



SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 6.00 pm

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

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

To the Mayor and Councillors of the London Borough of Brent and to each and every one of them.

I hereby summon you to attend the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of this Borough.

KIM WRIGHT
Chief Executive

Dated: 9 May 2023 (republished 17 May 2023)

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

For copies of agendas and minutes please visit:
[Council meetings and decision making | Brent Council](#)

Limited space will be available at the meeting for the press and public to attend or alternatively it will be possible to follow the meeting via the live webcast. The link to follow proceedings via the live webcast is available [here](#)

Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest** in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest (i.e. it affects a financial position or relates to determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission, or registration) then (unless an exception at 14(2) of the Members Code applies), after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

***Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

****Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:
 - To which you are appointed by the council;
 - which exercises functions of a public nature;
 - which is directed is to charitable purposes;
 - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).
- (b) The interests of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

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

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

Agenda

1 Apologies for Absence

2 To elect the Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2023 - 2024

For the Council to elect a Mayor for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year, in accordance with Standing Order 27(a).

3 To appoint a Councillor of the Borough to be Deputy Mayor

To receive notice from the Mayor regarding the appointment of a Councillor of the Borough to be Deputy Mayor, in accordance with Standing Order 27(b).

4 Vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor

To invite a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor, in accordance with Standing Order 27(c).

5 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.

6 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 1 - 32

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on Thursday 23 February 2023.

7 Annual Review of Constitution 33 - 48

To receive, in accordance with Standing Order 27(g), a report from the Corporate Director of Governance outlining proposed changes to the Constitution following its annual review.

(Agenda republished on 17 May 23 to include an update to Appendix 1 of the main report along with details of an amendment to the recommendations submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group)

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Debra Norman, Corporate
Director of Governance
020 8937 1578
Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk

8 Representation of Political Groups on Committees

49 - 56

To receive a report from the Corporate Director of Governance asking Members to review and determine, under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the allocation of seats on Council Committees and other relevant bodies, in accordance with Standing Order 27(h).

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Natalie Zara, Head of
Executive & Member Services
020 8937 1716
Natalie.Zara@brent.gov.uk

9 Appointment to Committees and Outside Bodies including the appointment of Chairs & Vice-Chairs

57 - 78

To receive a report from the Corporate Director of Governance seeking approval to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs along with the membership and substitute membership on Council Committees and other relevant bodies, in accordance with Standing Order 27(i).

Members are asked to note that the full list of appointments have been attached.

Appointments that are not constitutionally made by Full Council (including notification of appointment(s) of the Deputy Leader and to Cabinet and any Cabinet Committee) will also be circulated prior to the meeting, for Members to note.

(Agenda republished on 17 May 23 to include appendices 1-4 of the main report detailing the full list of appointments)

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Natalie Zara, Head of
Executive & Member Services
020 8937 1716
Natalie.Zara@brent.gov.uk

10 Calendar of Council Meetings for the 2023 -2024 Municipal Year

79 - 104

To receive a report from the Corporate Director of Governance seeking approval to the final calendar of Council meetings to take place following the Annual Council meeting for the 2023 - 2024 Municipal Year, in accordance with Standing Order 27 (j) & (k).

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Natalie Zara, Head of
Executive & Member Services
020 8937 1716
Natalie.Zara@brent.gov.uk

11 Urgent Business

At the discretion of the Mayor to consider any urgent business, in accordance with Standing Order 27(m).



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](#)

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LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

**Minutes of the ORDINARY (BUDGET SETTING) MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
held in the Conference Hall on Thursday 23 February 2023 at 6.00 pm**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Abdi Aden

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Orleen Hylton

COUNCILLORS:

Afzal	Agha
Ahmed	Akram
Begum	Benea
M Butt	S Butt
Chan	Chappell
Chohan	Choudry
Collymore	Conneely
Dar	Dixon
Donnelly-Jackson	Ethapemi
Farah	Fraser
Gbajumo	Georgiou
Grahl	Hack
Hirani	Johnson
Kabir	Kansagra
Kelcher	Kennelly
Knight	Long
Lorber	Mahmood
Matin	Maurice
Miller	Mistry
Mitchell	Moeen
Molloy	Nerva
Patel	M Patel
Rajan-Seelan	Rubin
Shah	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. **Mayors Statement - Order of Business**

Before consideration of the formal agenda, the Mayor informed members of a change to the order of business. Given the online attendance of Ciaran McLaughlin (Grant Thornton) as the Council's External Auditor for the External Audit Annual Report, he advised of the intention to move that report (listed as Item 7 on the agenda) so it was considered in advance of the main Budget and Council Tax report for 2023-2024.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

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

- Agenda Item 6 – Auditors Annual Report on the London Borough of Brent

The remaining items of business to then follow in the same order as listed on the agenda.

3. **Procedural Motion - Conduct of Business**

The Mayor advised that as this meeting had been designated as the Council's formal budget and Council Tax setting meeting, he would be inviting Councillor Afzal (on behalf of the Majority Group Chief Whip) to move a procedural motion, in accordance with Standing Orders, relating to the conduct of the debate on the budget report.

As a result, it was **RESOLVED** that the following procedural motion be agreed:

- (1) That the Leader of the Council be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes in presenting the report to the meeting and setting out the Cabinet's proposals for the budget, after which, the following arrangements be agreed for the purpose of debating and voting upon the Budget and Council Tax:
 - (a) The Leader of the Conservative Group (or their nominated representative) be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes in response to the Leader and in order to move their alternative budget proposals;
 - (b) The Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group (or their nominated representative) be permitted to speak in response to the Leader and in order to move their alternative budget proposals for up to 10 minutes;
 - (c) The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes;
 - (d) The Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes;

- (e) A general debate follow during which the usual rules for debate will apply as set out in Standing Orders (save as set out in this procedural motion);
- (2) At the end of the general debate, the Leader of the Council be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes to submit his closing remarks.
- (3) Following the close of the debate, recorded votes on any amendments to the budget proposals and then the final substantive budget proposals be taken in turn with the recommendations taken *en bloc*.

4. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Bajwa and Crabb.

5. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the following meetings be approved as a correct record:

- (a) Monday 21 November 2022.
- (b) Extraordinary Council meeting held on Monday 23 January 2023

6. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

7. **Mayor's Announcements**

Prior to his announcements, the Mayor asked all members to join him in observing a minutes silence in memory of all those who had lost their lives as a result of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

All those present at the meeting then stood to observe a minutes silence.

The Mayor then made the following announcements:

- (i) Kings New Years Honours List 2023

The Mayor began his announcements by congratulating all those associated with Brent who had received an honour in the Kings New Year Honours list for 2023. He was pleased to announce this had included Margaret McLennan, as former Deputy Leader of the Council, who had received an MBE for services to digital inclusion and the community in Brent.

Members congratulated all those who had been honoured for their awards.

- (ii) Pride of Brent Youth Awards

The Mayor advised he had been delighted to have taken part in the Pride of Brent Youth Awards in December in order to celebrate and recognise the achievements of young people across Brent making a difference in their communities.

(iii) Holocaust Memorial Day event 2023

The Mayor advised he had been privileged to attend the commemoration event for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme had focussed on "ordinary people" with the event highlighting many moving and inspirational stories.

In reflecting on the human tragedy, the Mayor urged everyone to consider how they could stand against hate and discrimination in order to ensure it was no longer tolerated and to prevent such atrocities from happening again in the future. Thanks were extended to all those involved in organising the event.

(iv) Death of Former Councillor Tom Bryson

The Mayor informed members that it was with regret he had to advise of the sad death of former Council Leader and Brent Councillor Mr Tom Bryson.

Speaking on behalf of the Council, the Mayor took the opportunity to express his sincere condolences to Tom's family and to highlight how much he would be missed by all those who knew him.

In addition to the Mayor's comments, Councillors Nerva & Long also took the opportunity to pay tribute and offer their condolences to former Councillor Bryon's family, remembering the way he had worked to develop the Council and represent his party and constituents during his time in office.

(v) 100th Birthday Celebration

The Mayor took the opportunity to celebrate and congratulate Mr Peter Adkins on reaching the milestone of his 100th birthday.

(vi) Coronation "Big Lunch"

Moving on, the Mayor advised he was pleased to announce that he would be hosting a Mayors Coronation lunch on Sunday 7 May 2023 as part of the "Coronation Big Lunch" initiative. This would be held in the Grand Hall, Civic Centre with the aim of encouraging communities to come together as part of the coronation celebrations. It was hoped that as many Members as possible would be able to attend, with invites shortly due to be issued.

(vii) Tributes to Chief Executive

Prior to ending his announcements the Mayor, in marking what he felt was a significant change for both Brent and the Council, reminded members that the meeting would be Carolyn Downs final Full Council as Chief Executive, pending her retirement at the end of April.

In paying personal tribute to Carolyn, he took the opportunity to thank her for the support provided during his time as Mayor along with what he regarded as her

significant and far reaching impact on Brent and advised he would be happy to provide an opportunity for other members wishing to pay tribute to do so at this stage in proceedings.

A summary of the comments made were as follows:

Councillor Muhammed Butt, the Leader of the Council, opened the tributes by thanking Carolyn for her dedication to Brent, highlighting how everyone had benefitted from the hard work and leadership provided during her tenure. As specific examples he referred to the role Carolyn had played in leading the Council's response to the covid pandemic as well as Brent being awarded London Borough of Culture and the Council also being selected as the LGC's Council of the Year, which it was felt would all contribute to her legacy and the commitment displayed to serving residents of the borough.

Following on from the Leader's comments, Councillor Afzal also took the opportunity to thank Carolyn for the support provided to all councillors and the work undertaken to support residents across Brent.

Councillor Georgiou, as the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, then spoke to thank Carolyn on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, highlighting what he felt had been the fair way in which she had treated and supported members of the Opposition to ensure their voices were heard and for the leadership provided during the challenges in responding to the pandemic.

Councillor Kansagra, as Leader of the Conservative Group, also spoke in tribute to Carolyn remembering his role as a member of the Senior Staff Appointments Sub Committee who had recommended her initial appointment. He also took the opportunity to commend the fairness and pragmatic approach adopted in the way she had treated the Opposition Group(s) during her time in office and wished her all the best for whatever followed her retirement.

Other members who spoke to pay tribute and wish Carolyn a happy retirement were as follows:

- Councillor Ethapemi, who expressed his gratitude for the support and advice Carolyn had provided when he had first been elected and to all other councillors.
- Councillor Collymore, who took the opportunity to praise Carolyn for her work to support the community champions network and Brent Health Matters programme.
- Councillor Dixon, expressing appreciation for what she felt had been Carolyn's dedication, energy, openness and transparency and the outstanding leadership and collaborative support provided, particularly in terms of the response to the Grenfell tragedy and pandemic.
- Councillor Nerva, as Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, who commended Carolyn for the work undertaken to develop Brent as a borough and deliver for all residents.
- Councillor Ahmed, who thanked Carolyn for her knowledge, experience and commitment to Brent as well as the personal support and guidance she had provided during his time as Mayor.

- Councillor Dar, who in echoing the sentiments expressed by other colleagues, also took the opportunity to wish Carolyn and her family all the best for the future.
- Councillor Miller, who commended Carolyn for what he felt had been her inspirational leadership, ownership, clarity of vision, compassion, integrity and challenge in seeking to support members addressing the various needs and issues identified across the borough during her time in office. He also took the opportunity to wish Carolyn a happy retirement.
- Councillor Grahl, as Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, who was keen to praise Carolyn as an advocate and role model for women across the Council and local government in general and for her work to protect the most vulnerable as well as engage with children and young people across the borough.
- Councillor Maurice, who also took the opportunity to personally thank Carolyn for the support and work undertaken on behalf of the Council and to wish her well in her retirement.
- Councillor Farah, as Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection, who praised Carolyn for her public service and engagement with residents and advised that she would be missed by all.
- Councillor Long, who in supporting the previous comments wished Carolyn a long and happy retirement.
- Councillor Fraser, who also thanked Carolyn for the way she conducted herself and delivered in her role as a female Chief Executive.
- Councillor Moeen, who commended Carolyn's strong leadership and advised she would be missed by all those that had worked with her during her time as Chief Executive.

As a final contribution, Councillor Johnson felt it important to recognise and commend Carolyn's integrity and grace in the way she had delivered her role as Chief Executive. This was not only in terms of the support provided for members but also to officers across the Council and residents. He ended by highlighting how much she would be missed and wishing her all the best in her retirement.

The Mayor thanked all members for their contributions and kind tributes.

(viii) Petitions

To conclude his announcements, the Mayor then referred Members to the list of current petitions tabled at the meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders which also detailed the action taken to deal with them.

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

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

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

- (1) Councillor Kennelly to replace Councillor Dar as a full member of the Brent Pension Fund Sub Committee (NB: Members noted this would be subject to confirmation by General Purposes Committee on 13 March 2023).

9. **Auditor's Annual Report on the London Borough of Brent**

Having agreed to the change in the order of business, the Mayor invited Ciaran McLaughlin (online participant representing Grant Thornton) as the Council's External Auditor to introduce the report from the Chief Executive presenting the External Audit 2021-22 Annual Report on Value for Money (VFM).

In introducing the report, Ciaran McLaughlin summarised the approach towards the VFM audit and drew Members attention to the positive nature of the process and key findings detailed within the Annual Report. As part of the auditors work, members were advised that no significant weaknesses had been identified in terms of the Council's VFM arrangements. Whilst a small number of improvement recommendations had been identified, it was pointed out these had been designed to enhance existing processes rather than in response to any weaknesses identified. In commending the report to Council, he once again highlighted the positive outcome of the audit and expressed thanks to all those involved in supporting the process.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Mili Patel, as Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform, to respond to the Annual report on behalf of the Council. In welcoming the report, she felt it important to recognise the positive nature of the independent audit opinion and findings identified in relation to the Council's VFM arrangements, particularly given the Council's challenging budgetary position. Highlighting the improvement in terms of the overall number of recommendations identified, compared to previous years, confirmation was provided that all recommendations had been accepted with management responses provided, as detailed within the report. Highlighting what she felt to be the Council's prudent, financially sustainable and resilient approach towards management of its finances, Councillor Mili Patel ended by thanking Ciaran McLaughlin and his team for the work undertaken on the audit.

As no other members indicated they wished to speak the Mayor then put the recommendations in the report to the vote and they were declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED** to note the External Auditor's Annual Report on Value for Money as part of the 2021-22 audit of the year end accounts.

10. **Budget and Council Tax 2023/2024**

The Mayor then moved on to receive the report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources setting out the Council's budget proposals for 2023-24. Included within the report were the results of the budget consultation, scrutiny and equalities processes along with a summary of the overall financial position, risks, issues and uncertainties facing the Council over the medium term.

In accordance with the procedural motion agreed at the start of the meeting, the Mayor invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, to introduce the report.

Councillor Muhammed Butt began by thanking members, officers, the public and other stakeholders for their involvement in the consultation and preparation of the budget. Highlighting that the proposals presented another balanced budget he felt they not only set out a fair and responsible approach but also one that would continue to make a difference for residents across Brent. This was not only in terms of seeking to protect them from the current challenges arising from the cost of living crisis and Government's approach towards the delivery of public services, but also in terms of the aspirations for continued growth, fairness and opportunity over the coming year and beyond.

Recognising the difficult nature of decisions needing to be made in terms of the budget proposals presented to Council, he felt it important to highlight the ongoing impact of the Government's programme of austerity and funding restrictions imposed on public services, which he pointed out had resulted in a cumulative impact for Brent totalling approx. £200m worth of cuts. Despite this context and the challenges identified he felt it important to outline the Administration's commitment to continue protecting those relying on services provided by the Council's and most vulnerable in society in order to avoid anyone being left behind as a result of the cost-of-living crisis.

In thanking Carolyn Downs, the Corporate Management Team and all officers involved for their leadership and support in development of the budget proposals in such challenging circumstances, Councillor Muhammed Butt outlined the extent of work undertaken to ensure that the proposals presented for consideration had been subject to detailed consideration and consultation and represented a reasoned and rational financial judgement which reflected the careful stewardship of funds, as identified through the independent external audit assessment. In thanking the Budget Scrutiny Task Group for their input into the process and recommendations made as a result, he compared that to the approach taken by both Opposition Groups, in terms of the presentation of their alternative budget proposals, highlighting the risks identified in terms of seeking to protect the Council's finances and avoid ending up in similar positions to other authorities who found themselves on the brink of insolvency.

Referring in more detail to the budget proposals set out within the report, Councillor Muhammed Butt was keen to highlight the difference in approach between the Administration and both Opposition Groups in terms of addressing the barriers in seeking to support residents and ensure no one was left behind. Whilst unwelcome, it had been difficult but necessary to propose a 4.99% increase in Council Tax reflecting that until central government changed the way in which local government was funded, this remained the council's primary source of funding in order to ensure residents were able to continue receiving the services they relied upon, including essential support for adult social care. Given the ongoing challenges identified and increasing pressure on front line services it had also been necessary to include an additional £13.5m worth of savings for 2023-24 and further £4.5m to be delivered the year after which he pointed out it was important to recognise would further impact on the level of service available to residents.

Although not seeking to undermine the challenges and difficulties identified and impact of the budget proposals, the Leader also felt it important to recognise the way in which the budget had been designed to improve residents experience and

future access to services. As a result, he was proud to highlight the additional and ongoing support being provided through the Council Tax Support Scheme and Resident Support Fund to fill the gaps created as a result of the ongoing funding restrictions being imposed by central government and of the following ambitions included within the budget designed to support and improve the lives of Brent residents. These included:

- Securing a further £1m of funding to support families experiencing food poverty;
- The provision of funding to support the Community Shop pilot in Stonebridge;
- The provision of £15m to support the programme of investment and repairs on Brent's priority roads and pavements and create a rolling plan following the winter season;
- Proposals to democratise the way grant funding available to the Council would be structured to bring communities closer together;
- Ongoing support being made available to continue the extensive programme of regeneration and harness the potential of local people with funding being provided to support local businesses and provide opportunities for Brent residents to access education, training and qualifications skills alongside jobs across the borough;
- Continuing delivery of the New Council Homes Programme involving the provision of safe, secure and affordable homes and measures to tackle homelessness and reduce the reliance on temporary accommodation, in recognition of which the Council had received one of the highest new homes bonus in the country;
- Investment of £44m to create 427 new places for Special Educational Needs Children in the borough.

Alongside the work also being led by the Mayor for London in seeking to tackle air quality through the expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone and food poverty through the introduction of universal free school meals for Primary School pupils, Councillor Muhammed Butt was also keen to highlight the continued ambition within the Council's Capital Investment Strategy utilising funding available through the Community Infrastructure Levy to led effective change and growth making a positive impact on residents. These plans included support for the delivery of new medical centres across the borough, the provision of a new home for the College of North West London, provision of a state of the art Adult Education Centre at Morlands Gardens, new pedestrian bridge across the Grand Union canal in Alperton, new community facilities in Stonebridge along with development of Preston Community Library, the Learie Constantine Centre and Brent Indian Community Centre.

Turning then to focus on the alternative budget proposals submitted by the Opposition Groups Councillor Muhammed Butt outlined his disappointment at what he felt to be the lack of responsible and reasonable alternative proposals submitted by the Conservative Group for consideration. Particular concern was expressed in relation to the proposal to remove the funding set aside to support ongoing provision of the Resident Support Fund within the Conservative Groups alternative budget, which it was felt demonstrated how far the Group were out of touch with the impact of the current cost-of-living crisis on local residents along with the

programme of austerity and funding restrictions being imposed by the Conservative Government. Whilst supportive of the need to focus on the current Youth Offer, concerns were also highlighted in relation to the Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals, given the position they had adopted in terms of opposing the accessibility upgrades to the customer service areas within the Civic Centre and also in relation to changes to the waste management and household recycling contract.

As an alternative and in summing up, Councillor Muhammed Butt advised that the Administration in presenting its budget proposals had recognised and sought to match the realism of the financial challenges with a radical desire to do more in responding to the needs and aspirations of local residents across Brent which would not only protect crucial services but also fuel ambition and deliver opportunities and a fairer future for all. On this basis he urged members to oppose the Opposition Groups alternative budget proposals and commended the budget, as set out in the report, to all members for approval.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Kansagra, as Leader of the Conservative Group, to respond to the budget proposals.

In presenting the alternative proposals, Councillor Kansagra began by highlighting concerns regarding the basis and fairness of the proposed 4.99% increase in Council Tax included within the Labour Administration's budget proposals. Commenting on the impact arising from the increase in Council Tax within Brent since 2016, he also felt it important to recognise the additional funding support provided by Central Government, particularly in response to the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis. Referring to the proposals presented at the meeting Councillor Kansagra queried the justification for retaining the increase in Council Tax at the same level as originally proposed given the better than anticipated local government funding settlement and additional support made available by the Government through initiatives such as the Cost of Energy grant, New Homes Bonus and Social Care Discharge Grant. In highlighting the impact on household budgets during a cost-of-living crisis, he felt this would also be exacerbated by the additional precept to be applied by the Mayor for London. In maintaining their stance as the party of low taxation, the Conservative Group had therefore proposed a lower alternative Council Tax increase of 2% which would be ring fenced for Adult Social Care. In order to fund this measure and secure a balanced budget he then outlined the additional proposals being recommended by the Conservative Group, which included:

- Removal of the landlord incentive scheme to achieve a saving of £1.1m. In commenting on this proposal, Councillor Kansagra highlighted the Conservative Groups concern at the impact of the scheme on the housing rental market and at incentivising landlords to provide accommodation for those who ordinarily would have been unable to afford to live in the borough. Given that many ordinary working households had needed to move out of the borough in order to find somewhere affordable to live, he queried the nature of the scheme in seeking to subsidise landlords in this way.
- The deletion of two Cabinet Member posts and reversing the planned increase in members allowances, saving £0.08m. In presenting this proposal, Councillor Kansagra highlighted the reduction in number of members on the Council and cross over between certain Cabinet Member remits through which it was felt the savings could be achieved.

- The proposed discontinuation of the Resident Support Fund, achieving a saving of £3m. In noting the discretionary nature of the Fund, Councillor Kansagra felt it important to recognise the Fund had originally been established in response to the covid pandemic with the Government having made significant funding support available which had not been fully utilised by the Council. Whilst recognising the impact of the cost-of-living crisis he pointed out that the Government had also provided additional support and subsidy to assist in mitigating the associated pressures. Given the alternative sources of funding support available the Conservative Group were therefore recommending discontinuation of the Resident Support Fund.

In commending and formally moving the Conservative Groups alternative budget proposals, Councillor Kansagra ended by highlighting that the proposals had been assessed as producing a legally balanced budget which he felt would also provide a responsible, commonsense approach in helping to ease the financial pressures currently being experienced by many residents across the borough as a result of limiting any increase in Council Tax in response to the cost-of-living crisis. In thanking the Corporate Director and Deputy Director of Finance for their assistance he ended by commending the Conservative Groups alternative budget proposals to Council.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Kansagra for his comments and for moving the alternative budget proposals on behalf of the Conservative Group. He then invited Councillor Georgiou, as Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group, to move the alternative budget proposals submitted on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group.

In presenting the Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals, Councillor Georgiou began by thanking the Corporate Director and Deputy Director of Finance for their assistance in the process of developing a set of proposals designed to provide a balanced and realistic budget which it was felt would enhance the offer from the Council to local residents without the need to remove much needed support for the most vulnerable in society. In recognising the complexity and volatility of local government finance along with ongoing pressures which had been compounded by the current Government and Mayor for London, it was felt that as local residents were asked to pay more (given the increase in Council Tax being sought) they would expect to see improvements in local standards of service.

Highlighting the balanced and costed nature of their amendments Councillor Georgiou outlined the following as key alternative budget proposals being recommended by the Liberal Democrats Group:

- An increase in the capital budget provision for highways and footways upgrades and repairs to £20m designed to focus and prioritise repairs on major roads such as Beresford Avenue, Ealing Road and Harrow Road and bus lanes as well as address the backlog of remedial works in order to enhance and maintain the public realm and safety concerns;
- The allocation of £2m as an investment to create safe, well connected cycle routes and infrastructure across Brent;
- Reflecting on concerns highlighted in response to the new street cleansing and waste management/recycling contract arrangements and trial of the new recycling collection service, to allocate funding for the provision of recycling wheelie bins to households who requested them and limiting the use of sacks

- for paper and cardboard collections. In addition to re-establish the current service of weekly street cleansing in roads up to 50 metres from a junction connected to main shopping areas and Town Centres along with the identification of funding to support the re-installation, service and cleaning of bins on local streets. In addition, the proposals also included provision for an apprentice programme to support the Neighbourhood Managers in their role;
- The allocation of £1.5m for investment in a new ring-fenced “Youth Offer” provision which would be used to offer targeted support in order to address cuts to youth provision across the borough and enhance young people’s positive development and future;
 - Whilst welcoming the commitments made by the Council in relation to tackling the climate emergency the Liberal Democrats were also proposing the allocation of £500k specifically for the planting of new or replacement of trees across the borough as a means of enhancing the green canopy and assisting with the work to improve air quality, recognising the lack of dedicated budget for this and priority placed by residents on green spaces and access to nature especially following the pandemic;
 - The transfer of £2m of funding from the New Homes Bonus to specifically deal with the backlog of remedial works and waiting list for the provision of accessible and adapted Council housing. This would be focussed on meeting the cost of specific adaptations and/or the acquisition of new properties with a view to reducing current waiting lists and addressing current levels of housing need across the borough.

In highlighting the additional detail provided within the proposals included as part of the agenda papers, Councillor Georgiou ended by outlining the important role members had in representing residents and local communities, which he felt the budget amendments presented by the Liberal Democrats had been designed to reflect in a balanced and pragmatic way that would enhance the offer from the Council recognising priorities being identified locally. As such he hoped all members would be able to collectively support the amendments outlined and commended the Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals to Council.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Georgiou for his comments and moving the alternative budget proposals on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group and then moved on to invite Councillor Mili Patel, as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform to speak as the next stage in the budget debate.

Councillor Mili Patel began by thanking all residents who had contributed towards the budget consultation process along with the Finance Team and all other officers involved for their efforts and support in preparing the budget proposals, which she advised would not only continue to ensure value for money but would also meet the needs and aspirations of residents across the borough. The opportunity was also taken to thank scrutiny for their detailed review and the challenge offered in development of the final budget proposals.

In commenting on the Opposition Groups alternative budget proposals Councillor Mili Patel was keen to begin by focussing on the historic context to the funding of local government provided within the Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals and impact created in terms of the Council’s financial position. Highlighting the sustained period of economic growth which had been delivered by the Labour Government prior to 2008 and impact of the global economic crash that

year she felt there was a need to recognise the effect of the economic mismanagement since the election in 2010 starting with the programme of austerity introduced during the Conservative & Liberal Democrat coalition Government. This had included cuts not only with a disproportionate impact on local government but which had also decimated public services including the police & probation as well as the health service. The pressures and challenges on the economy had been further compounded by Brexit and the impact arising from the fiscal policies more recently introduced by Liz Truss during her premiership. Councillor Mili Patel expressed concern that the cumulative of these measures had also been reflected within the alternative budget proposals moved particularly by the Conservative Group, in relation to the potential impact on the most vulnerable in society through their proposal to discontinue the Resident Support Fund and Landlord Incentive Scheme. Similar concerns were expressed in relation to the impact of the Liberal Democrats proposals to suspend the proposed investment to improve customer access and support the generation of additional income at the Civic Centre.

In contrast, Councillor Mili Patel outlined what she felt had been the carefully planned approach undertaken in formulating the budget proposals and in terms of managing the Council's finances by the Labour Administration based on the values of community, sustainability and security, despite the challenges identified as a result of the Government's current approach towards the funding of local government. As an example she referred members to the support being provided within the budget for those families facing food poverty, through the Family Food Fund; funding being spent on providing vital social care support to over 6,000 elderly and vulnerable residents along with the funding allocated towards one of the biggest new council home building programmes in London. In addition, members were advised of the investment allocated to waste and recycling collections in order to keep the borough clean and of the funds allocated towards public health initiatives designed to tackle health inequalities.

In commending the budget to Council, Councillor Mili Patel ended by reminding members of the detailed consultation and scrutiny which the budget proposals had been subject to, along with the prudent approach adopted by the Administration in order to protect the provision of essential services, growth and investment for residents across the borough.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Mili Patel for her comments and as the final contribution prior to opening up the debate then invited Councillor Conneely, as Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group, to present the key themes within the Budget Scrutiny Task Group report, which had been included as an appendix to the Budget and Council Tax 2023-24 report.

Councillor Conneely in introducing the Budget Scrutiny Task Group report began by highlighted that whilst trying to be as objective as possible in their review, it had not been possible to ignore the impact of the Government's programme of austerity over the last decade and piecemeal approach towards the funding of local government which had made it more difficult for local authorities to be able to plan financially. Highlighting concern at the damaging legacy created as a result of the Government's programme of austerity over the last decade for Brent residents, specific reference was made to the impact of the cost-of living crisis, current levels of inflation and wage stagnation which had exacerbated the financial challenges and uncertainty in which local authorities were having to operate.

In recognising the challenging financial environment in which the Council was having to operate, particularly when compared to the incentives being provided for business in the private sector (as evidenced through the recent scrutiny of Thames Water's performance in delivery of a public service) Councillor Conneely highlighted the extensive nature of the review and recommendations which had been identified by the Task Group in relation to the budget proposals, as detailed within section 2 of their report. In terms of the issues highlighted, particular reference was made to the following:

- The need to continue managing expectations, recognising the challenging financial environment in which the Council was operating given the long-term reduction in Government funding and ongoing level of savings needing to be achieved in order to deliver a balanced budget, which it was felt required careful use of language. The Task Group had felt it should be clear that the budget reductions having to be delivered were clearly identified (where appropriate) as cuts and clearly distinguished from service reductions, efficiencies or service transformation.
- Despite the significant cuts to local government funding, the Task Group had recognised and were supportive of the efforts being made to continue protecting services for those most vulnerable in society including choosing not to cut home care visits, to invest in council owned temporary accommodation in order to improve housing standards for those who were homeless or at risk of homelessness and to provide financial support to tackle food poverty, particularly amongst children (supported by the Mayor for London extending the provision of free school meals to all primary school pupils).
- The Task Groups recommendation and support for the additional advice and support being provided for the voluntary and community sector, including the welcome review and development (as outlined at a recent scrutiny meeting) of a policy to manage community space and facilities within Brent.
- Having highlighted concern at the Government's delay in delivery of Local Government funding reform and regressive nature of the Council Tax, the Task Group had been keen to support the proposals relating to provision of additional financial support for those residents most in need. This had included the Council Tax Support Scheme and additional investment identified in relation to the Resident Support Fund.

Highlighting the cross party nature of the Task Group, Councillor Conneely expressed disappointment that (with the exception of investment in Highways Infrastructure) many of the alternative budget proposals moved by the Opposition Groups had not been identified for consideration during the scrutiny review process enabling a wider assessment to be undertaken in relation to the impact of the budget proposals and their context in relation to emerging budget pressures and the future needs of local communities.

In thanking all members, officers and other stakeholders who had supported the review and wide variety of engagement undertaken, Councillor Conneely ended by highlighting the need to recognise the cumulative impact of funding cuts across the public sector and local government given the significant and ongoing financial challenges and pressures identified and ability to be able to financially plan and deliver a balanced budget according to demand rather than being driven by the need to manage funding cuts as a result of austerity.

The Mayor advised that this now concluded the opening statements and thanked Councillor Conneely for her comments. He then moved on to open up the debate on the budget proposals for comment by other members.

Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, opened the debate by outlining her support for the budget proposals introduced by the Leader commending the way in which they sought to provide continued investment and stability in terms delivering the Council's ambitions and commitments towards the provision of safe, secure and affordable housing across the borough. This included continued support and investment towards delivery of the New Council Homes programme, with a particular focus on larger properties to meet demand for families. In addition, investment had also been committed in support of the programme of housing repairs and to improve housing standards. Councillor Knight also commended the proposal to increase temporary accommodation provision in response to the cost-of-living crisis and stressed the need for transformation to maintain service levels. In recommending the budget to Council, Councillor Knight ended by re-iterating that despite the government's ongoing restrictions in funding the Council had continued, through its effective approach towards financial management, to deliver a programme of housing investment providing long term positive outcomes for local residents with inactivity in this respect not an option.

Other members who spoke on the budget proposals were as follows:

Councillor Kabir, in supporting the budget proposals, began by thanking all those involved for their work in being able to produce a balanced budget in such challenging circumstances. Taking the opportunity to focus on proposals relating to the Council's library provision she felt it important to recognise the impact of the Government's programme of austerity in terms of library closures across the UK, over the past decade and significant effect this had had on local communities and cultural provision. Despite the significant financial challenges identified, Councillor Kabir was pleased to recognise the way in which the budget proposals had sought to protect Brent's libraries and home delivery service, given the important community service and focus they provided, which included their use as venues for Brent Hubs in addition to the various community groups and activities hosted and the cost-of-living crisis having also emphasised the significance of libraries in their respective communities, providing a welcoming, warm, and safe space. In concluding, Councillor Kabir expressed her pride at the way the budget proposals were seeking to not only support but also enhance the Council's library provision with a focus on the convenient multi-service offer that they provided to residents and also took the opportunity to wish Carolyn Downs all the best for her retirement.

Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, then spoke to highlight the extent of the financial pressures currently faced across the Children and Young People service, which she felt had been exacerbated as a result of the stance taken by the Conservative Government in relation to funding provision. Expressing particular concern at the inadequacy of school funding, provision for social workers and impact of spiralling inflation along with the overall shortfall of funding across children's social care, Councillor Grahl highlighted the importance of the Council's budget proposals in seeking to provide a 'safety net' for all children and their families in Brent. Despite the financial challenges and cuts in

funding identified she pointed out how the proposals included continued investment in Family Wellbeing Centres, a £1 million commitment to establish a Family Food Fund, investment to provide over 200 SEND school places through the provision of a new school, the provision of a Post-16 Skills and Resource Centre as well as funding to support the Young Brent Foundation in the provision of youth facilities across the borough. This approach was, she felt, in direct contrast to the cuts imposed by Central Government over the previous decade which had led to the abolition of Sure Start, raising of tuition fees, and significant increase of children and young people living in poverty. In summing up, Councillor Grahl expressed concern at the impact of the proposed discontinuation of the Resident Support Fund moved as an alternative budget proposal by the Conservative Group, praised the Mayor of London's universal offer of free school meals for primary pupils as a means of tackling food poverty and urged all members to support the budget as moved by the Leader given the way they had been designed to support children, young people and their families at each stage in their life.

Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, was next to speak and also felt it important to recognise the impact of austerity experienced over the last decade as well as the cost-of-living crisis in providing the context within which the budget had needed to be set and in requiring the Council to do more with less. Despite the financial pressures identified, the opportunity was taken to reflect on the programme of work delivered over the last year alongside the investment identified within the current budget proposals to continue the programme of Highway & Footway maintenance and repairs, maintain and enhance parks and open spaces across the borough and deliver the new arrangements for household waste collection, recycling and street cleansing which had all been designed to keep the borough clean and green. In addition, Councillor Krupa Sheth highlighted the additional investment identified to support and enhance town centre management along with the work being undertaken to address fly-tipping and other environmental crime, including support for CCTV provision and insourcing of the Education, Outreach and Communication Team under the Integrated Street Cleansing & Waste Collection contract. Further activity funded within the budget proposals included continuation of the community skips initiative, as well as the installation of electric vehicle charging points and bike hangars. The engagement and growth of the Brent Environmental Network alongside the work being funded to support the Council's ongoing efforts in tackling the climate emergency was also highlighted, which included the Green Neighbourhood pilots and school street initiatives. In commending the budget proposals to Council, Councillor Krupa Sheth ended by thanking all members and officers involved for their support in delivering the commitments outlined which had been designed to protect residents and vital services and also took the opportunity to thank Carolyn Downs, for her leadership and in making Brent a borough that people were proud to live and work in.

Moving on, Councillor Mahmood also took the opportunity to pay tribute to Carolyn Downs, before outlining the hardship and challenges being faced by many residents as a result of the cumulative impact of cuts which had been imposed across the public sector by the Government and cost-of-living crisis. Reflecting on the budget proposals, Councillor Mahmood felt it important to highlight the way in which they would continue to protect the most vulnerable in society and urged members to reject the alternative budget proposal moved by the Conservative Group seeking to discontinue the Resident Support Fund (RSF) given the level of

assistance being provided for those residents most in need during such challenging times. In expressing his support for the budget Councillor Mahmood ended by thanking all officers and members for their continued work to support Brent residents despite the challenging financial climate, adding that he was proud to commend the proactive, secure and resident focused budget that the current Administration had proposed.

Councillor Miller then spoke to highlight his opposition to the alternative budget proposals moved by both Opposition Groups, which he felt had failed to recognise the associated risks and remained unclear in terms of their costing. Focussing on the Conservative Group proposals he felt these failed to offer any credible alternative he expressed disappointment at the approach which had been adopted and challenged the validity of the statement made regarding the strategic reduction of council tax in election years. Whilst recognising the challenges associated with any proposed increase in Council Tax, Councillor Miller pointed out this had been an approach permitted and encouraged by the Government at the same time as they continued to reduce the level of funding available for local government and had failed to deliver reform of the funding system, particularly in relation to the unfair and regressive nature of the Council Tax regime. As a result, he highlighted the ongoing importance in maintaining financial support for the Council Tax Support Scheme and Resident Support Fund and expressed his support for the budget proposals moved by the Leader as an alternative to the fiscal approach adopted by the Conservative Government.

Councillor Kennelly, in also supporting the budget proposals, felt it important to recognise the way in which the proposals had been designed to stand up for local residents and maintain the provision of essential local services despite the ongoing funding restrictions imposed by central government and ongoing impact of austerity, Brexit and the cost-of-living crisis. Referring specifically to the investment in housing and also to the enhancement of the customer experience and facilities at the Civic Centre he went on to highlight the importance of the current Administrations on-going commitment to improving the lives of residents and queried the Conservative Group's assumption, given the Government's current fiscal approach, that they remained the party of low taxation. As an alternative he highlighted what he regarded as the progressive nature of the budget proposals moved by the Leader, which he advised he would be fully supporting.

In recognising the economic challenges faced by many residents as a result of the fiscal approach adopted by the Government and extending his support to those members of the public sector taking industrial action to secure a better deal, Councillor Rubin also commended the budget proposals moved by the Leader given the measures included to respond to multiple emergencies in housing, energy and food poverty. In welcoming the ongoing financial commitment to the Council Tax and Resident Support Funds, tackling food poverty, ongoing delivery of the new Council homes programme and investment in programme of school holiday activities he also commended the recent announcement by the Mayor for London regarding the provision of free school meals for all primary school pupils. Highlighting the way in which the proposals had been designed to enable everyone to move forward together and ensure no one was left behind, he also commended the budget to Council.

Councillor Hack, highlighting the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and austerity in forcing many more families into hardship and poverty also expressed concern at the increased reliance on food banks which he regarded as an indicator of the failed approach towards the welfare state by the Conservative Government. In contrast, he was pleased to support the Labour Administrations approach and belief in maintaining a strong welfare state as he felt had been evidenced by the ongoing support for the Resident Support Fund, which the Conservative Group were seeking to discontinue, and efforts being made to support community kitchens and tackle food poverty. As Food Justice Champion Councillor Hack commended the work of the voluntary and community sector and Council in seeking to address food poverty and in highlighting his support for the budget proposals was keen to recognise the way in which they sought to mitigate against the challenges created by the Conservative Government and support those most vulnerable in society in moving forward together.

Councillor Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, also speaking in support of the budget proposals, began by expressing his thanks to all carers, including those unpaid, across the borough for their efforts before praising the work undertaken through Public Health and Brent Health Matters in seeking to address the range of health inequalities exposed as a result of the pandemic. In commending the work being undertaken across Brent's Adult Social Care service he outlined the achievements in relation to health prevention and awareness initiatives, including measures to tackle diabetes, the level of care assessments and support commissioned (with providers now required to offer the London Living Wage) and safeguarding investigations undertaken. This had been supported by a range of initiatives designed to support hospital discharge and independent living and enable more residents to be cared for at home, including the handy-person service. Councillor Nerva felt this was in direct contrast to the lack of action being taken by the Government in seeking to address the challenges identified in relation to the provision and funding of Adult Social Care, which he felt had been compounded by the impact of Brexit on the recruitment and retention of care staff. As a result of the difference in approach identified in relation to Adult Social Care, he also urged members to support the budget proposals moved by the Leader.

Councillor Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Culture, in echoing the concerns previously highlighted in relation to the impact of austerity, cost-of-living crisis and Government's approach towards the funding of local government and public services, felt it important to recognise the cumulative impact on the Council's budget and local residents, as evidenced by the level of support being sought through the Brent Hubs and Resident Support Fund. Recognising the way in which support provided through the Resident Support Fund offered a lifeline to those struggling as a result of current economic pressures, Councillor Donnelly-Jackson was also keen to outline the funding commitments within the budget towards upgrading Brent's libraries, who continued to offer warm and welcoming spaces across the borough, as well as towards the ongoing provision for cultural activities and grant support for community projects designed to enhance partnership working and empower local communities to further improve their neighbourhoods. Reflecting on previous comments made, Councillor Donnelly-Jackson also highlighted the support being provided for Brent's diverse range of local community groups and the voluntary and community sector who she also took the opportunity to praise. In concluding her comments, Councillor Donnelly-Jackson commended the budget proposals, which she felt reflected the

Council's ongoing commitment to support and protect residents from a Government which she felt had run out of energy and ideas.

Councillor Choudry, in supporting the budget proposals, took the opportunity to praise the continued commitment towards the Council Tax and Resident Support Funds and to support the concerns expressed in relation to the proposed discontinuation of the Resident Support Fund within the Conservative Group's alternative budget proposals, given the detrimental impact on those being supported who were most in need. Concern was also highlighted in relation to the omission of reference to austerity during the coalition Government period within the context provided to the Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals along with what he felt to be their over reliance on the use of reserves as an unsustainable approach. Reflecting on growing up during austerity, Councillor Choudry felt it important to highlight that austerity remained a political choice which given the impact identified now required a transformative approach and government to address. In support of this approach, he ended by commending the budget proposals moved by the Leader, highlighting the protection they continued to provide for the most vulnerable and their progressive, pragmatic and sustainable nature.

Councillor Collymore, also speaking in support of the budget proposals, and as a representative of the black community within Brent highlighted her strong opposition to the discontinuation of the Resident Support Fund included with the alternative budget proposals moved by the Conservative Group. Referring to her role in supporting community health education, Councillor Collymore highlighted the level of mistrust in the current Government and essential support being provided through the Fund for local residents on low income and suffering with long long-term illness, who would otherwise experience additional financial hardship. She therefore urged all members to reject the alternative budget proposals and support the budget, as moved by the Leader.

Councillor Southwood, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience, began by expressing her support for the budget proposals, which sought to provide a fair and inclusive approach in responding to the impact of austerity and Government's poor economic performance whilst also offering support for all communities. In expressing her support for the budget, Councillor Southwood highlighted a number of key successes achieved by the current Administration in Brent and commitments within the budget proposals which included ongoing support for the Resident Support Scheme (including a significant commitment not funded through Central Government) support for Brent Hubs and the community shop pilot. Support was also expressed for the investment to enhance the customer service space within the Civic Centre, which it was pointed out had been designed to ensure the building continued to adhere to modern accessibility standards as well as preserving the dignity and privacy of those residents needing to attend in order to access services in person. Highlighting what she felt to be the Government's ineffective response to the current cost of living crisis she ended by outlining her support for what were regarded to be the sustainable and inclusive nature of the policies contained within the budget, recognising the challenges created as a result of the Government's single year financial settlement for local government. In commending the proposals to Council, as a means of supporting all residents in moving forward together Councillor Southwood also ended by paying tribute to Carolyn Downs.

At this stage, Councillor Kansagra in raising a point of personal explanation felt it important to clarify that the Conservative Groups alternative budget proposal to discontinue the Resident Support Fund had been based on the assessment it was no longer required, given the range of support already being provided through alternative financial initiatives and packages provided through central Government in direct response to the cost-of-living crisis. It was not, therefore intended as a measure to reduce the support available to local residents.

Speaking in support of the budget proposals, Councillor Begum also highlighted the increasing reliance on food banks and financial difficulties being experienced by residents across her ward, which she felt demonstrated how out of touch the Conservative Group were in terms of the potential impact and risks arising from their proposed discontinuation of the Residents Support Fund. Commenting on the number of residents she had witnessed experiencing financial hardship and requiring support, Councillor Begum praised the support being provided through the Resident Support Fund, community groups and food banks and ended by also taking the opportunity to pay tribute to Carolyn Downs in advance of her retirement.

Speaking in support of the Conservative Group's alternative budget proposals, Councillor Maurice advised he had no objection to the Mayor for London's proposal to extend the provision of free school meals to all primary school pupils but queried the stance being taken by the national leadership of the Labour Party on the proposal. Support was also expressed for the investment proposed in refurbishment of the Civic Centre, which (in addition to the accessibility issues to be addressed) he recognised would promote and sustain future commercial use of the Civic Centre. Commenting on the lack of recognition for the financial support being provided through Central Government, he advised he would be voting against the budget proposals moved by the Leader and in support of the Conservative Groups alternative budget proposals.

In recognising and praising the values and work being undertaken by community groups across the borough, Councillor Dixon expressed support for the budget proposals moved by the Leader, which she felt best reflected residents priorities. Councillor Dixon advised she was confident residents understood and supported the rationale behind the proposals, which sought to shield those most in need whilst working to sustain and ensure the borough continued to thrive. The work of Brent Hubs and support being provided through the Resident Support Fund were both commended along with the approach being led by the Council in terms of the delivery of more affordable housing despite the financial challenges and constraints being experienced. In concluding, Councillor Dixon advised that she would also be voting in support of the budget proposals, emphasising the moral responsibility under which she felt the Council were acting.

Councillor Afzal, as initial context to his comments on the budget, began by highlighting his concern and frustration at the financial challenges faced by Brent as a result of what he felt had been central government's continued underfunding of vital public services, poor handling of the economy, pandemic and cost-of-living crisis and indifferent approach to the most vulnerable members of society. Despite the significant challenges faced and scale of savings already delivered, he felt it important to recognise how hard the Council had worked to fill these gaps and support residents in accessing key services, recovering from the pandemic and

tackling the impact of the cost of living crisis making specific reference to the efforts being made to increase the supply of affordable housing across the borough and support for the Council Tax Support Scheme along with continued provision of the Resident Support Fund as examples. In supporting the budget proposals, Councillor Afzal also felt it important to recognise the wider support being provided in relation to the climate emergency which he felt served to contrast the difference between the prudent and compassionate approach of the Council in seeking to support local residents and those more vulnerable members of society, despite the constraints in resources, with the approach of the Conservative Government.

Moving on, Councillor Lorber then spoke to highlight his support for the alternative budget proposals moved on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group, which he felt presented both a balanced and affordable series of amendments to the proposals moved by the Leader. In querying the approach adopted by the current Administration in relation to the amount of funding allocated as part of the creation of an inflation risk reserve, Councillor Lorber highlighted the Liberal Democrats view this could be reduced (whilst still seeking to mitigate any risks) in order to fund additional investment in the programme of highway and footway maintenance and address the backlog of repairs along with re-establishment of a tree planting programme as part of an approach designed to value open and green spaces. The proposals had also been designed to address concerns relating to the new contract arrangements for street cleansing, household waste collection and recycling with provision also made to utilise the New Homes Bonus to address the level of need in relation to the acquisition and adaptation of new build or existing properties for those requiring accessible properties. In commending the alternative proposals moved by the Liberal Democrats Group Councillor Lorber ended by highlighting what he felt had been the reasonable approach adopted given concerns being expressed by residents relating to the impact of the proposed increase in Council Tax and level of services being provided locally, with the proposals assessed as affordable and providing a balanced budget. In concluding, he also took the opportunity to pay tribute to Carolyn Downs and wish her a happy retirement.

In echoing the previous comments in support of the Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals, Councillor Matin highlighted the concerns being raised by residents regarding the fact they were having to pay more for less (in terms of Council Tax) but at the same time also recognised the additional financial strain being placed on local authorities as a result of the Government's approach in now seeking to fund provision for Adult Social Care through a ring fenced element of the Council Tax. In outlining the fully costed and balanced nature of the Liberal Democrats proposals, Councillor Matin highlighted their key commitments in terms of service improvements and priority areas, which included a focus on making Brent cleaner and greener as well as enhancing the youth offer available for young people. The proposals also included additional investment designed to address safety concerns relating to the maintenance and repair of footways across the borough with the current level of investment felt to be inadequate in terms of seeking to mitigate the risks posed, particularly for more vulnerable residents or those with mobility issues. In seeking to achieve a level of consensus on the collective need for the budget to deliver improved outcomes and living standards for all across the borough, Councillor Matin commended the Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals to Council.

In contributing to the debate, Councillor Chappell also took the opportunity to express his support for the budget proposals moved by the Leader, highlighting the ongoing impact and difficulties being created for an increasing number of residents as a result of the Governments approach towards managing the economy and cost-of-living crisis. Despite the significant challenges and pressures on public services created as result of the cuts imposed by the Government since 2010 and specific impact on Brent, Councillor Chappell highlighted his pride at the way in which the current Administration had sought to protect key services and support those most in need, which had included the commitment to continue supporting delivery of the new Council homes programme, additional support for the Resident Support Fund, social care, public health and libraries. Whilst acknowledging that the budget proposals would require difficult decisions to be made, Councillor Chappell was keen to commend the compassionate approach adopted in seeking to protect the most vulnerable as an alternative to the approach adopted by the Government.

Councillor Kelcher felt it was important to draw attention to the challenging nature of the budget, in light of the current economic context, increased levels of inflation and the general cost-of-living crisis. He went on to express concern that the alternative budget proposals moved by the Conservative Group only appeared to compound the struggles being faced by many residents, whilst those moved by the Liberal Democrats had been based on what he regarded as an expedient and short term approach. Reflecting, in contrast, on the values of Brent Labour and contained within the budget proposals moved by the Leader, he outlined the prudent approach adopted and sustainable nature of the commitments identified, which included the schools streets initiative, support for the provision of local community facilities including the Picture Palace and the African Community Heritage Centre. In seeking to protect those most in need the investment in libraries and community Hubs was also welcomed. Whilst recognising the difficult nature of choices within the budget proposals, Councillor Kelcher felt they needed to be assessed against the impact of the reduction in funding for the Council and public sector in general imposed as a result of Government austerity and in supporting the budget proposals moved by the Leader, felt that the alternative proposals presented by the Opposition Groups offered no credible alternative..

Having raised a point of order regarding a comment made during the previous contribution about the appropriateness of an item of clothing he was wearing Councillor Lorber clarified this had been in support of a local artist. As a result, the comment made was withdrawn at the meeting. Councillor Lorber then moved a procedural motion under Standing Order 42 (o) that given the remaining time available the “question be now put” in relation to the recommendations within the budget report and alternative proposals moved by both Opposition Groups. On being put to the vote the procedural motion was declared **LOST** with the Mayor then inviting those remaining members who had indicated they wished to speak as part of the debate to continue.

Councillor Benea, as the next contribution to the debate, again highlighted the adverse impact the cost-of-living crisis was having on local residents, with the Council (in seeking to support those most in need) therefore having to rely on an increase in Council Tax to provide the funding required to maintain and improve services given the current way in which local government was funded and level of cuts imposed by the Government as a result of austerity. Despite the pressures and challenges identified Councillor Benea, in supporting the budget proposals

commended the approach taken by the Administration to support ongoing investment in community projects, recognising the value of community engagement as well as in libraries and culture, which she felt should not be regarded as discretionary.

Councillor Mistry then spoke to highlight her support for the alternative budget proposals moved on behalf of the Conservative Group, drawing members attention not only to the increase in funding support being provided by the Government for individual households in response to the cost-of-living crisis but also the better than anticipated local government financial settlement for the Council along with access to additional funding to support investment in communities and local businesses, people and skills, and education. Rather than seeking to oppose the alternative budget proposals, Councillor Mistry felt there was a need to recognise the impact which the proposed increase in Council Tax (including the precept to be applied in relation to the Mayor for London) would have in worsening the financial pressures being faced by many families across the borough especially when coupled with proposals such as the expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone by the Mayor for London. As a result, Councillor Mistry advised she would be opposing the budget moved by the Leader in favour of the Conservative Groups alternative proposals.

At this stage in proceedings, the Mayor advised that as the remaining time available for the meeting was shortly due to expire he would be moving the suspension of Standing Order 44 (Council Guillotine Procedure) in order to extend the time of the meeting by twenty minutes and enable the conclusion of the budget debate and other items on the agenda to be dealt with. In accordance with Standing Order 42 (d) the procedural motion was put to the vote without further discussion and declared **CARRIED**.

Continuing the debate and in echoing the previous comments made, Councillor Jayanti Patel also spoke in support of the Conservative Group's alternative budget proposals. In supporting investment in street cleansing and the environment he also took the opportunity to highlight concerns regarding the issue of overgrown gardens and called upon the Council, as part of the budget, to ensure sufficient funding was provided to enforce the maintenance of these areas by property owners and landlords as had been implemented in other local authority areas.

Moving on Councillor Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning then spoke to outline her support for the budget proposals moved by the Leader highlighting that despite austerity the Council's effective and prudent management of its budget had enabled continued investment in services making a positive impact on residents and their aspirations. Highlights included the support being given to continue delivery of new safe, secure and affordable social housing along with the successful programme of support being provided through the Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) to fund infrastructure development and community projects across the borough. This was alongside the wider initiatives in seeking to address issues such as the climate emergency. In commending the budget to Council, Councillor Tatler ended by comparing this approach with that of the Conservative Government and Liberal Democrats, re-iterating that despite the government's ongoing restrictions in funding and difficult decisions which had needed to be taken the Council had continued, through its effective approach towards financial management, to deliver a programme of investment providing long term positive outcomes for local residents, including young people.

Referring to the progress being made in delivery of the Council's net carbon zero target, Councillor Hirani then spoke to query the way in which the budget proposals moved by the Leader would contribute towards this ambition as well as in tackling concerns relating to pollution (including within the boroughs waterways) and air quality, with calls made for additional funding to address these issues. In addition, Councillor Hirani highlighted the need to ensure sufficient funding was provided to support the Council's biodiversity commitments as well as to maintain and improve parks and green spaces in seeking to protect and improve residents health and wellbeing. In challenging the progress and funding available to support the Councils biodiversity policy, Councillor Hirani ended by advising she would also be voting against the budget moved by the Leader and in support of the alternative budget proposals moved on behalf of the Conservative Group.

As a further contribution Councillor Fraser felt there was a need to recognise that the limited financial support being provided by the Government was infact taxpayers money which the Council was seeking to reinvest (alongside funding available through sources such as the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy) prudently and constructively in support of the local community. Regarding use of Council's reserves, Councillor Fraser reiterated the need to be cautious due to rising costs and the impact of a decade of austerity with the Government, she felt having abdicated its responsibility in seeking to protect the most vulnerable in society. In concluding, Councillor Fraser commended the budget proposals which she felt demonstrated the Councils commitment to continue prioritising the protection of frontline services and those with complex needs.

Councillor Chohan, in expressing his support for the budget, highlighted the need to ensure that the Council continued doing all it could to effectively support residents given the ongoing impact of the government's programme of austerity and current cost of living crisis. Despite the challenges identified he felt the current Administration remained best placed to deliver the long term and stable support required to ensure Brent continued to prosper and residents would be protected. In ending, Councillor Chohan also took the opportunity to thank Carolyn Downs, in advance of her retirement, for the hard work undertaken during her time at Brent.

As a final contribution to the debate Councillor Moeen ended by also expressing her support for the budget and in so doing praised the aspirations of the Labour Administration in seeking to support local residents and maintain local services despite the financial challenges created through the Conservative Government's approach towards austerity and in managing the cost-of-living crisis. Amongst the commitments highlighted the support provided in relation to youth provision, community grants, provision of additional SEND school places and Brent Health Matters were commended as a means of addressing the funding gaps identified in response to the budget cuts imposed by Central Government. In commending the proposals to members she highlighted her pride at being part of an Administration seeking to protect and provide a fairer future for all in Brent.

Having concluded the debate the Mayor thanked all members for their contributions and then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt to summarise and respond to the points raised.

In response to the debate, Councillor Muhammed Butt began by thanking all members for their contributions at the meeting and support provided to their local residents. In summing up, he felt that the debate had demonstrated the passion and commitment amongst councillors to deliver for their residents. In responding to the Conservative and Liberal Democrats alternative budget proposals he expressed concern at the approach adopted given the associated risks which had been identified in relation to both their impact and unviable way in which it had been proposed to fund them. He therefore urged all members to reject the alternative proposals. In contrast, he felt the Administration's budget proposals not only demonstrated an understanding of the challenges faced by residents but also recognised their aspirations for building a positive and fairer future. As such he highlighted how the proposals had been designed to protect and support residents in the borough by delivering affordable housing, a programme of regeneration and growth along with support for those most in need through the Resident Support Fund and Council Tax Support Scheme and in delivering commitments in relation to the green economy and climate action as well as addressing concerns in relation to poverty and health inequalities. Furthermore, he outlined how the budget proposals had been designed to enhance community safety and support the aspirations of young people as well as celebrate local culture and communities. Responding to comments regarding climate action he also highlighted the approach recently agreed in relation to the introduction of Green Neighbourhood pilots. In concluding, whilst recognising the difficult nature of decisions which had needed to be made, he outlined his pride that despite the challenges highlighted during the debate the Labour Administration had been able to present a balanced budget that continued to defend and protect services for local residents whilst also seeking to meet the needs and aspirations of communities across the borough. On this basis he ended by once again commending the budget to Council and advising members that although Councillors Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Bajwa and Crabb had sent their apologies for the meeting, they had also confirmed their support for the budget proposals.

Having thanked Councillor Muhammed Butt for his closing comments, the Mayor advised that this now concluded the debate on the budget and he would therefore be moving to the vote on the alternative budget proposals and then (subject to any amendments agreed) the recommended budget moved by the Leader of the Council. As the recommendations to be considered related to the budget setting process he reminded Members that, in accordance with Standing Order 43, these would all need to be subject to a recorded vote.

Prior to moving to the vote, the Mayor invited the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources to provide a brief update for members on the recommendations within the report.

Minesh Patel (Corporate Director of Finance & Resources) advised members that during the course of the meeting confirmation had been received from the Greater London Assembly on the precept set in relation to the Mayor for London's budget (as detailed within recommendation 2.16). As a result this would enable the Council to consider and set the Council Tax for 2023- 24 without requiring a meeting of the Council Tax Setting Committee, meaning recommendations 2.19 – 2.20 within the report could now be withdrawn from consideration.

The Mayor thanked the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources for the update provided and having noted the advice then moved on to put the budget and alternative proposals to the vote.

On a recorded vote being taken the budget proposals, as moved by Councillor Muhammed Butt were declared **CARRIED**.

Accordingly Council **RESOLVED** to:

- (1) Agree an overall 4.99% increase in the Council's element of Council Tax for 2023/24, with 2% as a precept for Adult Social Care and a 2.99% general increase.
- (2) Agree the General Fund revenue budget for 2023/24, as summarised in Appendices A and B of the report.
- (3) Agree the savings proposals for 2023/24 and deferral of savings to 2024/25, as set out in Appendix C (i) of the report
- (4) Note the Equalities Impact Assessments on the budget proposals, as set out in Appendices C (ii) and C (iii) of the report.
- (5) Note the report from the Budget Scrutiny Task Group in Appendix D of the report.
- (6) Agree the HRA budget and business plan for 2023/24, as set out in section seven and appendix Q of the report.
- (7) Agree the Dedicated Schools Grant, as set out in section eight of the report.
- (8) Agree the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to additions of new schemes and reprofiling, as set out in section 10 and Appendix E of the report and note the Capital Pipeline Schemes in Appendix F of the report.
- (9) Agree the Capital Strategy, the Investment Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement as set out in Appendices G, H, I and J of the report.
- (10) Agree the Reserves Strategy and schedule of reserves, as set out in Appendix K of the report.
- (11) Note the action plan to implement CIPFA's Financial Management Code and conduct a Financial Resilience Assessment, as set out in Appendix L of the report.
- (12) Agree the schedule of fees and charges, as set out in Appendix M of the report.
- (13) Note the results of the budget consultation, as set out in section six and detailed in Appendix N of the report.

- (14) Note the legal advice from the Corporate Director of Governance, as set out in Appendix O of the report.
- (15) Agree the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix P of the report.

Council Tax recommendations

- (16) As a result of confirmation having been received on the final GLA precept in advance of the recommendations being put to the vote at the Council meeting it was agreed in relation to the Council Tax for 2023/24:

That the following amounts be now calculated as the Council's element by the Council for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:

- (a) £1,061,792,345 being the aggregate of the amount that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
- (b) £910,992,347 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £150,799,998 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- (d) £1,490.31 being the amount at (c) above, divided by the amount for the tax base of 101,187, agreed by the General Purposes Committee on the 12 December 2022, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(e) Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
993.54	1,159.13	1,324.72	1,490.31	1,821.49	2,152.67	2,483.85	2,980.62

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (17) That it be noted that for the year 2023/24 the proposed GLA precept issued to the Council on 23 February 2023, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, in respect of the GLA, for each of the categories of dwellings are as shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
289.43	337.66	385.90	434.14	530.62	627.09	723.57	868.28

- (18) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at paragraph 16(e) and 17 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,282.97	1,496.79	1,710.62	1,924.45	2,352.11	2,779.76	3,207.42	3,848.90

- (19) That it be noted that the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources has determined that the Council element of the basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (a) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be and is hereby authorised to give due notice of the said Council Tax in the manner provided by Section 38(2) of the 1992 Act.
 - (b) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be and is hereby authorised when necessary to apply for a summons against any Council Tax payer or non-domestic ratepayer on whom an account for the said tax or rate and any arrears has been duly served and who has failed to pay the amounts due to take all subsequent necessary action to recover them promptly.
 - (c) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be and is hereby authorised to collect revenues and distribute monies from the Collection Fund and is authorised to borrow or to lend money in accordance with the regulations to the maximum benefit of each fund.

Prior to the above recommendations being approved, the alternative budget proposals moved as amendments to the budget report by the Conservative & Liberal Democrats Groups were put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

The voting recorded on the alternative budget proposals moved as an amendment by the Conservative Group was as follows:

For the Amendment (5): Councillors Hirani, Kansagra, Maurice, Mistry & J.Patel.

Against the Amendment (47): Councillors Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Akram, Begum, Benea, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudry, Collymore, Conneely, Dar, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Fraser, Gbajumo, Georgiou, Grahl, Hack, Johnson, Kabir, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Long, Lorber, Mahmood, Matin, Miller, Mitchell, Moeen, Molloy, Nerva, M.Patel, Rajan Seelan, Rubin, Shah, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Smith, Southwood and Tatler.

Abstentions to the Amendment (2): Councillors Aden (Mayor), Hylton (Deputy Mayor).

The voting recorded on the alternative budget proposals moved as an amendment by the Liberal Democrats Group was as follows:

For the Amendment (3): Councillors Georgiou, Lorber and Matin

Against the Amendment (49): Councillors Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Akram, Begum, Benea, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudry, Collymore, Conneely, Dar, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Fraser, Gbajumo, Grahl, Hack, Hirani, Johnson, Kabir, Kansagra, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Long, Mahmood, Maurice, Miller, Mistry, Mitchell, Moeen, Molloy, Nerva, J.Patel, M.Patel, Rajan Seelan, Rubin, Shah, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Smith, Southwood and Tatler.

Abstentions to the Amendment (2): Councillors Aden (Mayor), Hylton (Deputy Mayor).

The voting on the substantive budget recommendations, as detailed above, was as follows:

For (44): Councillors Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Akram, Begum, Benea, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudry, Collymore, Conneely, Dar, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Fraser, Gbajumo, Grahl, Hack, Johnson, Kabir, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Long, Mahmood, Miller, Mitchell, Moeen, Molloy, Nerva, M.Patel, Rajan Seelan, Rubin, Shah, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Smith, Southwood and Tatler.

Against (8): Councillors Georgiou, Hirani, Kansagra, Lorber, Matin. Maurice, Mistry and J.Patel.

Abstentions (2): Councillors Aden (Mayor), Hylton (Deputy Mayor).

11. Borough Plan 2023-2027

Having concluded consideration of the budget, the Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, to introduce the report from the Corporate Director of Communities and Regeneration, seeking approval to the new Brent Borough Plan 2023-27. In introducing the report the Leader outlined how the new Borough Plan had been structured to capture the achievements delivered over the

previous four years and to set out the context, narrative and Administrations new strategic priorities, commitments and desired outcomes moving forward. In concluding his introduction the Leader thanked all officers involved for their efforts and support in development of the 2023-27 Borough Plan.

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

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to endorse and approve the new Brent Borough Plan 2023-27 for adoption, including the following accompanying suite of supporting documents:

- Borough Plan Engagement and Consultation Findings 2023-27 (attached as Appendix A) to the report
- Brent Borough Plan 2023 – 27 (attached as Appendix B to the report)
- Borough Plan evidence base (attached as Appendix C to the report)
- Equality Impact Assessment (attached as Appendix D to the report)

12. **Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2022-2023**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform, to introduce the report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources updating members on Treasury Management activity for the first half of the 2022-23 financial year. Members noted that the report had also been considered and agreed by the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on 7 December 2022 and Cabinet on 16 January 2023 who had agreed to refer it on to Council for consideration in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

In introducing the report, Councillor Mili Patel confirmed that the Council was continuing to operate in compliance with the Treasury Management Indicators for 2022-23, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report.

As no other members 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**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to note the 2022-23 Mid-Year Treasury report in in compliance with the Council's Treasury Management indicators and CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code).

13. **Members' Allowance Scheme Annual Review**

Moving on, the Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, to introduce the report from the Corporate Director of Governance which sought approval to the proposed Members Allowance Scheme for the 2023-24 financial year.

In introducing the report, the Leader outlined the background to the proposed inflationary uplift in the level of basic, special responsibility and civic allowances for

2023-24 recommended as an outcome of the current review along with the proposal to undertake a further review of allowances payable under the Scheme, following the outcome of an additional review being undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel over the course of the next year.

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

Council therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To approve the Members Allowance Scheme in the proposed terms set out within the report for the 2023-24 Financial Year.
- (2) To authorise the Corporate Director of Governance to comply with the statutory requirements to publicise the Council's Members' Allowance Scheme.

14. **Amendments to the Constitution**

As the final item of business to be considered, 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, which it was confirmed had been subject to consideration and approval by the Constitutional Working Group.

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

Council therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To agree the amendments to the Constitution set out in the report and Appendix 1 relating to Agreeing Grant Criteria; Bidding for Grants; the approval of Supplementary Planning Documents; delegation of powers to approve fees and charges and the thresholds for officer decision-making relating to contract and procurement matters.
- (2) To note that, to the extent that the changes set out in the report 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.


15. **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 the Annual Council and Mayor Making meeting on Wednesday 17 May 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

COUNCILLOR ABDI ADEN
Mayor

 Brent	<p align="center">Annual Council Meeting 17 May 2023</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Corporate Director of Governance</p>
<p>Annual Review of the Constitution</p>	
Wards Affected:	N/A
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix 1 Changes to the Constitution
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Debra Norman, Corporate Director, Governance Email: Debra.norman@brent.gov.uk Tel: 0208 937 1578

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report proposes a number of minor changes to the Constitution to update provisions and provide clarification.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the amendments to the Constitution set out in this report and the Appendix.
- 2.2 To note that, to the extent that the changes set out in this report relate to executive functions of the Council, they have been approved by the Leader.
- 2.3 To authorise the Corporate Director, Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 A general review of the Constitution is undertaken annually to check whether there are any minor general updating, clarification or consistency changes that need to be made in addition to more substantive changes taken to Full Council for approval as they arise during the municipal year. The changes described below and contained in the Appendix are proposed following this year's review.

3.2 **Part 1 - Introduction**

Changes will be made to update the current allocation of roles and portfolios in the Cabinet.

3.3 **Part 2 – Procedural Rules**

Each year when the municipal calendar is adopted at the Annual Meeting, a delegation is included to permit the Head of Executive and Member Services to make necessary alterations during the year in consultation with the Group Leaders and the chair or any meeting affected. It is proposed that this simply be included directly in the Constitution for the future.

3.4 **Part 3 – Responsibility for functions**

A minor clarification is made to the allocation of functions in respect of plans and strategies in the Policy Framework.

3.5 **Part 4 – Terms of Reference for Council Committees and Sub-Committees**

Changes are proposed to the terms of reference of the Audit and Standards Advisory committee to better reflect the CIPFA 2022 Position Statement. These do not change the role of the committee but make more explicit certain responsibilities.

3.6 **Part 5 – Codes and Protocols**

Changes are proposed to bring the Local Code of Corporate Governance up to date.

4.0 **Legal implications**

4.1 These are contained in the body of the report

5.0 **Financial Implications**

5.1 No specific financial implications arise from this report.

6.0 **Diversity Implications**

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

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

This is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and

civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Corporate Director of Governance

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Appendix 1 – Changes to Constitution

PART 2 - Procedural Rules

MEETINGS OF FULL COUNCIL

23 Time of Meeting

All Ordinary Meetings of Full Council and any Annual Meeting shall be held at 6.00 pm at Brent Civic Centre, or otherwise as determined by Full Council or, in the case of an Extraordinary Meeting, as determined by the Mayor, or if called other than by the Mayor, as determined by the Head of Executive and Member Services. The Annual Council Meeting shall be held at Brent Civic Centre or as otherwise determined by Full Council. An annual calendar of meetings shall be adopted by Full Council for each municipal at a time to be decided by tThe Head of Executive and Member Services may make any alterations deemed necessary to the Municipal Calendar during the course of the Municipal Year having consulted the Leader of the Council; the Leaders of the Opposition Groups; and the Chair of the affected meeting.

PART 3 -

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS

TABLE 3

FUNCTIONS NOT TO BE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CABINET

1. The Cabinet or a member of the Cabinet may not in relation to those plans or strategies listed above do the following which are the responsibility of Council:-
 - (a) give an instruction requiring the Cabinet to reconsider any draft plan or strategy submitted by the Cabinet for consideration by the Council;
 - (b) amend any draft plan or strategy submitted by the Cabinet for consideration by the ~~Cabinet~~Council other than following an instruction under (a);
 - (c) approve for the purpose of its submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination, a development plan document;
 - (d) approve, for the purposes of its submission to the Secretary of State or any Minister of the Crown for his or her approval, any such plan or strategy required to be so submitted for approval; nor
 - (e) adopt with or without modification the plan or strategy.

AUDIT AND STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Membership

- The committee comprises 7 non-executive councillors and up to 3 voting co-opted members, one of whom will be the Chair of the committee.

Terms of Reference

Audit and Standards

To provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk and control arrangements for both internal challenge and public accountability.

To consider the following matters and to make recommendations to the relevant Council bodies or to officers:

Audit Activity

1. The Head of Internal Audit's annual report and opinion, and a summary of internal audit activity (actual and proposed), and the strategic and annual audit plans, and consider the level of assurance these can give over the council's corporate governance arrangements.
2. Summaries of specific internal audit reports as appropriate.
3. The annual review of the effectiveness of internal audit.
4. Reports from internal audit on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitoring of the implementation of agreed audit recommendations, including those not implemented within a reasonable timescale.
5. Specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
6. The scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
7. To consider reports on the effectiveness of financial management arrangements, including compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code
8. To consider the council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.

Regulatory Framework

97. The Council's constitution in respect of Contract Standing Orders and financial regulations.
108. Any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive or a director, or any council body.
- 11.9. Effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the Council.
12. To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the committee.

13. [To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the council from fraud and corruption.](#)

140. Council policies to facilitate confidential reporting by employees of suspected fraud, corruption or any other wrongdoing and the Council's anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies.

154. The ~~production of the~~ Council's [Annual Governance](#) Statement ~~on Corporate Governance and Internal Control.~~

162. The Council's arrangements for corporate governance and actions to ensure compliance with best practice.

17. [To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships, collaborations or subsidiaries.](#)

183. The Council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.

194. The handling of any reports from the Local Government Ombudsman.

Accounts

2045. The external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

2146. The statement of accounts and any issues from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.

Standards

To consider the following matters and to make recommendations to the Monitoring Officer, Audit and Standards Committee or Full Council as appropriate:

2247. The Council's obligation to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members.

2348. The operation and effectiveness of, and compliance with, the Brent Members' Code of Conduct (the Code) and other codes, protocols and guidance which supplement the Code.

2449. Advice and assistance to members and co-opted members on how to observe the Code and on conduct and standards generally.

250. Training on the Code and conduct and standards generally.

264. Arrangements for dealing with written allegations of failure to comply with the Code.

Part 5 - Codes and Protocols

LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

INTRODUCTION

Each local authority operates through a governance framework. The governance framework is an interrelated system that brings together an underlying set of legislative requirements, standards of behaviour, and management processes.

Good governance means that the way a local authority operates is based on sound and transparent decision making with an effective process to support this; acting in the public interest at all times.

This Code sets out the Council's governance framework. It is based on Guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy ('CIPFA') and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives ('SOLACE') guidance entitled Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition.

There are seven core principles and further supporting principles identified by CIPFA/SOLACE which underpin and inform the way in which a local authority should perform its services and other functions. These principles inform the Council's governance framework, the Local Code of Corporate Governance and the standards by which the Council is audited.

The principles and standards set out below in this Code reflect those set out by the current CIPFA/SOLACE Guidance.

1. BEHAVING WITH INTEGRITY, DEMONSTRATING STRONG COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL VALUES, AND RESPECTING THE RULE OF LAW

The Constitution sets out how the council operates, how decisions are made and the policies which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. The Constitution comprises six parts which set out the basic rules for governing the council's business, as well as detailed procedures and codes of practice.

The Constitution is regularly reviewed. The Constitution sets out the responsibilities of both members and officers. In particular the council has identified the following six statutory posts:

Legislation	Statutory Post	Officer
S4 Local Government and Housing Act 1989	Head of Paid Service	Chief Executive
Section 151 Local Government Act 1972	Section 151	Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
S5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989	Monitoring Officer	Corporate Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations Governance

S18 Children Act 2004	Director of Children's Services	Strategic-Corporate Director Children and Young People
S6 Local Authority Social Services Act 1972	Director of Adult Social Services	Strategic-Operational Director Community and Wellbeing Adult Social Care
Health and Director of Public Health Social Care Act 2012	Health and Director of Public Health Social Care	Director of Public Health

- A Scheme of Delegation sets out the powers delegated to officers as part of the Constitution. The Financial Regulations are also part of the Constitution, together with this Code of Corporate Governance and the Contract Standing Orders. The Constitution is reviewed regularly, with all changes (other than minor variations which may be made by the Monitoring Officer) approved by the Council and published on the external website.
- The Members' Code of Conduct is set out in the Constitution, together with other codes. These are kept under review and updated if necessary. The council has an Audit and Standards Committee and an Audit and Standards Advisory Committee to deal with member conduct issues and these Committees are politically balanced and consist of five members and, in respect of the latter, independent or co-opted members too. Independent Persons have also been appointed in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and have an important role to play in respect of specific complaints. The standards remit of these Committees is supported by the Monitoring Officer. There is a register of member interests and gifts and hospitality.
- All councillors receive training on the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and related issues. Monitoring Officer Advice Notes give advice to members on decision making and standards of conduct.
- All staff, in particular managers, are responsible for ensuring that laws and regulations are complied with and that the authority's policies are implemented in practice. ~~Strategic-Corporate~~ Directors, ~~Operational~~ Directors and Heads of Service are responsible for monitoring implementation of the council's policies.
- The Council has a number of key governance related policies. Officers are made aware of their responsibilities through general communications, such as Weekly Round Up, manager briefings, staff events and via the induction process.

2. ENSURING OPENNESS AND COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- The ~~Chief Executive's~~Communities and Regeneration Department is responsible for supporting some statutory local partnership arrangements (ie the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults ~~and Children~~ Boards and Children's Trust) and some non statutory partnerships such as Partners for Brent. The Strategic Partnerships Team co-ordinates a broad range of collaborative activities, which stem from the Council's engagement with local public, private and voluntary sector organisations.

- Partners for Brent is an advisory body which facilitates wider involvement and engagement in the delivery of public services. The Partners for Brent Strategic Forum is made up of eight organisations including the Met Police, NHS partners and CVS.
- At a service area level, the objectives of partnerships are documented in the Service Plans and within contract documentation. They are then reflected in staff's individual objectives.
- Commitments to deliver against our responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity feature strongly in the Council's Borough Plan. Regard to equality, diversity and human rights duties is embedded in the budget setting and business planning process, and templates for each require that officers and members take into consideration in an appropriate manner the equality, diversity and human rights impacts of proposed decisions. The Council's approach is to embed equality and diversity within all of its work so that equality considerations are part of day-to-day management.

3. DEFINING OUTCOMES IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- The Council has a Borough Plan for the period of ~~2019 to 2023~~ 2027 agreed by the Cabinet, ~~Partners for Brent~~ and Full Council. This document includes the corporate objectives of the Council and our shared partnerships priorities with other public agencies. ~~The Borough Plan has been refreshed for 2021/22, and it updates the five priority areas and sets out actions to realise them, refocused in the light of progress since the original plan was agreed. The Borough Plan (refreshed) 2021/22 has been agreed by Cabinet and Full Council. A new Borough Plan will be agreed following the 2022 Local Elections.~~ Key performance indicators which relate to the priorities in the plan are monitored on a quarterly basis and reported to CMT and the Cabinet. The Borough Plan references other key relevant documents, including the following:
 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
 - Equality Strategy;
 - Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy;
 - the Black Community Action Plan, and
 - the Poverty Commission Delivery Plan
- The priorities of the Borough Plan are regularly set out in The Brent Magazine, its website, press releases and targeted campaigns. Service priorities are extensively consulted on with users and other relevant stakeholders. Departmental Service Plans are discussed annually with Lead Members prior to finalisation.

4. DETERMINING THE INTERVENTIONS NECESSARY TO OPTIMISE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INTENDED OUTCOMES

- ~~Brent 2020 is our vision for Brent which sets out the actions we need to take, with our partners, to deliver our priorities and support the residents of Brent. Brent 2020 supports delivery of the targets and outcomes in our Borough Plan with a specific focus on five key priorities to meet the challenges we face in the~~

~~coming years~~ We are seeking to build on the successes achieved to-date in transforming the Council and the Borough while developing a much sharper focus on services designed around the individual and creating better outcomes for those residents with complex circumstances. We are directing our resources towards priorities which will have a more significant impact in improving local people's opportunities and life chances. Our approach is intended to facilitate much closer cross council and inter-agency working on common themes and address the big issues affecting the future of the borough. A programme of activity is in place to support delivery of this vision with reports on progress provided regularly to CMT and elected councillors.

- The Cabinet consider risks as part of their decision making role on corporate policies, including the annual budget setting processes, major policy decisions and major projects. The Corporate Management Team review corporate risks through regular monitoring reports. Risks are identified within Service Plans and considered on a regular basis within departmental management teams and key operational risks are reported through to the Corporate Management Team.

5. DEVELOPING THE ENTITY'S CAPACITY, INCLUDING THE CAPABILITY OF ITS LEADERSHIP AND THE INDIVIDUALS WITHIN IT

- A full member learning and development programme is in place and there is a comprehensive induction programme for all councillors within the first few weeks of their election to office. Training on the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors is compulsory. The council has adopted specific codes of conduct for councillors involved in planning or licensing decision-making and these councillors receive additional training in these areas as a pre-condition of their participation. A bespoke annual learning and development programme is provided for Councillors appointed as Members or Substitutes on the Scrutiny, Planning and Licensing committees.
- There is a corporate induction programme in place for staff, which is largely e-learning based, and one for new managers, supplemented by various internal training courses. Within the New Manager Essential Programme the key objectives are for delegates to understand the roles and responsibilities (core standards and expectations) of the Brent Manager and the Management competencies. Key information and policies are highlighted to new staff and managers and held on the intranet.

6. MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Decision making arrangements are set out in the Constitution. The Council operates a Leader and Cabinet model of decision making. Although some decisions are reserved for Full Council, most are made by the Cabinet, individual cabinet members or by committees, sub-committees or officers.
- All forthcoming Key decisions by Cabinet are published in the Council's Forward plan and published every month on the Council's website.

- Reports and minutes of meetings are also published on the council's website and are available through the Libraries. This includes urgent decisions, which are reported to the next formal meeting of Cabinet.
- The council has an Audit and Standards Advisory Committee which meets approximately 6 times during the year, and considers the findings of the council's annual governance review and recommends approval of the Annual Governance Statement by the Audit and Standards Committee in advance of approval of the annual statement of account. It also advises on member standards issues.
- The Audit and Standards Advisory Committee, has been established to enhance the effectiveness of the Audit and Standards Committee, with clear terms of reference and an annual work programme to consider and advise on internal audit and risk management. This enables the independent Members to be equal voting members of the committee.
- The Audit and Standards Committee meets at least twice a year to approve the Annual Governance Statement and the annual statement of accounts.
- The Council maintains an Internal Audit service that operates in accordance with the published internal audit standards expected of a local authority in the United Kingdom. The Head of Internal Audit has direct access to the Chief Executive, the Section 151 Officer and the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee and now the Chair of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee.
- The council has established a counter fraud team to ensure a systematic, disciplined approach to investigation, evaluating and improving the effectiveness of fraud prevention and detection and the subsequent prosecution of individuals and organisations where appropriate.
- Robust business continuity management arrangements exist within the council, with all critical services having business continuity plans in place.
- The Council has a three year Medium Term Financial Strategy, which is reviewed and updated annually as part of the budget setting process to support the achievement of the council's corporate priorities. The budget and policy framework outlines the process and timetable to be followed each year when setting the council's budget. The financial management framework includes regular budget monitoring reports to departmental management teams, Corporate Management Team and Cabinet.

7. IMPLEMENTING GOOD PRACTICES IN TRANSPARENCY, REPORTING, AND AUDIT TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

- The statutory Forward Plan is published monthly on the internet, and details all key decisions proposed to be made by the council during the relevant period. Any key decision which is not on the Forward Plan may not be taken within that period, unless the report author is able to demonstrate to the Monitoring Officer and relevant members that urgency procedure requirements are met and, where required under Standing Orders, appropriate agreement of the Chief Executive or the relevant Chair of Scrutiny is obtained. All urgent decisions taken are monitored by the Monitoring Officer and regular reports taken to Full Council.

- Members are required to make sound decisions based on written reports which are prepared in accordance with the report writing guide and have to be cleared by both Finance and Legal. The Cabinet receives a briefing (Leader's Briefing) three weeks prior to the Cabinet meeting when members can ask detailed technical questions of officers. All reports must be reviewed and signed-off by or on behalf of the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources and the Corporate Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations Governance

- -and contain clear financial and legal advice to help members arrive at decisions.
- In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council has mechanisms in place to allow the effective, independent and rigorous examination of the proposals and decisions by the Cabinet. These mechanisms involve the Scrutiny process including call-in. The conduct of the Council's business is governed by the Constitution, which includes Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- All members and chief officers are required to complete an annual statement relating to third party transactions and a register of members' interests, which is updated by members, is maintained and published on the Council's website.
- The Brent Council Code of Conduct for Members, revised in 20~~21~~¹⁴~~8~~, defines the standards of conduct expected of elected representatives, based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- In addition, the following codes, protocols and systems are well established within the council. All are regularly reviewed and updated to account for developments in governance arrangements and changes in local government.

These include:

- A declaration of interest process for members and senior officers as described above;
- Rules and protocols are in place and are being further developed for all partnership working;
- Organisation-wide performance appraisal and employee development schemes are in operation;
- There is a corporate complaints procedure in place in line with Ombudsman good practice requirements;
- Whistle-blowing, anti-fraud and anti-corruption / bribery policies are in place and publicised in compliance with the national transparency agenda; senior officers' remuneration is published on the council website.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND REPORTING

Each year the council will carry out a review of the governance arrangements measured against this Code and the principles set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework to ensure compliance with this Code, and the delivery of good governance within the local government framework and current good practice. The purpose of the review will be to

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provide assurance that governance arrangements are good and operating effectively and to identify any action required to improve effective governance in the future.

The outcome of the review will take the form of an Annual Governance Statement prepared on behalf of the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive in accordance with the timetable for the preparation of the annual accounts. The findings of the review will be submitted to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee and then the Audit and Standards Committee for consideration in accordance with the Audit and Accounts Regulations 2015. This requires findings of the review of the system of internal control to be considered by a committee, or by members of the council meeting as whole and that the Annual Governance Statement be approved by resolution of a committee, or members of the council meeting as a whole in advance of approving the statement of accounts.

The Governance Framework consists of a range of documents, policies and procedures developed, maintained and promoted by a number of different departments which are published and promoted to members, officers and others by publication on the council's website.

| This Code will be reviewed ~~after the Annual review~~annually and when any new CIPFA/SOLACE guidance is issued.



Annual Council Meeting – 17 May 2023

Liberal Democrats Group amendment Agenda Item 7 (Annual Review of Constitution)

Effective Scrutiny in Brent

The House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee investigated the issue of “effective scrutiny” during the 2017/19 Parliamentary term.

The remit of their work is in the title of the report they produced, *“Effectiveness of Local Authority Scrutiny and Overview Committees”*.

The Committee report:
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmcomloc/369/369.pdf>

Discussed and expressed views on a number of topics including:

- Importance of Council culture and attitude to Scrutiny
- Scrutiny independence
- Appointment of Chairs
- Resources for Scrutiny
- Officer attitude
- Reporting of Scrutiny findings & recommendations
- Public perceptions

One of the key conclusions was that Scrutiny should be as independent of the Executive as possible and the fact that this independence should be both real and visible.

Councillors can read the House Commons Report and come to their own conclusions.

To safeguard the effectiveness and independence of Brent’s Scrutiny Committees we propose the following changes to the structure of the scrutiny function as detailed within Part 3 of the Brent Council Constitution and to the procedural rules that apply to them:

1. Reports of the Scrutiny Committees and Task Groups along with the Executive Response to them to be reported to Full Council, to allow wider debate and consideration.

2. Standing Order 49 (iii) be amended to require that the Chairs of the existing Scrutiny Committees are Opposition Group appointments (in order to emphasise the independence of Scrutiny from the Executive).
3. That Standing Order 4 in Part 1 of the Constitution be waived in order to enable the above changes to come into immediate effect during the meeting.

We also propose that to ensure individual Scrutiny Committees are not overloaded and more able to cope with the required workload:

4. The Council agree to establish a Scrutiny Committee structure to mirror the departmental structure of the organisation to cover the work and responsibilities of each of the Corporate Directors, including the Chief Executive.
5. Following on from 4. above a report be brought to the next Full Council to put this new structure in place; and
6. If this structure is achieved, the Chairs of the new Scrutiny Committees will be shared between all Groups on the Council with each Opposition Group being allocated as least one Scrutiny Committee to chair.

Councillor Anton Georgiou
Leader of Liberal Democrats Group

	Annual Council Meeting 17 May 2023
	Report from the Corporate Director of Governance
Representation of Political Groups on Committees	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix 1: Political Balance Rules
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Natalie Zara, Head of Executive and Member Services Tel: 0208 937 1716 Natalie.Zara@brent.gov.uk James Kinsella, Governance Manager Tel: 020 8937 2063 james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report fulfils the Council's duty to review and determine the representation of different political groups on certain committees at its Annual Meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 1.2 The current membership of the Council consists of 57 councillors, which has been used as the basis for the annual review. On the basis of this review, the Council will then having a duty to make appointments (where necessary) to those committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats.

2.0 Recommendations

Full Council is asked:

- (1) To agree the size of each committee;
- (2) To agree (where the rules of political balance apply) the allocation of seats on committees to each of the Council's political groups as set out in the report;
- (3) To make appointments to those committees (as set out at Item 9 of this agenda) giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats; and
- (4) To note that the political balance on sub-committees will be reviewed at the first meeting of the General Purposes Committee and the Licensing Committee held following the Annual Meeting.

3.0 Detail

Representation of Political Groups

- 3.1 The Council is required to review and determine the representation of different political groups on certain committees at, or as soon as practicable, after its Annual Meeting.
- 3.2 As soon as practicable after the review, the Council then has a duty to determine the allocation to the different political groups of all seats on the relevant committees. The allocation is determined by applying the "political balance rules" prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and supplemented by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. These rules are set out in Appendix 1 to this report and are designed to ensure that the political composition of the Council's decision-making and deliberative committees, as far as possible, replicates the political composition of Full Council. Subsequently, the Council has a duty to make appointments to those committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seat(s).
- 3.3 The Committees that the political balance rules apply to have similar duties in relation to any sub-committees they may have.
- 3.4 On the basis that the overall membership of the Council stands at 57, the composition of political groups as a percentage of overall membership is as follows:
 - 49 Labour Group councillors – representing 85.97% of the total council membership;
 - 5 Conservative Group councillors – representing 8.77% of the total council membership;
 - 3 Liberal Democrat councillors – representing 5.26% of the total council membership.
- 3.5 According to the political balance rules, a political group for this purpose is a group of two or more members.

- 3.6 Table 1 below sets out the 5 ordinary committees of the Council which the political balance rules apply to; the size of each committee (excluding any non-voting co-opted committee members in accordance with the political balance rules); the total number of seats required to be allocated; the number of seats each political group is entitled to based on the number of group members.
- 3.7 There are a total of **38** ordinary committee seats to which the political balance requirements will formally apply. Based on the overall council membership, the breakdown regarding the proportion of seats each political group is therefore entitled to on these committees is as follows:
- Labour Group – 33 seats
 - Conservative Group – 3 seats
 - Liberal Democrat Group – 2 seats
- 3.8 This has resulted in one seat on each of the 5 ordinary committees to which the political balance rules apply, being allocated between the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups. The allocation of seats between Committees has been agreed between both Groups, with the proposed division as follows.

Table 1

Ordinary Committees	Size	Labour Group 49 85.97%	Conservative Group 5 8.77%	Liberal Democrats Group 3 5.26%
General Purposes Committee	8	7	0	1
Planning Committee	8	7	1	0
Audit & Standards Committee	7	6	1	0
Corporate Parenting Committee	5	4	1	0
Licensing Committee	10	9	0	1
Total seats	38	33	3	2

Strict Entitlement (based on a proportion of total members)		33	3	2
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3.9 There are other committees which the political balance rules apply to but only principles (a), (b) and (d) (see Appendix 1, paragraph 3). Namely, the existing Scrutiny Committees and the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.

3.10 Table 2 below confirms the size and make-up of these Committees, with the Conservative and Liberal Democrats groups both entitled (given the size of each committee) to be allocated a seat on both Scrutiny Committees.

Other Committees	Size	Labour Group 49 85.97%	Conservative Group 5 8.77%	Liberal Democrats Group 3 5.26%
Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	11 (plus 4 voting co-opted members and 2 non-voting co-opted members)	9	1	1
Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	11	9	1	1
Audit & Standards Advisory Committee	7 (plus up to 2 voting co-opted members)	6	1	0

3.11 Subsequent to allocating seats, the Council has a duty to make appointments to the specified committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats. This review has not led to any change in the overall allocation of seats on Committees following the previous review undertaken at the Annual Council meeting in May 2022. The appointments to each committee being made by the respective political groups will be set out within the report to be considered as Agenda Item 9.

3.12 The political balance rules do not apply to the Health and Wellbeing Board but it has been previously agreed that this Board comprise four Cabinet Members

and one opposition Member and this will continue following this review, with the Conservative Group as the Principal Opposition Group allocated the available seat.

4.0 Financial Implications

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

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 These are addressed in the body of the report.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 The s149 public sector equality duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

6.2 The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (outlined above) cover the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

6.3 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report at this stage.

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Corporate Director of Governance


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Appendix 1

The political balance rules prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the Act') and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ('the 1990 Regulations')

1. The rules are that seats on relevant committees must be allocated to different political groups so far as reasonably practicable in accordance with the following four principles:
 - (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership;
 - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that each political group is allocated the same proportion of the total seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council as the proportion of the members of the Council that belong to that group; and
 - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that each political group is allocated the same proportion of the seats on each relevant body as the proportion of the members of the Council that belong to that group.
2. Principle (c) refers to "ordinary committees" which under the Act means those appointed under section 102(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, namely General Purposes Committee, Audit & Standards Committee, Corporate Parenting Committee, Planning Committee and Licensing Committee.
3. Principles (a), (b) and (d) apply to a "body" to which the Council makes appointments. The Act provides that the bodies to which this principle applies include ordinary committees (as defined above) and ordinary sub committees, advisory committees and sub-committees, and joint committees where at least 3 seats are filled by appointments made by the Council.
4. Principles (a), (b) and (d) therefore apply to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee. Strictly speaking, according to principle (b), the Labour Group is entitled to a majority of the seats on the Committee. However, to maintain the current size of the Committee, Full Council can depart from the rules provided no member votes against the proposal.
5. By virtue of the Local Government Act 2000, principles (a), (b) and (d) also apply to the Scrutiny Committees.
6. According to principle (c) above, the General Purposes Committee, Audit & Standards Committee, Corporate Parenting Committee, Planning Committee and Licensing Committee first have to be taken together to determine the *number* of seats that should be allocated to each group. Then, in accordance with paragraph (d) above, the number of seats each political group is entitled to has to be allocated proportionately to individual committees so far as possible.
7. The political balance principles do not apply to the London Councils' Joint Committees or the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee because only one appointment on each Committee is made by the Council.

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 Brent	<p align="center">Annual Council Meeting 17 May 2023</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Corporate Director of Governance</p>
<p align="center">Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs</p>	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	<p>Four</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Appointments to Committees & Outside bodies</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Cabinet Appointments</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Appointments to be confirmed by General Purposes Committee</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Appointments to be confirmed by Licensing Committee</p> <p>NB: Members are asked to note that the full list of above appointments will be circulated in advance of the meeting.</p>
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officers:	<p>Natalie Zara Head of Executive and Member Services Tel: 0208 937 1719 Natalie.Zara@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>James Kinsella Governance Manager Tel: 0208 937 2063 james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk</p>

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed appointment of members and co-opted members to allocated positions on the Council's Committees, and Outside Bodies for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year. The positions have been allocated according to the political balance of the Council and in accordance with the rules on proportionality, which are the subject of a separate report listed as Item 8 on the agenda for this meeting.

- 1.2 The recommendations below set out where, in line with the Council's Constitution, Full Council approval for an appointment is needed and which appointments are subject to confirmation by a separate body, with these presented for information purposes.
- 1.3 It also sets out the proposed appointments of Chairs/Vice Chairs for these bodies for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year, including the appointment of independent chair(s) where necessary.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 For Full Council to agree or confirm (as appropriate) the proposed appointments of Members, Co-Opted Members and substitutes to Council Committees and Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).
- 2.2 For Full Council to agree the proposed appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs to Council Committees as set out in Appendix 1 for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).
- 2.3 For Full Council to agree:
- (a) the reappointment (as detailed within section 3.4 of the report) of David Ewart as Independent Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and Pension Board for a two-year term of office ending on 31st July 2025.
 - (b) the appointment of Rachael Tiffen (as detailed within section 3.5 of the report) as an Independent co-opted member of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee for a four-year term of office, ending at the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2027 (subject to confirmation of the ongoing appointment at the Annual Council meeting each year);
 - (c) to confirm (as detailed within section 3.6 of the report) the continuing appoint of the following three Independent Persons for the remainder of their four-year term of office (subject to confirmation at the Annual Council meeting each year):
 - William Goh & Keir Hopley - to the Annual Council meeting in 2025; and
 - Julie Byrom – to the Annual Council meeting in 2026
 - (d) In relation to the co-opted membership on the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and as detailed within section 3.7 of the report:
 - (i) to confirm the re-appointment of Alloysius Frederick (as a voting co-opted member representing the Roman Catholic Diocese) & Sayed Jaffar (as a non-voting co-opted member representing Muslim Faith Schools) for a further three-year term of office; and

- (ii) the appointment of Jane Noy (as a voting co-opted Parent Governor representative) and Rachelle Goldberg (as a non-voting co-opted member representing Jewish Faith Schools) for a three-year term of office.

NB: These appointments will be subject to ongoing confirmation at the Annual Council meeting each year.

2.4 For Full Council to note the appointments:

- (a) notified by the Leader of the Council in relation to Cabinet and Cabinet Committees and their respective Chairs/Vice Chairs, as set out in Appendix 2 for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).
- (b) to be confirmed by General Purposes Committee as set out in Appendix 3 for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).
- (c) to be confirmed by Licensing Committee as set out in Appendix 4 for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In accordance with Standing Order 27(i) of the Council's Constitution, the membership of Council Committees and other relevant bodies plus the appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs and substitute Members for these are matters requiring agreement at the Annual Council Meeting for the upcoming municipal year.
- 3.2 The appointments to Council Committees are to be made in line with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the Act') and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ('the 1990 Regulations') which set out how Committees must be constituted when a Council is divided into one or more political groups. Further detail on the political balance of the Council to meet these provisions has been detailed in the report 'Representation of Political Groups on Committees' which has been listed as Item 8 on the agenda for this meeting.
- 3.3 The appendices setting out the proposed appointment of councillors to relevant Committees and Outside Bodies have been attached, following consultation with each political group.
- 3.4 The Council has a long-standing arrangement for its Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and Pensions Board to be chaired independently in order to enhance its governance arrangements. These arrangements are considered to operate effectively, with the Independent Chair of both bodies currently Mr David Ewart. Members of both the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and of the Pensions Board are content that the current independent chair has fulfilled his respective roles effectively, as are senior officers. As the term of office for the Independent Chair's current appointment on both bodies is due to

expire on 31 July 2021 it is recommended, given the views expressed, that the Independent Chair be re-appointed to both roles for a further two-year term of office, ending on 31 July 2025. As these are not decision-making meetings there are no significant conflicts in appointing the same person to chair each body.

- 3.5 The Audit & Standards Advisory Committee also includes up to two additional Independent co-opted members who have a particular responsibility for Standards matters. Following a recent recruitment process, Council is asked to agree the appointment of Rachael Tiffen to one of these position for a 4-year term. The other post remains vacant, and a further recruitment exercise is due to be commenced shortly.
- 3.6 Council is also asked to confirm the continuing appointment of the Council's three existing Independent Persons - Julie Byrom, Mr William Goh and Mr Keir Hopley for the remainder of their existing 4-year terms. The Independent Persons fulfil a statutory role and are appointed for the purpose of being consulted by the Monitoring Officer, the Audit & Standards Committee and members in relation to any Code of Conduct complaints. They would also form the Panel, should one need to be convened, in respect of the dismissal of one of the council's three statutory officers (Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and s151 Officer).
- 3.7 As the Terms of Reference for Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee includes the consideration of matters "relating wholly or partly to any education functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet" provision is made (under Standing Order 50e) for its membership to include x 1 voting co-opted member representing the Diocesan Board of Education for the Church of England faith and x 1 voting co-opted member representing the Diocesan Board of Education for the Roman Catholic faith along with up to x 2 voting co-opted Parent Governor representatives. In addition, provision is made for up to x 2 non voting co-opted members who represent the governing bodies of other faith schools, with representatives currently appointed to represent Muslim and Jewish Faith Schools. Following a recent recruitment process undertaken to fill a number of vacancies within the existing co-opted membership, Full Council is being asked to agree the appointment of Jane Noy (as a voting co-opted Parent Governor member on the Committee) and Rachelle Goldberg (as a non-voting co-opted member representing Jewish Faith Schools). In addition, Full Council is being asked to confirm the continued appointment of Alloysius Frederick (as a voting co-opted member representing the Roman Catholic Diocese) & Sayed Jaffar (as a non-voting co-opted member representing Muslim Faith Schools) on the Committee. These appointments will all be for a three-year term of office ending at the Annual Council meeting in 2026 and will be subject to ongoing confirmation at the Annual Council meeting each year. In terms of the remaining vacancies efforts continue to secure a voting co-opted representing from the Church of England Diocesan Board.
- 3.8 As per Standing Order 51 (a) the Council may also appoint a pool of substitute members from which a member may be selected to speak and vote in the absence of a member of the Committee, provided that the substitute member

is not already a member of the Committee. This Standing Order states that each pool shall be up to the number of members comprising membership of the Committee and be divided according to the political balance on the Committee, save that where a group has only one member on the Committee up to two members may be appointed by that group to the pool. The list of appointments also include details of the substitute pool of members nominated.

3.9 For information purposes only:

- the appointments made by the Leader to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees have been set out in Appendix 2.
- the appointments to be confirmed by General Purposes and Licensing Committee have been detailed in Appendices 3 & 4 respectively.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Certain positions to which Members are appointed will attract a Special Responsibility Allowance, the costs of which are met from within the existing Members Allowance budget.

4.2 There are no other financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 As aforementioned, the appointments are due to be made in line with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 The s149 public sector equality duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

6.2 The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (outlined above) cover the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

6.3 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report at this stage. However, equalities implications from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 The nominations for appointments detailed within the appendices to the report have been submitted directly by each political group.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources or property implications that relate to this report.

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Corporate Director Governance

APPENDIX 1: Full Council Appointments - For approval by Annual Council

Council Committees

AUDIT & STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (7 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Independent Chair	David Ewart (31.07.25)
Labour	Chan (Vice-Chair)
Labour	S.Butt
Labour	Choudry
Labour	Kabir
Labour	Long
Labour	Smith
Conservative	J.Patel
Independent Co-opted Members (Voting)	Rachael Tiffen (May 2027)
	Vacancy
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Afzal
Labour	Agha
Labour	Begum
Labour	Gbajumo
Labour	Molloy
Labour	Shah
Conservative	Kansagra
Conservative	Mistry

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE (7 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Chan (Chair)
Labour	S.Butt
Labour	Choudry
Labour	Kabir
Labour	Long
Labour	Smith
Conservative	J.Patel
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Afzal
Labour	Agha
Labour	Begum
Labour	Gbajumo
Labour	Molloy
Labour	Shah
Conservative	Kansagra
Conservative	Mistry

COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (11 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ketan Sheth (Chair)
Labour	Collymore (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Afzal
Labour	Begum
Labour	Ethapemi
Labour	Fraser
Labour	Molloy
Labour	Rajan-Seelan
Labour	Smith
Conservative	Mistry
Liberal Democrat	Matin
Education Statutory Co-optees (Voting-Education matters only)	Jane Noy (Parent Governor)(May 2026) Alloysius Frederick (Roman Catholic Diocese)(May 2026) Vacancy (CoE Diocese)
Non-Voting Co-optees	Sayed Jaffar Milani (Muslim Faith Schools)(May 2026) Rachelle Goldberg (Jewish Faith Schools)(May 2026)
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Conneely
Labour	Long
Labour	Aden
Labour	Ahmadi Moghaddam
Labour	Akram
Labour	S.Butt
Labour	Miller
Labour	Mitchell
Labour	Shah
Conservative	Kansagra
Conservative	Maurice
Liberal Democrat	Georgiou
Liberal Democrat	Lorber

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (5 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Grahl (Chair)
Labour	Collymore
Labour	Dixon
Labour	Gbajumo
Conservative	Hirani
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Chappell
Labour	Conneely
Labour	Kennelly
Labour	Rubin
Conservative	Maurice
Conservative	Mistry

COUNCIL TAX SETTING COMMITTEE (5 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated (usually Cabinet Members)	
Labour	M.Butt (Chair)
Labour	Grahl
Labour	Farah
Labour	M.Patel
Conservative	Kansagra
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Nerva
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Labour	Tatler
Conservative	Maurice
Conservative	J.Patel

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE COMMITTEE (8 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated (usually Cabinet Members)	
Labour	M.Butt (Chair)
Labour	M.Patel (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Grahl
Labour	Knight
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Labour	Tatler
Liberal Democrat	Georgiou
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Afzal
Labour	Akram
Labour	Crabb
Labour	Farah
Labour	Nerva
Labour	Rubin
Labour	Southwood
Liberal Democrat	Lorber
Liberal Democrat	Matin

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (5 Cllrs to be nominated)	
FULL Members Nominated (Cabinet Members)	
Labour	Nerva (Chair)
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Grahl
Labour	M.Patel
Conservative	Kansagra
Full Voting Members (Voting)	Jackie Allain (NWL Integrated Care Board)
	Dr Mohammad Haidar (NWL Integrated Care Board) (Vice-Chair)
	Simon Crawford (NWL Integrated Care Board)
	Robyn Doran (NWL Integrated Care Board)
	Ali Wright (Brent Healthwatch)
	Basu Lamichaane (Brent Residential & Nursing Sector)
Full Members (Non-Voting)	Kim Wright (Chief Executive - Brent Council)
	Phil Porter (Corporate Director Adult Social Care & Health)
	Nigel Chapman (Corporate Director Children & Young People - Brent Council)
	Dr Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health - Brent Council)
	Claudia Brown (Director of Social Care - Brent Council)
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	M.Butt
Labour	Farah
Labour	Knight
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Conservative	Hirani
Conservative	Mistry

LICENSING COMMITTEE (10 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ahmed (Chair)
Labour	Long (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Bajwa
Labour	Chohan
Labour	Collymore
Labour	Ethapemi
Labour	Hack
Labour	Mahmood
Labour	Rubin
Liberal Democrat	Lorber

PLANNING COMMITTEE (8 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Kelcher (Chair)
Labour	S. Butt (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Akram
Labour	Begum
Labour	Dixon
Labour	Mahmood
Labour	Rajan-Seelan
Conservative	Maurice
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Ahmed
Labour	Chappell
Labour	Chohan
Labour	Collymore
Labour	Dar
Labour	Ethapemi
Labour	Kabir
Conservative	Kansagra
Conservative	J.Patel

RESOURCES AND PUBLIC REALM COMMITTEE (11 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Conneely (Chair)
Labour	Long (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Aden
Labour	Ahmadi Moghaddam
Labour	Akram
Labour	S.Butt
Labour	Miller
Labour	Mitchell
Labour	Shah
Conservative	J.Patel
Liberal Democrat	Lorber Georgiou (corrected at Annual Council 17.05.23)
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Ketan Sheth
Labour	Collymore
Labour	Afzal
Labour	Begum
Labour	Ethapemi
Labour	Fraser
Labour	Molloy
Labour	Rajan-Seelan
Labour	Smith
Conservative	Kansagra
Conservative	Maurice
Liberal Democrat	Lorber
Liberal Democrat	Matin

Council Joint Committees

NORTH WEST LONDON JOINT HEALTH AND OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ketan Sheth
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Collymore

LONDON COUNCILS LEADERS' COMMITTEE (s101 Joint Committee)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	M.Butt
Labour	M.Patel (Deputy)

LONDON COUNCILS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (Associated Joint Committee)	
Full Members Nominated	
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson (Deputy)
Labour	Farah (Deputy)
Labour	Nerva (Deputy)
Labour	Tatler (Deputy)

OTHER BODIES AND PANELS

FOSTERING PANEL	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Moeen

EMPLOYEES JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE	
FULL Members Nominated (Employers Side)	
Labour	M.Patel (Chair)
Labour	Chan
Labour	Conneely
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Grahl
Labour	Kennelly
Labour	Nerva
Labour	Tatler
Employees Side Members	
GMB X 4 representatives	
UNISON x 4 representatives	
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	M. Butt
Labour	Afzal
Labour	Ahmadi Moghaddam
Labour	Akram
Labour	Chappell
Labour	Crabb
Labour	Hack
Labour	Smith

TRADING STANDARDS JOINT ADVISORY BOARD	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Farah
Labour	Crabb
Labour	Kennelly
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Chohan
Labour	Fraser
Labour	Miller

WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Krupa Sheth (Chair)
Labour	Ahmed
Labour	S. Butt
Labour	Mitchell
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Agha
Labour	Dixon
Labour	Farah
Labour	Mahmood

BRENT CONNECTS - HARLESDEN	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ethapemi (Chair)
Labour	Chappell (Vice-Chair)

BRENT CONNECTS - KILBURN	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Gbajumo (Chair)

Labour	Molloy (Vice-Chair)
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BRENT CONNECTS - KINGSBURY AND KENTON	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Fraser (Chair)
Labour	Kabir (Vice-Chair)

BRENT CONNECTS - WEMBLEY	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Afzal (Chair)
Labour	Benea (Vice-Chair)

BRENT CONNECTS - WILLESDEN	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Choudry (Chair)
Labour	Long (Vice-Chair)

BRENT YOUTH PARLIAMENT	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Hack (Co-Chair)
Labour	Choudry (Co-Chair)

SERVICE USER CONSULTATIVE FORUM - EQUALITY	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Smith

SERVICE USER CONSULTATIVE FORUM - DISABILITY	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson

SERVICE USER CONSULTATIVE FORUM - PENSIONERS	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Collymore

SERVICE USER CONSULTATIVE FORUM - PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Ahmadi Moghaddam

SERVICE USER CONSULTATIVE FORUM - VOLUNTARY SECTOR	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Fraser

BRENT ACTIVE TRAVEL FORUM	
FULL Member Nominated	
Labour	Mitchell

OUTSIDE BODIES

Open to Non-Cabinet

All Majority Party Only

Agreed Syllabus Conference (usually same membership as SACRE)	Dar
	Smith
	Nerva
Capital Letters	Knight
Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	Ketan Sheth
	Nerva (Deputy)
Chalkhill Community Centre	Fraser
Chalkhill Community Trust Fund	Fraser
	Johnson
Edward Harvist Trust	Afzal
First Wave Housing Board	S Butt
Newable Ltd (Greater London Enterprise Board)	Tatler
Hillside Housing Trust	Knight
I4B Board	S Butt
Lee Valley Regional Park	Krupa Sheth (30.06.2025)
Local Government Information Unit Members' Assembly	Nerva
	Tatler (Deputy)
London Housing Consortium (in process of being disbanded)	Knight
	Farah (Deputy)
London Road Safety Council	Krupa Sheth
	Tatler (alternate)
Positive Ageing in London (formerly appointed to Age UK London)	Nerva
	Ethapemi
Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group	Nerva
	Southwood
	Crabb
Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London	Kennelly
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)	Nerva
	Dar
	Smith
Willesden Consolidated Charities	Long (14.05.2022)
	Chappell
	Choudry
	Miller
Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) Planning Committee	Kelcher S.Butt (Deputy)
Brent District Scout Council	Long
	Choudry
	Miller
Young Brent Foundation	Grahl

OUTSIDE BODIES

Open to Cabinet Only

All Majority Party Only

	FULL Members Nominated
Local Government Association General Assembly	M.Butt
	M.Patel
	Krupa Sheth
	Tatler
London Councils Greater London Employment Forum	M.Patel
	M. Butt (Deputy)

Partners for Brent (Local Strategic Partnership)	M.Butt
Kiln Theatre	M.Butt
	Donnelly-Jackson
West London Alliance	M.Butt
West London Partnership	M.Butt
West London Waste Authority	Krupa Sheth
Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)	M.Butt
	Tatler (Deputy)
Metroland	Donnelly-Jackson
South Kilburn Trust	Tatler

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APPENDIX 2: For noting by Annual Council - Cabinet/Cabinet Committee/Executive Joint Committees Appointments

CABINET (Between 1-10 Full Members)	
Appointed by the Leader	
M. Butt	Leader
M. Patel	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform
Tatler	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Growth
Farah	Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection
Nerva	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care
Krupa Sheth	Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action
Knight	Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security
Grahl	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools
Donnelly-Jackson	Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities & Culture
BARHAM PARK TRUST COMMITTEE (Currently 5 Full Members)	
Nominations by the Leader for approval by Cabinet.	
M. Butt	
Donnelly-Jackson	
M. Patel	
Krupa Sheth	
Tatler	
Substitutue Members nominatedby the Leader for approval by Cabinet	
Farah	
Grahl	
Knight	
Nerva	

JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT, LEWISHAM AND SOUTHWARK (Currently 2 Full Members)	
Appointed by the Leader	
M. Patel (Chair)	
Donnelly-Jackson	
Substitute Members Appointed by the Leader	
Grahl	
Krupa Sheth	

WEST LONDON ECONOMIC PROSPERITY BOARD (Currently 1 Full Member)	
Appointed by Cabinet	
Tatler	
Substitute Member Appointed by the Leader	
M. Butt	

LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE	
Appointed by the Leader	
M. Patel	
Donnelly-Jackson (Deputy)	

LONDON LGPS CIV LTD	
Appointed by the Leader	
Johnson (as Pension Fund Sub Committee Chair)	
M. Patel (Deputy)	

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APPENDIX 3: For noting by Annual Council - Appointments to be made by General Purposes Committee

SENIOR STAFF APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE (5 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	M. Butt (Chair)
Labour	M.Patel
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Labour	Tatler
Conservative	Kansagra
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Vacancy
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Grahl
Labour	Farah
Labour	Knight
Labour	Nerva
Conservative	Maurice
Conservative	Mistry

SENIOR STAFF APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (5 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	M. Butt
Labour	M.Patel
Labour	Krupa Sheth
Labour	Tatler
Conservative	Kansagra
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Vacancy
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Grahl
Labour	Farah
Labour	Knight
Labour	Nerva
Conservative	Maurice
Conservative	Mistry

BRENT PENSION FUND SUB-COMMITTEE (7 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Johnson (Chair)
Labour	Mitchell (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Choudry
Labour	Hack
Labour	Kennelly
Labour	Miller
Conservative	Kansagra
Independent Co-Opted Members (Non-Voting)	Elizabeth Bankole (UNISON)
Substitute Members Nominated	
Labour	Ethapemi
Labour	Dixon
Labour	Mahmood
Labour	Shah
Conservative	Maurice
Conservative	J.Patel

BRENT PENSION BOARD (2 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated (not to be members of Pension Fund Sub Committee)	
Labour	Akram
Labour	Kabir
Independent Chair	David Ewart (31.07.2025)
Full Members	Chris Bala (Pension Scheme Member)
	Bola George (Trade Union Member UNISON)
	Robert Wheeler (Trade Union Member GMB)
	Sunil Gandhi (Employer Member - Non Brent Council)
No provision included within Boards Terms of Reference for appointment of substitute Members	


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APPENDIX 4: For noting by Annual Council - Appointments to be made by Licensing Committee

ALCOHOL & ENTERTAINMENT SUB COMMITTEE (3 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ahmed (Chair)
Labour	Long (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Ethapemi
Substitute Members to be drawn from reminaing pool of Licensing Committee Members	

REGULATORY SUB-COMMITTEE (5 Full Members)	
FULL Members Nominated	
Labour	Ahmed (Chair)
Labour	Long (Vice-Chair)
Labour	Ethapemi
Labour	Collymore
Conservative	Kansagra

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	Annual Council Meeting 17 May 2023
	Report from the Corporate Director of Governance

Municipal Calendar of Meetings 2023 - 2024

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	One: Appendix 1: Annual Calendar of Meetings 2023 - 2024
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	James Kinsella Governance Manager Tel: 020 8937 2063 Email: james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report presents the final calendar of council meetings for the 2023 - 2024 Municipal Year.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members approve the dates for Full Council and other meetings to take place during the 2023 – 2024 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That the Head of Executive and Member Services be authorised to make any alterations deemed necessary to the Municipal Calendar during the course of the Municipal Year having consulted the Leader of the Council; the Leaders of the Opposition Groups; and the Chair of the affected meeting.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Attached as Appendix 1 is the proposed calendar of meetings prepared for the 2023 - 2024 Municipal Year, which lists the dates for Full Council, and its committee/sub-committee meetings, meetings of the Cabinet and other bodies. These will continue to be kept under review as the Municipal Year progresses.

- 3.2 As a result of the powers available to hold the majority of statutory meetings remotely no longer applying, the Council has returned to holding its main statutory meetings in person although it remains possible for members of the public and other stakeholders to still participate online, using the available hybrid meeting technology. In the absence of any change in legislation, it is therefore proposed to continue with these arrangements during the coming Municipal Year.
- 3.3 Attempts will be made, wherever possible, to avoid clashes of meetings for Members, based on a review of committee membership.
- 3.4 Religious holidays have been included on the calendar and meetings have been avoided on dates where it has been deemed inappropriate to hold them due to the importance associated with any particular religious holiday.
- 3.5 For information purposes, the calendar also includes principal civic events.
- 3.6 The dates of the Full Council meetings for the 2023 - 2024 Municipal year have been scheduled as follows:
- Monday 10 July 2023
 - Monday 18 September 2023
 - Monday 20 November 2023
 - Thursday 29 February 2024 (Council Tax and Budget Setting)
 - Wednesday 22 May 2024 (Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making)
- 3.7 Meetings of the following bodies have been agreed jointly with the other authorities listed:
- Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (London Borough of Barnet)
 - Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board (London Borough of Harrow)
 - Joint Committee of the London Boroughs of Brent Lewisham and Southwark (London Boroughs of Lewisham and Southwark)
- 3.8 In terms of attendance, each Member is responsible for submitting his or her apologies for absence in terms of the bodies they are members on. Such notifications shall be in writing and sent to the Head of Executive and Member Services or her representative in good time and in any event, before the commencement of the meeting in question. If such notification is not received, the Member(s) apologies will not be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are none specific to this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires Members of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive period, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. The calendar of meetings has been developed to ensure that membership clashes between meetings are

avoided but members will still be responsible for managing their attendance, in order to comply with this requirement.

5.2 There are no other legal implications relating to this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 In accordance with s 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.2 The s149 Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

6.3 The purpose of the duty is to enquire into whether a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision. Due regard is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances

6.4 As outlined above, religious holidays have been included on the calendar and meetings have not been arranged on evenings where it has been deemed inappropriate to hold meetings because of the importance associated with any particular religious holiday.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 The Annual Calendar of Meetings has been subject to consultation with officers and each political group.

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Corporate Director Governance

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Day	Calendar of Committee Meetings 2023-24 (AGM)	Time
MAY 2023		
Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Monday 1 May	Early May Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 2 May		
Wednesday 3 May	Member Learning and Development	
Thursday 4 May		
Friday 5 May		
Saturday 6 May		
Sunday 7 May		
Monday 8 May	Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles III	
Tuesday 9 May		
Wednesday 10 May	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 11 May		
Friday 12 May		
Saturday 13 May		
Sunday 14 May		
Monday 15 May	Member Learning and Development	
Tuesday 16 May		
Wednesday 17 May	Annual Council Meeting	5.00pm
Thursday 18 May		
Friday 19 May		
Saturday 20 May		
Sunday 21 May		
Monday 22 May	General Purposes Sub-Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
	Member Learning and Development	6.00pm
Tuesday 23 May	Full Licensing Committee followed by Member Learning & Development - Licensing	6.00pm
Wednesday 24 May	Member Learning & Development - Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 25 May	Shavout starts	
Friday 26 May		
Saturday 27 May	Shavout finishes	
Sunday 28 May		

Monday 29 May	Late May Bank Holiday	
	Spring Half term starts	
Tuesday 30 May		
Wednesday 31 May		

JUNE 2023

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Thursday 1 June		
Friday 2 June		
	End of half term	
Saturday 3 June		
Sunday 4 June		
Monday 5 June	Member Learning and Development	6.00pm
Tuesday 6 June	Member Learning & Development - Audit & Standards Advisory Full Committee - Compulsory for Committ	5.00pm
	Audit & Standards Advisory Committee followed by Audit and Standards Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 7 June	Member Learning & Development - Scrutiny Committees	
Thursday 8 June	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee	10.00am
Friday 9 June		
Saturday 10 June		
Sunday 11 June		
Monday 12 June	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Tuesday 13 June	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Wednesday 14 June	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
	Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board - Brent	6.00pm
Thursday 15 June		
Friday 16 June		
Saturday 17 June		
Sunday 18 June		
Monday 19 June	Cabinet	10.00am
	Member Learning & Development	6.00pm
Tuesday 20 June	Schools Forum	6.00pm
Wednesday 21 June		
Thursday 22 June		
Friday 23 June		
Saturday 24 June		
Sunday 25 June		

Monday 26 June	Member Learning and Development	6.00pm
Tuesday 27 June	Member Learning & Development - Brent Pensions Fund – Compulsory for Committee members	5.00pm
	Brent Pension Fund Sub-Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 28 June	Eid Al Adha	
Thursday 29 June		
Friday 30 June		

JULY 2023

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Saturday 1 July		
Sunday 2 July		
Monday 3 July	Brent Connects (TBC)	
Tuesday 4 July	ML&D	
Wednesday 5 July	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny	6.00pm
Thursday 6 July		
Friday 7 July		
Saturday 8 July		
Sunday 9 July		
Monday 10 July	Full Council	6.00pm
Tuesday 11 July	Joint Borough IT (Southwark to Chair) Brent Connects (TBC)	6.00pm
Wednesday 12 July	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee Planning Committee	10.00am 6.00pm
Thursday 13 July	SACRE Brent Connects (TBC)	5.00pm
Friday 14 July		
Saturday 15 July		
Sunday 16 July		
Monday 17 July	General Purposes Sub-Committee Cabinet Corporate Parenting	9.30am 10.00am 5.00pm
Tuesday 18 July	Audit & Standards Advisory Committee (followed by Audit and Standards Committee)	6.00pm
Wednesday 19 July	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny	6.00pm
Thursday 20 July	Brent Connects (TBC)	
Friday 21 July		
Saturday 22 July		
Sunday 23 July		
Monday 24 July	Pension Board	6.00pm
Tuesday 25 July	Health & Wellbeing Board	6.00pm
Wednesday 26 July	Last day of Summer term	
Thursday 27 July	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee Brent Connects (TBC)	6.00pm

Friday 28 July		
Saturday 29 July		
Sunday 30 July		
Monday 31 July		

AUGUST 2023

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Tuesday 1 August		
Wednesday 2 August		
Thursday 3 August		
Friday 4 August		
Saturday 5 August		
Sunday 6 August		
Monday 7 August		
Tuesday 8 August		
Wednesday 9 August	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 10 August		
Friday 11 August		
Saturday 12 August		
Sunday 13 August		
Monday 14 August	Cabinet	10.00am
Tuesday 15 August		
Wednesday 16 August		
Thursday 17 August		
Friday 18 August		
Saturday 19 August		
Sunday 20 August		
Monday 21 August		
Tuesday 22 August		
Wednesday 23 August		
Thursday 24 August		
Friday 25 August		
Saturday 26 August		
Sunday 27 August		
Monday 28 August	Summer Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 29 August		
Wednesday 30 August		
Thursday 31 August		

SEPTEMBER 2023

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Friday 1 September		
Saturday 2 September		
Sunday 3 September		
Monday 4 September	Start of Autumn term	
Tuesday 5 September	Barham Park Trust Committee	10.00am
Wednesday 6 September	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny	6.00pm
Thursday 7 September	Janmastami (Hindu celebration)	
	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee	10.00am
Friday 8 September		
Saturday 9 September		
Sunday 10 September		
Monday 11 September	General Purposes Sub-Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
Tuesday 12 September	ML&D	
Wednesday 13 September	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 14 September		
Friday 15 September	Rosh Hashanah Start	
Saturday 16 September		
Sunday 17 September	Rosh Hashanah finishes	
Monday 18 September	Full Council	6.00pm
Tuesday 19 September	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny	6.00pm
Wednesday 20 September		
Thursday 21 September		
Friday 22 September		
Saturday 23 September	Liberal Democrat Party Conference starts	
Sunday 24 September	Yom Kippur	
Monday 25 September	Yom Kippur	
Tuesday 26 September	Liberal Democrat Party Conference finishes	
	Audit and Standards Advisory Committee & Audit & Standards Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 27 September		
Thursday 28 September		
Friday 29 September		

Saturday 30 September		
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OCTOBER 2023

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Sunday 1 October	Conservative Party Conference Starts/Black History Month	
Monday 2 October	Brent Connects - Kilburn	
Tuesday 3 October	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee	10.00am
Wednesday 4 October	Conservative Party Conference finishes Pension Fund Sub-Committee (including Training session)	6.00pm
Thursday 5 October		
Friday 6 October		
Saturday 7 October		
Sunday 8 October	Labour Party Conference Starts	
Monday 9 October		
Tuesday 10 October		
Wednesday 11 October	Labour Party Conference finishes SACRE	5.00pm
Thursday 12 October	Schools Forum	6.00pm
Friday 13 October		
Saturday 14 October		
Sunday 15 October	Navratri starts	
Monday 16 October	Cabinet Brent Connects - Kingsbury & Kerton	10.00am
Tuesday 17 October	Corporate Parenting Brent Connects - Harlesden	5.00pm
Wednesday 18 October	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 19 October		
Friday 20 October		
Saturday 21 October		
Sunday 22 October		
Monday 23 October	Autumn Half term starts Navratri finishes	
Tuesday 24 October		
Wednesday 25 October		
Thursday 26 October		
Friday 27 October	End of half term	
Saturday 28 October		

Sunday 29 October		
Monday 30 October	Health & Wellbeing Board	6.00pm
Tuesday 31 October	Brent Connects - Wembley	
	ML&D	

NOVEMBER 2023

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Wednesday 1 November	Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board - Harrow	6.00pm
Thursday 2 November		
Friday 3 November		
Saturday 4 November		
Sunday 5 November		
Monday 6 November	Brent Connects - Willesden	
Tuesday 7 November	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny	6.00pm
Wednesday 8 November	Pension Board	6.00pm
Thursday 9 November	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee	10.00am
Friday 10 November		
Saturday 11 November		
Sunday 12 November	Diwali/Rememberance Day	
Monday 13 November	Cabinet (Diwali 12, New year 14)	10.00am
Tuesday 14 November	Hindu New Year	
Wednesday 15 November	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 16 November		
Friday 17 November		
Saturday 18 November		
Sunday 19 November		
Monday 20 November	Full Council	6.00pm
Tuesday 21 November	Member Learning and Development	
Wednesday 22 November	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny	6.00pm
Thursday 23 November	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee	6.00pm
Friday 24 November		
Saturday 25 November		
Sunday 26 November		
Monday 27 November		
Tuesday 28 November	Joint Borough IT (Lewisham to Chair) ML&D	6.00pm
Wednesday 29 November		
Thursday 30 November		

December 2023

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Friday 1 December		
Saturday 2 December		
Sunday 3 December		
Monday 4 December	Schools Forum (additional date if needed)	6.00pm
Tuesday 5 December	ML&D	
Wednesday 6 December	Audit and Standards Advisory Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 7 December	Hanukkah starts	
Friday 8 December		
Saturday 9 December		
Sunday 10 December		
Monday 11 December	General Purposes Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
Tuesday 12 December	ML&D	
Wednesday 13 December	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 14 December	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee	10.00am
Friday 15 December	Hanukkah finishes	
Saturday 16 December		
Sunday 17 December		
Monday 18 December		
Tuesday 19 December		
Wednesday 20 December		
Thursday 21 December	Last day of Autumn term	
Friday 22 December		
Saturday 23 December		
Sunday 24 December		
Monday 25 December	Christmas Day	
Tuesday 26 December	Boxing day	
Wednesday 27 December		
Thursday 28 December		
Friday 29 December		
Saturday 30 December		
Sunday 31 December		

JANUARY 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Monday 1 January	New Years Day	
Tuesday 2 January		
Wednesday 3 January		
Thursday 4 January		
Friday 5 January		
Saturday 6 January		
Sunday 7 January		
Monday 8 January	Start of Spring term	
Tuesday 9 January	Brent Connects - Harlesden ML&D	
Wednesday 10 January		
Thursday 11 January	Brent Connects - Kilburn	
Friday 12 January		
Saturday 13 January		
Sunday 14 January		
Monday 15 January	General Purposes Sub-Committee Cabinet	9.30am 10.00am
Tuesday 16 January	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee Brent Connects - Kingsbury & Kenton	10.00am
Wednesday 17 January	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 18 January		
Friday 19 January		
Saturday 20 January		
Sunday 21 January		
Monday 22 January	Health & Wellbeing Board	6.00pm
Tuesday 23 January	Brent Connects - Willesden ML&D	
Wednesday 24 January	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny	6.00pm
Thursday 25 January	Holocaust Memorial event	
Friday 26 January		
Saturday 27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day	

Sunday 28 January		
Monday 29 January	Brent Connects -Wembley	
	Schools Forum	6.00pm
Tuesday 30 January	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny	6.00pm
Wednesday 31 January		

FEBRUARY 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Thursday 1 February		
Friday 2 February		
Saturday 3 February		
Sunday 4 February		
Monday 5 February	Cabinet	10.00am
	Corporate Parenting	5.00pm
Tuesday 6 February	Audit and Standards Advisory Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 7 February	Planning Committee	
Thursday 8 February	SACRE	5.00pm
Friday 9 February		
Saturday 10 February		
Sunday 11 February		
Monday 12 February	Spring Half term starts	
Tuesday 13 February		6.00pm
Wednesday 14 February		
Thursday 15 February		
Friday 16 February	End of half term	
Saturday 17 February		
Sunday 18 February		
Monday 19 February	Labour Group Meeting	6.00pm
Tuesday 20 February	Schools Forum	6.00pm
	ML&D	
Wednesday 21 February	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee	10.00am
	Pension Fund Sub-Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 22 February		
Friday 23 February		
Saturday 24 February		
Sunday 25 February		
Monday 26 February		
Tuesday 27 February	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny	6.00pm
Wednesday 28 February		
Thursday 29 February	Full Council - Budget & Council Tax Setting meeting	6.00pm

MARCH 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Friday 1 March	Council Tax Setting Committee	10.00am
Saturday 2 March		
Sunday 3 March		
Monday 4 March	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny	6.00pm
Tuesday 5 March	ML&D	
Wednesday 6 March	Brent Connects - Kingsbury & Kenton	
Thursday 7 March		
Friday 8 March		
Saturday 9 March		
Sunday 10 March		
Monday 11 March	Ramadan starts	
	General Purposes Sub-Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
Tuesday 12 March	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee	10.00am
	Brent Connects - Kilburn	
Wednesday 13 March	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 14 March	Brent Connects - Harlesden	
	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee	6.00pm
Friday 15 March		
Saturday 16 March		
Sunday 17 March	Liberal Democrat Spring Conference starts	
Monday 18 March	Brent Connects - Wembley	
Tuesday 19 March	Joint Borough IT (Brent to Chair)	6.00pm
	Brent Connects - Willesden	
	Liberal Democrat Spring Conference finishes/ML&D	
Wednesday 20 March	Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board - Brent	6.00pm
Thursday 21 March		
Friday 22 March		
Saturday 23 March		
Sunday 24 March		
Monday 25 March	Pension Board	6.00pm

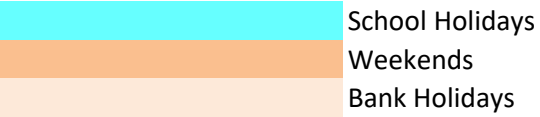
Tuesday 26 March	Audit and Standards Advisory Committee	6.00pm
Wednesday 27 March		
Thursday 28 March	Provisional date - Purdah starts	
	Last day of Spring term	
Friday 29 March	Good Friday	
Saturday 30 March		
Sunday 31 March	Easter Sunday	

APRIL 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Monday 1 April	Easter Monday	
Tuesday 2 April		
Wednesday 3 April		
Thursday 4 April		
Friday 5 April		
Saturday 6 April		
Sunday 7 April		
Monday 8 April	Cabinet	10.00am
Tuesday 9 April	Eid Al-Fitr starts - Ramadan finishes	
Wednesday 10 April	Eid Al-Fitr finishes	
Thursday 11 April	Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee	10.00am
Friday 12 April		
Saturday 13 April		
Sunday 14 April		
Monday 15 April	Summer term starts	
	Health & Wellbeing Board	6.00pm
Tuesday 16 April	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny	6.00pm
Wednesday 17 April	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 18 April		
Friday 19 April		
Saturday 20 April		
Sunday 21 April		
Monday 22 April	Corporate Parenting	5.00pm
Tuesday 23 April	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny	6.00pm
Wednesday 24 April		
Thursday 25 April		
Friday 26 April		
Saturday 27 April		
Sunday 28 April		
Monday 29 April		
Tuesday 30 April	ML&D	

MAY 2024

Day	Committee Meeting	Time
Wednesday 1 May		
Thursday 2 May	London Mayoral Elections	
Friday 3 May		
Saturday 4 May		
Sunday 5 May		
Monday 6 May	Early May Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 7 May		
Wednesday 8 May	Planning Committee	6.00pm
Thursday 9 May		
Friday 10 May		
Saturday 11 May		
Sunday 12 May		
Monday 13 May		
Tuesday 14 May		
Wednesday 15 May		
Thursday 16 May		
Friday 17 May		
Saturday 18 May		
Sunday 19 May		
Monday 20 May		
Tuesday 21 May		
Wednesday 22 May	Annual Council Meeting	6.00pm
Thursday 23 May		
Friday 24 May		
Saturday 25 May		
Sunday 26 May		
Monday 27 May	Spring Bank Holiday/Summer half Term starts	
Tuesday 28 May	General Purposes Sub-Committee	9.30am
	Cabinet	10.00am
Wednesday 29 May		
Thursday 30 May		
Friday 31 May	End of half term	



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