in connection with the particular application being determined, which could possibly lead an observer with knowledge of all the relevant facts to suppose that there might be any possibility that the involvement could affect the officer's judgement in any way, then that officer shall declare a prejudicial interest in the public register held by the Corporate Director Communities and Regeneration and take no part in the decision making process. The declaration of such interest shall also be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. This public register will be available for inspection at Planning Committee meetings.

4.11.4.13. No officer of the Council shall engage in any paid work for any town planning matter for which Brent is the Local Planning Authority other than on behalf of the Council.

4.12.4.14. In relation to all matters not addressed above, all such officers shall comply with the Royal Town Planning Institute Practice Advice on Ethics and Professional Standards, or any guidance replacing this.

5. A detailed protocol for **call-in**, which enables a decision to be reviewed before it is implemented, is set out in the "Protocol on Call-in" (Part 5 of the Constitution); and the Planning Committee terms of reference (Part 3 of the Constitution).

6. **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS AND THE COUNCIL**

- 6.1. If a Councillor submits an application for planning permission they must inform the Council's Monitoring Officer of such a planning application. If the application can be dealt with under officer delegated powers, the decision must be approved by either the Head of Planning or the Corporate Director Communities and Regeneration. Councillors must not use or attempt to use their position as a Member improperly to confer on or secure for themselves or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage. When Councillors seek to exercise rights that others would have in their situation, they must do so in the same way that a member of public would i.e. at arm's length and using the same official processes. This process and transparency requirements also applies to Councillors assisting an interested party.
- 6.2. If an Officer submits an application for planning permission, and the application can be dealt with by delegated powers, the decision must be approved by either the Head of Planning or the Corporate Director Communities and Regeneration. Officers must not use or attempt to use their position as a Council Officer to improperly confer on or secure for themselves or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage. When Officer's seek to exercise rights that others would have in their situation, they must do so in the same way that a member of public would i.e. at arm's length and using the same official processes

Development proposals where the Council is the applicant or landowner

- 6.3. Where the council itself is the landowner or planning applicant then a Planning member should consider whether he or she has had such a significant personal involvement in advocating for, preparing or submitting the planning proposal that the member would be likely to be perceived as no longer able to act impartially or to determine the proposal purely on its planning merits. A member would not be required to withdraw simply because they were, for example, a member of both the Cabinet, or a proposing committee, as well as the planning committee. However a member with a relevant portfolio or individual responsibility for implementing a particular policy should carefully consider whether that role makes it inappropriate for them to participate in a particular planning decision.

**7. APPROACHES TO MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE (LOBBYING)**

- 7.1. Lobbying is normal in both politics and in planning decisions. A member of the Planning Committee who has been lobbied and wishes to support or oppose a proposal or a Ward Councillor who wishes to campaign for or against a proposal, will not be able to decide the application.
- 7.2. Members who sit on Planning Committee should not approach an interested party without first speaking to a relevant planning officer and should never meet an applicant without a council officer being present. If an approach is made to a member of the Planning Committee from an applicant or agent or objector or other interested party in relation to a particular planning application or any matter which may give rise to a planning application, the member of the Planning Committee shall:
  - (i) inform the person making such an approach that such matters should be addressed to officers or to members who are not members of the Planning Committee.

- (ii) disclose the fact and nature of such an approach at any meeting of the Planning Committee where the planning application or matter in question is considered; and
- (iii) record the approach in the register maintained by the Monitoring Officer under paragraph 18.

7.3. For the avoidance of any doubt, if the applicant, agent or objector or other interested party attend and/or speak at a Council organised briefing for members of the Planning Committee then that briefing does not constitute an approach which has to be registered with the Monitoring Officer or disclosed under (ii).

7.4. Where a planning application is to be determined under delegated powers Councillors should not put improper pressure on officers for a particular recommendation or do anything which compromises, or is likely to compromise the officer's impartiality.

## 8. **PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE AND DISCUSSIONS**

8.1 Discussions between a potential applicant, interested parties and the Council prior to submitting an application can be of considerable benefit to all parties and are strongly encouraged by the Council. The government and the Local Government Association recognise that members have an important part to play in these discussions.

8.2 Officers will regularly interact with potential applicants and interested parties through pre-application discussions as part of their professional duties. More occasionally, members will also engage with potential applicants before an application is made.

8.3 Members' and officers' interactions with potential applicants should reflect their respective roles and responsibilities. At all times members must abide by the requirements of this Code to ensure the highest standards of ethical conduct

8.4 Re-application discussions can be subject to public scrutiny. It is vital that such discussions are conducted in accordance with this Code so there can be no suggestion of actual pre-determination or bias, or any perception of pre-determination or bias, or any other procedural impropriety.

### Conduct expected of members and officers involved in the pre-application process

8.5. The Planning Committee Chair may request, or the Director of Regeneration Growth & Employment or the Head of Planning & Development Services may suggest, a briefing for Planning members on a potential application and provide an opportunity for questions to be asked. Officers will organise the briefing normally alongside, but not part of, a Planning Committee meeting.

*The opinions offered by officers or members during the course of pre-application discussions are without prejudice to the final decision of any subsequent planning application.*

8.6. Only a potential applicant, officers and Planning members will be entitled to participate in the meeting. Both the Members' Code of Conduct and this Code apply at these meetings and they will follow the procedures in paragraph 8.7

*Advice provided by officers in a pre-application meeting shall be based upon the development plan and material planning considerations.*

8.7 Members may attend relevant meetings (as defined in paragraph 8.9 below), either individually or together, with potential applicants and/or their agents before an application is received. Both the Members' Code of Conduct and this Code apply at these meetings. Where these meetings involve a planning member they will be subject to the following procedures:

- (i) the meeting shall be organised through officers by contacting the Head of Planning & Development Services;
- (ii) the meeting shall be agreed with the Planning Committee Chair and either the
- (iii) Director of Regeneration Growth & Employment or the Head of Planning & Development Services in advance;
- (iv) a Council planning officer shall be present for the entire meeting (including any form of live interaction including conference calls and video conferencing);
- (v) it should be made clear at the beginning of the meeting and throughout where appropriate that the discussion will not bind the Council or any individual councillor attending the meeting to making a particular decision and that any view expressed is personal and provisional;
- (vi) no commitment to take any particular position on a planning matter shall be made and no inference of pre-determination shall be given;
- (vii) the focus should be on the requirements of the development plan and material considerations with negotiations and advice left for meetings with officers;
- (viii) a contemporaneous note of the meeting shall be prepared by the planning officer attending and a copy sent to all parties present and the Planning Committee Chair if not present within 14 days of the meeting or on submission of the relevant application, whichever is the sooner; and

8.8 Members may attend relevant meetings (as defined in paragraph 8.9 below), either individually or together, with potentially interested parties, before an application is received. Potentially interested parties include those who might object to, or support, a potential application. Both the Members' Code of Conduct and this Code apply at these meetings. Where these meetings involve a planning member they will be subject to the following procedures:

- (i) the meeting shall be agreed with the Planning Committee Chair and the Director of Regeneration Growth & Employment or the Head of Planning & Development Services in advance;
- (ii) it should be made clear at the beginning of the meeting and throughout where appropriate that the discussion will not bind the Council or any individual councillor attending the meeting to making a particular decision and that any view expressed is personal and provisional;
- (iii) no commitment to take any particular position on a planning matter shall be made and no impression of pre-determination shall be given;
- (iv) the focus should be on the requirements of the development plan and material considerations with negotiations and advice left for meetings with officers;
- (v) a note of the meeting shall be prepared by the officer(s) attending and shall be provided to the Director Regeneration, Growth & Employment within 14

days of the meeting or on submission of the relevant application, whichever is the sooner; and

- 8.9 For the purpose of this Code a “relevant meeting” in paragraphs 8.7 and 8.8 means a formal pre-application meeting and any other meeting which includes substantive discussions about a forthcoming application, specific potential development site or proposal or other specific planning matter.
- 8.10 Members may also become involved in pre-application discussions and offer valuable local knowledge, expertise and understanding of community concerns to the process. Officers involved in the pre-application process should also be aware of the responsibilities of members and the terms of their involvement which must be in accordance with this Code.

## **9. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS AND MEETINGS WITH DEVELOPERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES**

- 9.1. Provided Members comply with the practical requirements of this code and the requirements of the Members’ Code of Conduct, there is no legal rule against Members, whether of the same group or not, discussing strategic planning issues, general policy issues or even future decisions.
- 9.2. Similarly, joint working, both formal and informal, and dialogue between Members of the Planning Committee and Members of the Cabinet is recognised as a legitimate reality of local government life. Members of the Planning Committee need to ensure that when making planning decisions, they make up their own mind and on the planning merits.
- 9.3. Relevant Members of the Cabinet are entitled to meet with developers or their representatives and other relevant stakeholders as part of their role to promote Brent and the regeneration, development and other commercial opportunities available in the borough. In doing so, Members of the Cabinet must always act in the best interests of the council and ultimately in the public interest, and in accordance with the high standards of conduct expected of Members, to ensure that the integrity of the planning process is not undermined and the council is not brought into disrepute.
- 9.4. Reasonable care and judgement should be exercised in relation to such meetings, taking into account the purpose of the meeting, the nature of the issues to be discussed and the timing. In appropriate circumstances, exercising proper judgement may include ensuring a record is kept of the meeting. Cabinet Members should make sure it is understood that their participation in marketing events or commercial discussions is separate from the administrative and regulatory roles of Members of the Planning Committee.
- 9.5. Although Members of the Cabinet are entitled to express support or opposition to development proposed in the borough, they cannot use their position as a Member improperly to confer on or secure for any person, an advantage or disadvantage.

- 9.6. As pre-application discussions or discussions about undecided applications require particular care, the following additional rules apply. An officer must make the arrangements for such meetings, attend and write notes. The meeting arrangements must include agreeing an agenda in advance.

## **10. PLANNING COMMITTEE SITE VISITS**

- 10.1. The purpose of a site visit is to enable Planning Committee Councillors to view the site and to better understand the impact of the development. Councillors can however ask the Planning Officer present questions or raise points of clarification.
- 10.2. The Chair of the Committee and the Head of Planning shall agree which sites should be visited in advance of the Committee meeting. A site visit should not be necessary for all proposals, only where a proposal appears to be particularly contentious, is of major importance to the area, or the particular circumstances of the site mean that photos, images and plans do not sufficiently portray the site's context.
- 10.3. Members of Planning Committee shall not enter any premises which are the subject of a planning application or other matter or known by them to be likely to become such in order to meet the agent, applicant or other interested party, save in the course of a formal accompanied site visit. In exceptional circumstances such as where a member of the Planning Committee is unable to attend the official site visit that has been arranged, a site visit by an individual member may be carried out. The Councillor should avoid making themselves known to the applicant or to neighbours. Accordingly, he/she should not go onto private land, such as the application site or a neighbouring property. The reason for this is that contact between a Planning Committee Councillor and the applicant or a local resident could be misinterpreted as lobbying and may create a suspicion of bias. If such contact is made this should be declared in Committee, but this should not prevent that Councillor from taking part in the consideration of that application.
- 10.4. Whilst on site visits, members of Planning Committee shall keep together as a group and shall not engage individually in discussion with applicants or any members of the public who happen to be there. Members attending the site visit should avoid expressing opinions about the application either to another Planning member, or to any person present.
- 10.5. Failure to attend a formal site visit shall not bar a Planning Committee Councillor from voting on an item at the Committee meeting that considers it, provided the Planning Committee Councillor is satisfied that he/she is sufficiently familiar with the site.

## **11. MEMBERSHIP AND JURISDICTION OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- 11.1. When the membership of the Planning Committee is determined, care shall be taken to ensure that for each Ward there is always at least one Councillor who is not a member of Planning Committee. This is so that there will always be a Councillor who is not a member of the Planning Committee with whom residents will be able to discuss planning matters.
- 11.2. Any briefings which may be held prior to the Planning Committee meetings shall be open to all members (and alternates) of the Planning Committee.



These briefings can help to speed up decision making by giving officers notice of additional information members of the Planning Committee may require at the meeting.

- 11.3. All members of Planning Committee, and in particular the Chair, shall be informed from time to time about the relevant provisions concerning access to information contained in the Local Government Act 1972 and in the event of any dispute between members of the Planning Committee and officers as to the application of the 1985 Act, the advice of the Corporate Director of ~~Governance~~ or Governance or his or her representative shall be obtained forthwith.

## 12. MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 12.1. As decision ~~makers~~ makers members of the Planning Committee must not only ask themselves the right questions but must take reasonable steps to acquaint themselves with the relevant information to enable themselves to answer them correctly. If, for example, material amendments are made to an application, and members feel they have not had sufficient time to understand the new information or that the information before them is insufficient, consideration should be given to deferring the decision or, if necessary, refusing the application.
- 12.2. At meetings, members of the Planning Committee may be given the opportunity to consider material (e.g. written statements, photos, drawings etc.) circulated by one of the interested parties or the public. As this material may not be relevant or accurate or may otherwise call into question whether an application or matter has been dealt with fairly and properly, members should only consider material which officers have provided or which the Chair or the Committee has authorised.
- 12.3. Members are entitled to make a decision which is different from the officer recommendation for good reasons. Sometimes this will relate to conditions or terms of a s106 obligation. Sometimes it will change the outcome, from an approval to a refusal or vice versa. If a member is proposing or supporting a decision contrary to the officer recommendation he/she must understand, articulate and explain the planning reasons why. These reasons must address the issues on which the member disagrees with the officer recommendation and be given prior to the vote and recorded in detail by officers. Also prior to the vote, officers must be given an opportunity to explain the implications of the contrary decision, including an assessment of a likely appeal outcome, and chances of a successful award of costs against the council. Where there is uncertainty or concern about the validity of reasons, members must consider deferring to another meeting to have the reasons tested and assessed by officers in a follow-up report. All of these requirements are the individual responsibility of each member departing from an officer recommendation.
- 12.4. Members of the Planning Committee shall refrain from personal abuse and party political considerations shall play no part in their deliberations. Members of the Planning Committee shall be respectful to the Chair and to each other and to officers and members of the public including applicants, their agents and objectors and shall not bully any person.
- 12.5. Members of the Planning Committee should not speak to members of the public (including applicants, ~~agents~~ agents and journalists) during a meeting of the Planning Committee or immediately prior to or after the meeting concerned, other than where permitted by this Code or Standing Orders 57 set out in Part 2 of this Constitution which addresses the speaking rights of members of the -public.



- 12.6. When questioning members of the public or the applicant who have spoken at a meeting of the Committee, members of the Planning Committee shall ensure that their questions relate only to planning matters relevant to the particular application, and the question should not be party political.
- 12.7. A member of the Planning Committee shall not vote in relation to any planning matter unless he or she has been present in the meeting of the Planning Committee throughout the consideration of that particular matter as required by Standing Orders.
- 12.8. Unless all members of the Planning Committee indicate that they intend to vote in accordance with the officers' recommendation on a particular item, the responsible officer shall be allowed time, at the beginning of the consideration of each application, to summarise his or her advice. If after discussion it appears that any member of the Planning Committee is minded to vote contrary to the officers' recommendation, the officer shall be allowed a further opportunity to respond to new points which have been raised, and to address the implications of a contrary decision.

### **13. Post submission discussions**

- 13.1. For the avoidance of doubt this section of the Code shall apply to councillors only.
- 13.2. A Planning Committee Member should not usually be involved in discussions with an applicant or agent when a planning application has been submitted and remains to be decided. Potentially, these discussions could be interpreted, particularly by objectors to a proposal, as an indicator of predetermination or bias
- 13.3. In limited circumstances planning members may legitimately engage in post-submission discussions. An example would be in the case of a large-scale development, where it is desirable for there to be a full understanding of the Council's planning and economic objectives. Such meetings will be organised by officers and run under the same procedural rules as pre-application discussions.
- 13.4. If a Planning Committee Member is contacted by the applicant, their agent or objectors, they should follow the rules on lobbying and consider whether or not it would be prudent in the circumstances to make notes when contacted. A Member should report to Director of Regeneration, Growth Employment or the Head of Planning and Development Service any significant contact with the applicant or other parties, explaining the nature and purpose of the contacts and their involvement in them, so that it can be recorded on the planning file.
- 13.5. Planning Committee Members should not attend post-submission meetings that are not organised through, and attended by, officers and any meeting that does proceed shall also be subject to the as the pre-application discussions.

### **14. PLANNING APPEALS & ENFORCEMENT**

- 14.1. Appeals into the planning decisions of the Council are heard by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. Any hearing or inquiry will be open to the public and Members are able to attend. Members are encouraged to attend such hearings, as they can be a good learning experience. This part of the Code is concerned with Members who wish to actively participate in these appeals.

- 14.2. If a Member wishes to attend a public inquiry or informal hearing as a ward Member or as a member of the public, they are free to do so. It is strongly recommended that they discuss their participation with the Director of Regeneration, Growth Employment or the Head of Planning and Development Service to ensure that they are aware of the process and that they do not act in a manner which compromises their position as a Member of the Council or brings the Council into disrepute or puts the decision made at risk of challenge
- 14.3. A Member cannot attend an appeal on behalf of the Council's Planning Committee, even if they sat on that Committee, unless this is as part of the Council's case as decided by the Director of Regeneration, Growth Employment or the Head of Planning and Development Service. The decision of the Committee will be documented in the minute and set out in the decision notice. The planning officer will present the Council's case on its planning merits, in accordance with the Committee's decision. The inspector is required to determine the appeal on its planning merits and therefore all representations should be so directed.
- 14.4. Where the appealed decision was contrary to the officer's recommendation, officers are generally able to present the Council's case in a satisfactory manner. Where this may not be possible, the case will be presented by a planning consultant employed by the Council.
- 14.5. It is perfectly legitimate for Members to bring to the attention of the planning service suspected breaches of planning control so that they may be investigated to see whether any action is possible or necessary. They should bring these to the attention of the Director of Regeneration, Growth Employment or the Head of Planning and Development Service.
- 14.6. The Council's planning enforcement service operates to a priority system so that those breaches that cause the most harm are dealt with first. This priority system is designed to produce a fair and responsive enforcement service.

### **13.15. MEMBER AND OFFICER RELATIONS**

- 13.1.15.1. Any criticism by members of Planning Committee of officers in relation to the handling of any planning matter shall be made in writing to the Corporate Director Communities and Regeneration and not to the officer concerned. No such criticism shall be raised in public.
- 13.2.15.2. If any officer feels or suspects that pressure is being exerted upon him or her by any member of the Council in relation to any particular planning matter, he or she shall forthwith notify the matter in writing to the Corporate Director Communities and Regeneration.
- 13.3.15.3. Members of Planning Committee shall not attempt in any way to influence the terms of the officers' report or recommendation upon any planning matter.

### **14.16. TRAINING FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- 14.1.16.1. Members of the Planning Committee (and substitute members) must participate in a programme of training on the planning system and decision making (known as the planning and decision making induction training) and in addition to

related matters as decided by the council from time to time. The planning and decision making induction training is mandatory for members (including substitute members) of the Planning Committee. The programme will consist of compulsory and discretionary elements. If a Member (including substitute members) of the Planning committee fails to participate in compulsory elements of the training this may result in that member being asked to stand down as a member of Planning Committee.

14.2.16.2. Members should be aware that training is particularly important for members who are new to the Planning Committee and for members who have not attended training in the recent past.

16.3. Where a member has a genuine difficulty in participating in any particular training session officers will try when practicable to accommodate a request for an individual or repeat session.

16.4. Substitute members are recommended to familiarise themselves with the Planning Committee papers 24 hours prior to a Planning Committee meeting to ensure they are familiar with the issues before the committee, in the event they are required to attend.

## 17. Roles of Members and Officers

17.1 Members and officers have different but complementary roles. Both serve the public but members are responsible to the electorate, whilst officers are responsible to the Council as a whole.

### Role of the Chair of Planning Committee

- a) To chair the Planning Committee in accordance with the agreed protocols and terms of reference.
- b) To foster and seek to maintain a disciplined approach by the Councillors involved having regard to high standards of behaviour and conduct including the Planning Code of Practice.
- c) To ensure that contributions by the public to meetings are facilitated and controlled in accordance with the agreed procedure.
- d) To conduct site visits by the Committee, if applicable.

### Role of members

- a) To act fairly, openly and apolitically;
- b) To approach each planning application with an open mind, avoiding pre-conceived opinions;
- c) To carefully weigh up all relevant issues;
- d) To determine each application on its individual planning merits;
- e) To avoid undue contact with interested parties; and
- f) To ensure that the reasons for their decisions are clearly stated.

17.2 Where a member, who is neither a member of, nor a substitute on the Planning Committee, attends a meeting of the Committee, he or she is also under a duty to act fairly and openly and avoid any actions which might give rise to an impression of bias or undue influence.

### Role of Planning Officers

Planning Officers advise Councillors on planning policy and planning applications.

Their role is to:

- a) to act apolitically;
- b) provide professional, objective and comprehensive advice;
- b) provide a clear and accurate analysis of the issues;
- c) advise on the Development Plan and other material considerations;
- d) give a clear recommendation; and
- e) implement the Committee's/Council's decisions (including those made by Officers under powers delegated to them).

#### **15.18. REVIEW OF CODE OF PRACTICE**

~~15.1.~~ The Corporate Director of Governance will commission a report independent of the planning service in early 2018, and once every four years thereafter on the operation of this Code of Practice. The report should address the extent of compliance with this Code by officers and members, contain an analysis of decisions being made against officers' recommendations and set out any appropriate recommendations for improvement.



## Item 16.1

**Full Council – 21 November 2022**

### **Conservative Group Motion**

#### **Measures to tackle Flooding in Brent**

In the past few years, flooding in Brent and other areas is getting more frequent and severe. Whilst this is partly due to climate change and global warming, it also reflects the massive level of regeneration, development and building on green and brown fields sites which is detrimental to the drainage of rainwater and it is felt future planning policy must reflect.

We are losing more green and open spaces which used to soak up the rain water. The Council's policy of tarmacking footpaths also does not allow water to permeate in the ground. Just a little rain and we observe streams of water flowing on the roads and pavements.

We notice that flood water collects in low lying areas and does not recede for a few days after it rains which means that in the current situation more frequent and severe flooding will take place.

We appreciate that Brent alone cannot stop global warming and climate change and recognise that the borough has a Flood Risk management Strategy in place, however we can take further steps to mitigate the consequences and protect our residents' lives and property.

As a result this Council calls on Cabinet to:

- 1) Reverse the policy of tarmacking the footways and replace with paving slabs and bricks which allows more water to soak in the ground, especially in known flood risk areas;
- 2) Reverse the policy of large scale developments which are reducing the green open spaces and making Brent a concrete jungle;
- 3) Implement a regular gully cleaning and leaf collection program, especially in the flood prone areas;
- 4) Implement a regular program of inspecting all drains and gullies in areas identified as flood risk and repair as necessary and the Council's responsibility, including Brent's brooks and rivers;
- 5) Introduce a policy that makes it's illegal to concrete over the whole of a rear garden as this also impedes the draining of rainwater. We suggest a maximum of 20% of the rear garden can be paved or concreted over.

If Brent is serious about global warming and climate change and wants to protect its citizens now and for future, it's the least it can do.

Councillor Suresh Kansagra  
Kenton Ward

**Full Council – 21 November 2022**

**Liberal Democrats Group Motion**

**Holding Housing Associations to Account**

**The Council notes:**

Many Brent residents live in properties managed by Housing Associations. They may be Housing Association tenants, leaseholders or shared owners.

The number of residents who will live in properties managed by Housing Associations will continue to grow in the coming years, as more large tower blocks and Housing Association managed units are approved and built in our borough.

Housing Associations were originally set up as charitable, non-profit making organisations, with the aim to provide low cost housing for people.

In recent times, as Housing Associations have grown in number and as their stock has vastly increased, their original focus seems to have been lost as they now seem to be driven by profit and the desire to continuously increase their stock.

As Elected Members we are often made aware of issues within buildings managed by Housing Associations, whether in individual properties or in communal areas.

The communication between tenants and Housing Associations is poor, resulting in long periods of time passing before issues are identified and resolved.

There is a distinct lack of accountability when it comes to Housing Associations, and leaseholders, tenants, shared owners, often feel their concerns are ignored.

Ever increasing Service Charges continue to cause financial misery to many in our borough.

Frequently, Service Charge bills are not explained in detail to residents, as should be the case and scrutinising huge increases in bills is often complicated, meaning many experience financial hardship without fully understanding where their money is going.

Building repairs identified in individual homes and communal areas often take unacceptably long to rectify, despite residents paying vast Service Charges and most Housing Associations having considerable amounts in reserves, to deal with building defects and similar issues.

Essential building repairs are not prioritised, comprising the health and safety of residents, or causing real obstacles for people with disabilities or impairments.

Housing Associations rarely review the work of their contractors, resulting in issues reoccurring for no reason. In the long run this costs tenants more.

**This Council believes:**

1. Housing Associations must be held accountable and deliver for their tenants, some of whom are vulnerable and have specific housing and care needs.
2. That Housing Associations have both a legal and moral duty to ensure that their tenants' needs are met and all issues are addressed in a timely manner.
3. There is often a distinct lack of communication between Housing Associations and their tenants, which fuels the frustration many feel.
4. It is difficult for tenants to make complaints when issues persist and are left unresolved as it is hard to know who within these bureaucratic organisations is responsible for different issues that arise.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Exert our influence to demand better for residents who are currently experiencing issues with their Housing Association
2. Collate a directory of useful contact information of all Housing Associations who have stock in our borough, in order for Elected Members and Officers to be able to better support residents who have ongoing problems with their Housing Association.
3. Help signpost residents to their specific Housing Association officer who would be best placed to help resolve ongoing issues in their homes or communal spaces in their building.
4. Organise a roundtable with all Housing Associations who have stock in Brent in order for a frank and open conversation to take place between Elected Members and representatives from Housing Associations about ongoing issues within their stock.
5. Review our relationship with Housing Associations who have significant issues, particularly those who do not address building defects within their existing stock.
6. Support local people in holding their Housing Association to account by seeking to democratise the relationship between tenant and Housing Association through setting up Resident Associations where in public meetings issues can be raised and actions determined.

Cllr Anton Georgiou  
Alperton Ward



**Full Council – 21 November 2022**

**1<sup>st</sup> Labour Group Motion**

**Our Home Our Vote**

**The Council notes:**

- The Elections Bill has passed Royal Assent. The Bill when enabled will introduce a number of measures which will impact electors and local authorities including mandatory photographic voter ID, overseas voting, and voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens.
- Election officials say they have not had enough time to prepare for voter ID and are worried that thousands of people will be turned away from polling stations. Labour Party MPs have raised concerns regarding voter suppression, since six of the Government-accepted IDs are specifically targeted at older people, while almost none are aimed at younger people.
- In Brent, 169,000 residents were born abroad, and across London over 12% of residents are from the European Union.
- They live, work, study, make use of public services, and call London their home. Many of our foreign-born residents from EU and Commonwealth countries can vote in our local elections. However, approximately 377,000 Londoners that were born in non-EU and non-Commonwealth countries cannot vote in our elections.
- Scotland and Wales implemented residence-based voting rights where all residents with lawful immigration status have the right to vote in local and devolved national elections.
- A poll conducted by Number Cruncher showed that 63% of people agree that all residents with lawful status in the UK should have the right to vote in local elections in England and Northern Ireland.

**The Council welcomes:**

- That 37% of Londoners are born outside of the UK and that the voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens with pre-settled and settled status who entered the UK before 2021 will be maintained.

- That the London Assembly passed a motion in support of residence-based voting rights on the 11th of November 2021 and that various organisations in the democracy and immigration sector have signed a joint statement in support of the “Our Home Our Vote” campaign for residence-based voting rights.

**The Council expresses concern that:**

- EU citizens who enter the UK from 2021 and are not covered by the Withdrawal Agreement, or by ‘bilateral treaties’ covering voting rights, will not have voting and candidacy rights in local elections from 2022. This will create an unequal situation where some EU citizens will have the right to vote where others will not.
- Brent Council also expresses concerns that the democratic rights to vote in local or national elections will impact many minority groups once voter ID is implemented through the Election Act;
- We fear this complexity in voting eligibility will cause confusion and will reduce voter turnout in London elections, undermining the effectiveness of projects such as London Voter Registration Week working to improve voter registration.

**The Council will commit to:**

- Increasing its efforts to encourage eligible voters to register to vote in advance of future elections. For instance, but not limited to, including information about voter registration and eligibility in council tax letters, council social media communications and the Brent Magazine.
- Brent Council will work closely with organisations and charities operating across our borough to ensure that the information about local election voting rights reaches as many EU citizens as possible that call Brent home.
- Ask that the Leader of the Council write to Andrew Stephenson, Minister of State for Local Government, Faith and Communities requesting that the right to vote be extended to all residents in local elections in England and Northern Ireland.

Councillor Teo Benea  
Sudbury Ward

**Full Council – 21 November 2022**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Labour Group Motion**

**Backlog Britain: Waiting for Care**

**This Council notes:**

All across the United Kingdom the country is facing backlogs across public services. In the past few weeks, we have seen that these delays can have tragic consequences – with a bottleneck in processing asylum applications, leading to deplorable conditions at Manston in Kent.

However, right now across the health sector, with staff leaving the industry in their droves and nurses balloting for a strike for the first time ever; we are seeing even greater delays to accessing healthcare:

- There are some 6.7 million people waiting for routine hospital treatment the highest level since records began 15 years ago. Hospitals, meanwhile, are full of patients who cannot be discharged owing to a lack of care-home beds or community services to support them. This in turn means that nationally almost 700,000 people have waited more than 12 hours in A&E in the first seven months of 2022, with ambulances queuing outside hospital doors for hours.
- The NHS is the Labour Party's proudest achievement – a gift from Nye Bevan to the country which has lasted 74 years. The NHS is a source of national pride, but this year it is facing another balancing act, with spiralling demands for care; while thousands of positions are vacant. As a result, there are now 1 in 9 people in England on hospital waiting lists, with people dying while waiting for care.
- The Health and Social Care Levy was put forward as a means to “fix” social care by providing sustainable funding to the sector. There have been no new announcements from government on what will replace the £13 billion it would have offered.
- Figures from the NHS reveal that last month 7,953 people had to wait more than four hours for emergency care at A&Es in London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust. In North West London, there are now 247,296 residents on the waiting list for care, up from 175,291 just a year ago and the highest number in London. There are 6,225 residents waiting over a year for routine operations.

- At the same time many NHS trusts are supporting their staff through the cost of living crisis by food banks on site, providing salary advances and free school uniforms to the children of NHS staff.
- The NHS Confederation has made an unprecedented intervention, highlighting in an open letter the link between fuel poverty and demand on NHS services, stating that Britain “is facing a humanitarian crisis. Many people could face the awful choice between skipping meals to heat their homes and having to live in cold, damp and very unpleasant conditions.”
- Further on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 NHS Confederation stated that “ If social care reforms are delayed by another year, this will only serve to exacerbate the bottlenecks across local services and harm patients “
- Around 1 in every 10 dentists in England quit last year, leaving 4 million people unable to access an NHS dentist with some parts of the country now described as ‘dentistry deserts’, because remaining NHS dentists aren’t taking on new patients. The British Dentistry Association, emergency teeth extractions are now the most common reason for children to go to hospital.
- Data from the NHS reveals that in the past year, 23,434 GP appointments in the North West London Integrated Care System were held over a month late, as patients struggle to see a GP when they need one.
- That there is a six to eight week wait to access the local Long Covid service based at Central Middlesex Hospital.
- Public satisfaction with GP services has fallen from 77 per cent in 2010, to just 38 per cent now, the lowest level since the survey began in 1983. A BBC Panorama investigation in June found that unqualified staff at Operose Health practices, the UK’s largest GP chain, are seeing patients without the required clinical supervision and support.

**This Council believes:**

- That Brent owes a huge debt of gratitude to health and social care staff that continue to tirelessly work for a health service that keeps us healthy and has saved lives across the pandemic. However, it also clear that successive governments over the last decade have presided over the deterioration of services, creating some of the backlogs we see today.
- Public services are a public right, but residents in Brent are facing huge delays for the most basic care. The NHS and universal public services need a new deal, if the social contract that bonds citizens and governments, can continue.
- We need a real plan to get waiting lists in hospitals, primary care and dentistry under control. At present there is a golden thread of delay, decay and dither leading back to the Conservatives. Previous governments have reduced waiting times in hospitals from 18 months to 18 weeks.

- That if Brent residents cannot afford to heat their homes and cannot afford nutritious food, we will face a new public health emergency; increasing the strain on our local hospital admissions further.
- Local government has shown that with the right funding, it has a part to play in promoting and protecting the health and well-being of the public, and supporting the NHS in alleviating the demand for services.
- In Brent we are proud to have our own Brent Health Matters programme which has:
  - Established a public health prevention team, recruited from our community with lived experiences of what makes Brent, Brent.
  - Worked hand in glove with our multi-faith groups to reach a wide range of stakeholders across Brent, to address entrenched health inequalities.
  - Been at the heart of a public health outreach campaign: coordinating diabetes screenings, organising pop-up Covid-19 vaccination sites; and working now with our community groups to increase vaccination uptake.

**This Council resolves:**

- As part of the campaign to ensure that healthcare for Brent residents is properly funded, working alongside patient voice groups, to press the case for equitable NHS funding across the new North West London Integrated Care System (ICS).
- To reinforce the Brent Health Matters programme, taking forward transformational projects to reverse the health inequalities the pandemic exposed. We will facilitate more outreach sessions across Brent's communities, such as our diabetes prevention events and our mobile dentistry sessions.
- To bolster our communications campaign across all channels, with a new multi-language information booklet setting out what support is available to residents struggling with the cost of living, energy and food poverty.
- To provide 'Warm Places' a network of spaces where Brent residents can come together to stay warm and receive additional support and advice to alleviate poverty – helping to ease pressures on the NHS.
- To support a national campaign as outlined by the NHS Confederation in support of the action that is so desperately required to address the dearth of adequate social care provision, including introducing a minimum wage for social care staff. Social care is about so much more than alleviating pressure on the NHS, but without action to address the lack of capacity in social care, the NHS will continue to experience huge delays in discharging medically fit patients from hospitals.
- Request that the Leader of the Council write to our local MPs requesting that the backlog in healthcare services and health inequalities in Brent is raised in Parliament; and for those MPs to meet with interested councillors in facilitating discussions.

Councillor Saqlain Choudry  
Willesden Green Ward