

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 8 November 2022 at 6.00 pm

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

Please note this will be held as an in person meeting which all Committee members will be required to attend in person.

The meeting will be open for the press and public to attend or alternatively can be followed via the live webcast. The link to follow proceedings via the live webcast is available [HERE](#)

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Conneely (Chair)
Long (Vice-Chair)
Moghaddam
Akram
S Butt
Bajwa
Georgiou
Miller
Mitchell
Patel
Shah

Substitute Members

Councillors:

Afzal, Begum, Collymore, Ethapemi, Fraser, Moeen,
Rajan-Seelan, Ketan Sheth and Smith

Councillors:

Maurice & Kansagra
Lorber & Matin

For further information contact: Natalie Connor, Governance Officer
Tel: 020 8937 1506 ; Email: Natalie.Connor@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit: www.brent.gov.uk/democracy

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 significant enough to affect your judgement of a public interest and either it affects a financial position or relates to a regulatory matter then 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 of 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 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 is the subject of a registrable personal interest.

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
1 Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members	
2 Declarations of interests Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary, personal or prejudicial interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.	
3 Deputations (if any) To hear any deputations received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 67.	
4 Minutes of the previous meeting To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 6 September 2022 as a correct record.	1 - 6
5 Matters arising (if any) To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.	
6 Brent Council's Grants Programmes (joint item with the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee) To receive a report providing an update on the Council's grants programmes, inclusive of the 'You Decide' Participatory Budgeting initiative. Please note that the Chair and members of the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee have been invited to attend this meeting in order to consider this item as a joint scrutiny review.	7 - 44
7 Draft Borough Plan 2023-27 (joint item with the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee) To consider and review the draft Borough Plan and priorities for 2023-27. Please note that the Chair and members of the Community & Wellbeing	45 - 76

Scrutiny Committee have been invited to consider this item as a joint scrutiny review.

8 Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2021-22 77 - 152

To receive the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) Annual Report and review delivery of the SBP priorities and objectives for 2021-22

(The agenda was republished to include the Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report on 4 November 2022.)

9 Police Engagement in Brent

To receive a verbal update from the Metropolitan Police and review the mechanisms established within Brent for engagement with the police.

10 Scrutiny Work Plan 2022/23 Update 153 - 160

To consider the Scrutiny Committee's work plan for 2022/23.

11 Scrutiny Progress Update - Recommendations Tracker 161 - 172

This report updates the Committee on the scrutiny recommendations tracker.

12 Any other urgent business

Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Head of Executive and Member Services or her representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 60.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 13 December 2022



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MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES AND PUBLIC REALM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Tuesday 6 September 2022
at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Conneely (Chair), Councillor Long (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Moghaddam, Akram, S Butt, Bajwa, Georgiou, Miller, Mitchell, Patel and Shah.

Also Present: Councillors Mili Patel (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform) for item 7 and Southwood (Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy & Citizen Experience) for item 6.

1. **Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members**

None received.

2. **Declarations of interests**

No interests were declared at the meeting.

3. **Deputations (if any)**

None.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 July 2022 be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising (if any)**

The Committee were updated that following a deputation received by the Committee in the last Municipal Year from a resident, Mr Philip Grant, an assurance had been received by the Chair in terms of the accuracy of the information presented at the meeting. It was expressed that clarity of language would be welcomed in future to ensure the confidence of information being shared to the Committee.

6. **Cost of Living crisis**

Councillor Eleanor Southwood (Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy & Citizen Experience) introduced a report, updating the Scrutiny Committee on actions being taken by the Council to mitigate the impact of the Cost of Living crisis in Brent and updating the Committee on progress with the Cost of Living themed Outcome Based Review (OBR). Members noted the OBR had been established to investigate the issues arising from the Cost of Living Crisis as well as considering future solutions and had involved considerable input from local stakeholders and

partners, who were supporting residents on the ground. Members were also welcomed and encouraged to play a part in this process, where possible.

Peter Gadsdon (Corporate Director Resident Services) and Tom Cattermole (Director of Customer Access) were present alongside Sadie East (Director of Transformation), to answer questions from the Committee, which are noted below:

- Regarding the current challenges of delivery of these projects; it was noted that work had taken place alongside London Community Kitchen to provide free school meals to residents. The research of the Outcome Based Review would help to observe how closely linked mental health was with the Cost of Living Crisis, as well as the importance of early intervention so that residents were able to approach the Council at an early stage. There have also been delivery gaps with partners on health issues, on which the Council was working with GPs for referrals to circle back to the Council around debt issues.
- Further to partnership working, it was asked how the Council was linking with the NHS on the Cost of Living Crisis. There were discussions ongoing with the NHS to ensure that residents going from hospital to home would have safe, heated conditions. The Council were also waiting for confirmation from the Secretary of State to sign off on future funding for the Household Support Fund.
- It was suggested that detail of the NHS' communications plan be shared with residents. It was agreed that this would be circulated with Members.
- From the support outlined in the paper, details were sought on the funding being provided by Brent and how much was coming from central government. It was agreed that Officers could create a document to signpost exactly how this money was set out. The Council was currently providing significant support to residents, which would increase in the coming months.
- Referring to the extra £3 million pledged to the Residents' Support Fund, it was asked whether this would be able to cover the likely increase in demand on the scheme. It was updated that this figure would be clarified as part of the Council's budget discussions, as well as funding received from Central Government with early intervention being prioritised.
- Regarding the current wait time of 8 weeks on a Residents' Support Fund application, it was updated that this time frame was due to the volume of requests since the Cost of Living Crisis had begun. There was an option on the form to fast track emergency applications, which were then completed within two days. There was additional emergency support available through Brent Community Hubs.
- It was highlighted that residents who had an overdraft on their debit or credit card could potentially lead to debt. To this end, it was asked whether there was there a London wide approach to residents who did not qualify for available support. This had been discussed within the GLA and London Councils in terms of a robust safety net, with financial advice services bringing together all advice agencies and support available. Brent had been involved in the pilot of this initiative, as part of a localised and London wide offer. Interest free loans through a credit union were also offered to residents through the Residents Support Fund.
- Regarding businesses, it was asked what support the Council had available to businesses, specifically small businesses who were also experiencing financial difficulties. A toolkit for businesses was being put together to compile

the support that was available to them in terms of national support. Longer term, there was an ambition for businesses to be more energy efficient going forwards.

- Regarding timescales for the advisory group for those affected by fuel poverty, it was updated that currently, the aim was to have something in place for November, which would cover the procurement period and the subsequent mobilisation period. Moving on to the work around the Community Shop project, it was updated that work alongside the voluntary sector and food banks was currently underway.
- It was asked how the Council was hearing from different cohorts and residents; it was noted that in the case of Council tenants there was frequent dialogue, and community groups who were working with residents on a day to day basis were made aware of what the Council could offer. Part of the solution was going out to residents rather than waiting for residents to approach the Council. In terms of communications plans, a lot of the work around the vaccinations programme was attempting to be emulated as part of the Cost of Living Crisis.
- It was noted that the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) remained low for residents, and it was asked if lobbying was ongoing to central Government on this issue. This was highlighted as being a particular problem for Brent compared to other London boroughs and work would go ahead to rejuvenate lobbying on this issue.
- The lessons learned from the last Financial Inclusion communications campaign was that a multi-channel approach from trusted sources in the community was vital in communicating messages to residents.
- With regard to pet expenses, it was asked if this was an issue for residents' living costs. It was reported that there was anecdotal evidence of those abandoning pets, and it was being explored whether this had any correlation with the Cost of Living Crisis.
- Members sought further details around the 8-week wait time for the RSF, with an assurance being sought that residents were being signposted very clearly to support packages. There was a route for those with the greatest need to be accessed quickly and in a more urgent way.
- It was asked what the measurable impact of the Financial Inclusion data had gleaned so far. It was noted that correlation had been seen, in terms of areas of deprivation in the borough having the greatest need accessing the Residents Support Fund more frequently.
- It was asked about a potential increase in gambling, particularly online as a result of the Cost of Living Crisis and whether this had been borne out in the data. It was updated that there was no anecdotal evidence at this stage of that being the case, but that applications could be reviewed to analyse whether this was the case.
- It was asked if Brent was taking part in the national Warm Hubs programme for residents. It was clarified that the Civic Centre would be a warm hub, and partners were being spoken to across the borough to present a comprehensive list to residents.

The Chair thanked those present for their contributions to the discussion, and closed the item by summarising the Recommendations, Suggestions for Improvement and Information Requests made by the Committee, which are noted below:

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- i. Lobby central government for increase to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates to help alleviate the burden of the cost of living crisis on residents
- ii. Use the Council's role and relationship with the NHS to lobby for more support for our residents to strengthen our efforts in helping them through the cost of living crisis.

The Committee noted the following suggestions for improvement:

- i. Improve our publicity of credit unions within the borough, highlighting how residents can use these services to navigate the cost of living crisis.
- ii. Explore co-operative options with regards to the Community Shop model.
- iii. Incorporate NHS support for residents into the Council's Cost of Living communications plan.

The Committee noted the following Information requests:

- i. Provide a breakdown of different sources of funding for the Cost of Living initiatives (i.e. funding received from central government, including any new monies, as well as the funding coming from the Council's own income).
- ii. Provide the Committee with a copy of the Financial Inclusion Dashboard Presentation that was previously presented to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on 1 August 2022.
- iii. Provide information on the support the Council and central government are offering to businesses impacted by the Cost of Living crisis.
- iv. Provide a copy of the Cost of Living communications plan.
- v. Provide feedback from the NHS on any support for residents to navigate cost of living crisis.
- vi. Provide intelligence/data (if any) to Committee on whether Gambling is a trend amongst Resident Support Fund applications.

7. Budget Scrutiny Task Group

The Committee received a report for the Committee to establish a Scrutiny Task Group to consider the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2023-24.

Having considered the report it was AGREED:

- (1) That a Budget Scrutiny Task Group be established, as set out within the report with membership to be agreed through the Chair, following nominations submitted.
- (2) To approve the terms of reference for the Task Group as follows:
 1. To consider the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2023-24.
 2. Receive evidence from Cabinet Members, senior departmental officers, and any other relevant stakeholders.
 3. Agree a draft report to comment on the budget proposals for submission to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee for ratification and submission to Cabinet.

8. **Scrutiny Work Plan 2022/23 update**

The Committee considered and noted and the updated work plan for the 2022-23 Municipal Year.

9. **Scrutiny Progress Update - Recommendation Tracker**

The Committee received and noted an update on the Recommendations Tracker.


10. **Any other urgent business**

None.

The meeting closed at 7:42pm

COUNCILLOR RITA CONNEELY
Chair

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	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 8 November 2022
	Report from Communities and Regeneration
Brent Council's Grants Programmes	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	n/a
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight the relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	Six Appendix A – Carbon Offset Fund Appendix B – NCIL Old and Revised Criteria Appendix C – You Decide Projects Appendix D – You Decide Data Appendix E – Brent Health Matters Appendix F – Additional Council Grants
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Lorna Hughes, Director of Engagement, Strategy & Communications Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To inform Members of the Committee of the wide range of community grants offered by the council. This includes the 'You Decide' Participatory Budgeting initiative, Carbon Offset Fund, Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) and Brent Health Matters grants.
- 1.2. To inform Members of the Committee about a revised approach to allocating the next round of NCIL funding in 2023.
- 1.3. To provide the Committee information on additional grants as requested.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. For the Committee to note the content of the report.
- 2.2. For the Committee to share feedback on the Grants presented in this paper and comment on how future You Decide programmes can be improved.

3. Background on grant schemes

- 3.1. Most Councils offer grant support to voluntary community organisations. Usually, funds are made available on an annual basis to community organisations who operate in the interest of residents, with most having a formal governance structure, employed and voluntary staff who work to deliver against clear social purpose with an adopted constitution. This report provides details on how Grant funding is delivered by the Council.
- 3.2. Brent Council offers two grants in line with this approach, Edward Harvist Trust Fund and Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 3.3. Brent Council goes further than most councils by offering grant funding directly to Residents through the smaller Love Where You Live (LWYL) Grant Programme.
- 3.4. The Council has always made provision for Grant funding, and has maintained this support to the Voluntary and Community Sector despite the challenging and changing financial environment local authorities face.
- 3.5. There has been significant direct investment to local organisations in recent years over £11 million distributed through NCIL since 2017, £220,860 in LWYL and a further £415,000 in Edward Harvist Trust Fund since 2017
- 3.6. It is not unusual for the Grant funding environment to be competitive within communities, resulting in over subscription to Grant streams and invariably some disappointment among organisations who periodically face rejection for funding.
- 3.7. The Council makes effort to liaise and inform organisations of the outcomes of funding applications by publishing Grant funding results on the website and reporting to Cabinet for the larger NCIL programme.
- 3.8. Efforts to improve transparency and participation have seen the Council introduce a new method of funding allocation that involves large numbers of residents in deciding where funding goes. The You Decide Programme is an example of involving residents to share the decision-making and deliver transparency at a time where local organisations compete for resources.
- 3.9. Local research has found that Brent's £2m You Decide programme, has not been matched in terms of the level of allocated funding when compared to other London Councils Participatory Budgeting initiatives.
- 3.10. You Decide Programme has demonstrated benefits to the Council, including increased resident participation, and receiving applications from organisations

that have never applied. You Decide Programme will continue in 2023 alongside the ongoing delivery of the other Grant programmes presented here.

- 3.11. In 2021 a small independent review of the Grants administration was undertaken. This work identified a number of improvements that could be made to the Grant programme to improve the applicant experience.
- 3.12. Many of those recommendations have been introduced including:
- Reduced paper monitoring required
 - Remove financial receipting for Edward Harvist Trust Fund
 - Reduced payment schedule
 - Introduced 50% upfront payment for NCIL and Edward Harvist
- 3.13. The Council has three main grants that residents and community groups can apply for.
- 3.14. Love Where You Live (LWYL)

LWYL grants are small grants that aim to foster a sense of belonging amongst all communities, where diversity is celebrated and valued.

The fund was launched in April 2017. Initially, individuals or groups could apply for £500 but this was changed in 2021 to £1,000. Since April 2017, £222,860 has been allocated to support 353 projects. Since the increase in the award, the Grant has attracted a higher number of applications than previously and continues to be popular among individuals due to its speed of processing and almost immediate release of funds.

The Grants applications are assessed internally and decisions are made by a small panel of officers. Using the pre-payment card system, payments can be made almost immediately if the criteria is fully satisfied. To date, 22 applications have been rejected.

A breakdown of spend per year is:

- June 2017 to March 2020: 181 projects awarded, total spend £80,210.
- April 2020 to March 2021: 30 projects awarded. Total spend £15,000
- 2021/22: 30 projects awarded, total spend £19,500
- Q1 and Q2 2022/23: 53 projects awarded, total spend in first 5 months £48,150 plus £60,000 for 59 Queen's Jubilee Street parties.

The LWYL Grant mainly attracts small local initiatives that bring communities together. Typically residents and organisations apply for funding to deliver small neighbourhood level events.

The Council has a strong track record of monitoring and managing Grant Funded Projects, and recently the Council was awarded a small fund of £15k from NHS England. As part of efforts to reduce health inequalities, NHS England wants to see the fund distributed to small organisation who can reach Black African Heritage communities. We have used the Love Where You Live grant administration process to deliver the fund on behalf of NHSE.

This fund has been advertised widely and was launched on 24 October 2022 so at this time of reporting we cannot confirm the number applicants. All successful applicants will be monitored internally.

3.15. Edward Harvist

The Edward Harvist Trust Fund is an income the Council receives as part of a legacy donated to Brent, Harrow and Haringey. The Fund is for grants towards one-off projects that work to improve the quality of life for local people in Brent. The Board of Trustees includes a nominated Elected Member of the Council. In this administration, the nominated Councillor is Councillor Afzal.

It is administered by the London Borough of Harrow. Brent Council receives 28% of the annual income received by the Charity every year. The annual income varies due to the dependence on the amount of donations received. However, on average income is approximately £80,000.

The fund is distributed to voluntary organisations in Brent that meet the Trust criteria. To be eligible to apply, organisations must be a constituted group and had not received funding from Edward Harvist Trust in the previous financial year. An independent panel reviews the projects and selects successful applicants. Trustees are then welcome to comment and provide input on the proposed outcomes before confirmation of the decision.

A breakdown of spend per year since 2018 is:

- 2018/19 16 projects award a total of £72,733.32
- 2019/20 24 projects award a total of £102,312
- 2020/21 12 projects award a total of £52,942
- 2021/22 17 projects awarded a total £71,242
- 2022/23 27 projects awarded a total £116, 535

Typically, this Grant attracts applications from Brent-based community and voluntary sector organisations at a 'developmental stage' where organisations are growing and increasing skills in bid writing and scaling up projects. This Grant generally focuses on 'service delivery' and allows projects to be delivered over a longer period of time than the smaller LWYL projects.

To historically, the success rate of EH applications is at 55%. While in the last round the success rate was 24/33 projects (72%)

The reasons for projects being rejected:

- 30% - Poor quality of application made or not complete
- 24% - Organisation previously funded for consecutive years
- 17% - Brent sub-criteria of requiring match funding was not met.
- 29% Other reasons included: existing project; the project did not meet key EHTF charity criteria

3.16. Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge applied to housing and residential developers. This money is then reallocated back into communities to support local projects via the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL). The distribution of NCIL is governed by Guidance from CIL regulations by National Government.

Brent is divided into five NCIL Neighbourhoods; Kilburn & Kensal, Kingsbury & Kenton, Wembley, Willesden and Harlesden. Where a Neighbourhood Plan is in place, up to 25% of NCIL collected from developments within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary may be spent on neighbourhood priorities. There are two adopted Neighbourhood Plans in Brent, Sudbury Town and Harlesden.

Historically, the Council has delivered 2 NCIL rounds per year. Until 2021 the Grant did not have an upper limit. Community organisations have experienced generous grant awards of in excess of £285,000.

The awards made follow the standard delegation whereby a Director can make awards of up to £100k and higher award decisions are made by Cabinet. All awards are reported to Cabinet. In total 22 projects were awarded over £100,000.

The key decision took place on 14/1/2019 and affected future allocations from 22/1/2019 (Decision - Brent Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy – Review), this means that the NCIL available to the borough has effectively been allocated in two different ways:

Up to 22/1/2019: Areas with a Neighbourhood plan got 25% of the CIL received in their area. The areas without a neighbourhood plan got 15% of the CIL received in their area

From 22/1/2019: Areas with a Neighbourhood plan get 25% of the CIL received in their area. The areas without a neighbourhood plan get 15% of the CIL received across the remainder the borough, split in the following way:

- 50% of this goes to Wembley
- The remaining 50% is split equally between the other four Brent Connects areas: Kingsbury and Kenton, Willesden, Harlesden, and Kilburn and Kensal Rise

In delivering NCIL, Brent Council has taken an ambitious and transparent approach that gives much greater access to the fund than many other Councils. Typically, other Councils create a list of potential projects to receive funding. We have seen an example where Westminster City Council have given NCIL Funding to their 25 Forum areas to deliver the funds. However, they have looked to Brent to learn from our You Decide approach with the aim of increasing participation from a wider group of residents.

Since April 2017, the Council has collected £17m in income and received 575 applications. To date, the actual NCIL spend is £ 11,857,280.37 which has supported 297 projects over the last 5 years.

For standard application NCIL rounds, all applicants submitted will undergo assessment by the panel consisting of Head of Strategy and Partnerships and Head of Planning. The Panel score against the set criteria scoring is weighted giving higher value to some elements of the assessment of that particular round. The projects with the highest score will be awarded the allocated funds for that round.

Examples of projects awarded.

- Social infrastructure includes supporting vulnerable children and adults for example, the Sheriff Centre received £32,000 will be offering free debt adviser at the Kilburn Community Hub for two years.
- Physical infrastructure includes works that increase capacity of existing infrastructure or repair existing infrastructure. Examples include Harlesden Ummah Community centre who received £18,000 to refurbishment the centre. The aim of refurbishment is to improve the space in order to enhance the current service provision and to the number of services delivered at the centre.
- Jason Roberts Foundation was awarded £194,988 in 2021 to undertake much needed upgrading works at The Pavilion. The project will make the centre an all-weather facility that can be used by residents and community groups all year-round, by erecting a steel canopy over the multi-games area and 5-a-side pitch. The project will also provide an outside reception area for participants to register and for spectators to be protected from sun and adverse weather.

4. Participatory Budgeting: overview

- 4.1. Participatory Budgeting is a method of community involvement whereby the community make the decision on financial resources.
- 4.2. The approach of the participatory budgeting is to empower residents to choose the projects for their local area. Giving more autonomy over decision-making. The approach is aimed and improve participation and establish new connections within the community, by bringing diverse communities together. It also gives residents insight and understanding of local decision making plus promoting the role of Ward Councillors and Brent Connects meetings.
- 4.3. In Brent, an external facilitator was appointed to deliver the Decision Day events, except the event in Willesden which was facilitated internally.
- 4.4. A Decision Day is an online or in person event where residents would attend to vote on prospective projects. The projects with highest score would be awarded the funds.

- 4.5. Delivering the You Decide programme requires a large number of officers to manage each event. Typically, 8 officers are required to ensure risks are managed well and residents are supported.
- 4.6. In addition to the officer time required at events, there is a significant amount of administration required before the event. All applications require checking and organisations need to be validated before proceeding.
- 4.7. To ensure organisations and communities understood the approach, 43 face to face and online sessions were held to provide understanding of the process and support with applications.
- 4.8. It has been evidence by the high level of participation that residents responded positively to this new way of awarding funding.
- 4.9. The table below shows the attendance rate at the events

Brent Connects Area	Attendees	
	Registered	Numbers attended
Kilburn	91	186
Kingsbury and Kenton	198	260
Willesden	146	107
Wembley	305	280
Harlesden	116	270

- 4.10. Since the NCIL events were held in June and July, workshops have been held with both successful and unsuccessful projects supported by CVS Brent. The aim of the workshops was to inform organisations of other external funding opportunities and give advice on training and development available to them participation in both Workshops was high which signals that engagement with the organisations is ongoing and that relationships with them goes beyond the funding they receive

5. Carbon Offset Fund / CO2GO pilot

- 5.1. The first use of Participatory Budgeting in Brent was piloted on the Carbon Offset Fund. This Fund from the GLA came with specific criteria that was used to underpin the process delivered here.
- 5.2. Since 1 October 2016, under the London Plan any development that fails to achieve on-site zero carbon must make cash in lieu contributions to a Carbon Offset Fund within the borough that they are operating. These contributions are used to fund local carbon reduction projects, thereby offsetting the development's carbon emissions shortfall.
- 5.3. Known locally as CO2GO, this fund is for organisations or individuals in Brent who have ideas for carbon reduction initiatives in their local area.

- 5.4. The first pilot for participatory budgeting supported the allocation of £500k through the Carbon Offset Fund as a means of incentivising domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.
- 5.5. A recruitment process was launched to appoint up to 50 residents to be a part of the Carbon Offset Fund planning group. 18 residents regularly took part in the planning group process. The group coined the name 'CO2GO' as the name of the participatory budgeting funding stream. The resident planning group were tasked with:
- Developing the eligibility criteria and programme
 - Designing the communications materials
 - Promoting the programme and application process to residents and groups
 - Promoting the decision day event across the community.
- 5.6. The planning group agreed the fund would:
- Target those in fuel poverty and it should not be means-tested
 - Not be given directly to individuals or cluster groups. A third-party contractor would be engaged to manage the energy efficiency works for successful applicants
 - Cover the cost of the survey for each property in a bidding cluster. Once completed, the cluster would meet to review the findings and agree on how to spend their budget
 - Cover the cost of measures and pay the contractor directly (per procurement rules)
 - Look at clusters as a whole due to economies of scale e.g. cost of external wall insulation for a cluster of ten properties, should be less than external wall insulation for ten individual properties.
- 5.7. Officers attended the planning meetings to ensure that the group's proposals were in line with GLA guidelines and would not be contrary to any council policies.
- 5.8. The planning group agreed on two pots of funding to be made available as part of the process:
- Pot 1: £400,000 fund for households and community buildings to reduce carbon and save energy costs. Residents could apply up to £10,000 per household. They could join up with others in their community to form clusters of connected houses, flats or a combination
 - Pot 2: £100,000 fund for organisations and resident groups to apply between £500 to £20,000 for projects that deliver education and awareness to reduce the carbon footprint in Brent.
- 5.9. The application window was open for 11 weeks from October 2021 to January 2022. During this time, officers provided face-to-face and online support sessions to help residents complete application forms.

5.10. Pot 1 received 26 applications and Pot 2 received 24 applications.

5.11. The Decision Day was held virtually on 29 January 2022. The table below provides the numbers who attend the online Decision Day event:

Registered	203
Attendees	135
Voters	127

5.12. All applicants submitted pre-recorded films of up to three minutes long. During the event, each project presented its film. At the end of each film, voters were asked to vote on *'How well do you think adaptations to these houses will support the reduction of carbon and support local residents?'*

5.13. Pot 1: 39 flats, maisonettes, houses and two community buildings in Willesden were awarded funding to complete sustainability works to reduce their carbon footprint. Each will receive energy efficiency improvement works to the value of £10k per home or building. The work will be completed via the arrangement Brent Council has entered with EcoFurb. Work is commencing for a retrofit assessment of the successful properties to better understand the measures and interventions required. For Pot 1, monitoring will consider energy use before and after measures and evaluate resident satisfaction with the work. It should be noted that the current high energy prices mean that whilst work will reduce energy use, it may not reduce energy spend.

5.14. Pot 2: Nine applicants were awarded (eight full and one partial) to carry out environmental education projects. Appendix A lists the organisations and the date money was released. Projects run to the end January 2024 giving applicants approximately 15 months to deliver the project once funds are received. Monitoring and evaluation for each organisation's success have been set out in the grant funding agreement with each organisation. Project-specific measures of success will be submitted at the project closure. In June 2022 Cabinet approved the successful applications. Arrangements were made to release funding directly to Pot 2 projects.

5.15. A further £1.2m is available in the Carbon Offset Fund and further work is underway to determine how best to allocate this.

6. You Decide

6.1. Following the use of participatory budgeting to distribute £500k Carbon Offset Fund, it was decided to use the same approach to allocate £2m of NCIL funding in the 2022/23 financial year.

6.2. In the You Decide round the £2m funding was split equally between the five Brent Connect areas so each area was allocated £400k. This formula has not impacted on the overall allocation agreed by Cabinet in 2017.

- 6.3. Delivery of the You Decide programme consisted of three stages. A communications and engagement plan was developed to deliver all three phases., beginning in March 2022:
- Phase 1 - Promotion and Community Engagement: March-May 2022
Prior to applications opening, workshops and support sessions were offered to all applicants, including: 43 Information Support Sessions with the You Decide Team, Brent Health Matters Team and Decision Day Facilitator.
 - Phase 2 - Applications and Application Support: May-June 2022.
One-to-one application support sessions in different neighbourhoods across the borough and online support sessions, which were available to book until the application deadline
 - Phase 3 - Decision Day: June-July 2022
All applicants invited to attend a Decision Day were offered and encouraged to attend a presentation support session, offering guidance on presentation content and style. The sessions ran twice a week (one in person and one online).
- 6.4. The communications and engagement approach focused on reaching all sections of Brent's community, tapping into existing networks but also making sure to target hard to reach areas and those who were reluctant to engage. This involved producing communications and marketing materials in community languages and lots of face-to-face community engagement.
- 6.5. The communications and engagement plan was split into three phases. Different communications tools were therefore implemented during each phase to maximise the reach and participation of local communities.
- 6.6. Internal communications included promoting You Decide on the intranet, e-newsletter to staff and briefing to Members, alongside a digital toolkit which included shareable assets, leaflets, a press release and social media posts to be used locally.
- 6.7. External communications involved using 50 lamppost banners (10 banners in each Brent Connects area), artwork displayed on the JCDecaux digital and print boards around the borough and advertising at each train station in the borough to ensure good coverage. We also designed tote bags to hand out at events and the engagement team wore specially designed t-shirts to promote the initiative. Other more traditional communications, including press releases at different stages and social media posts were used.
- 6.8. During the five 'Decision Day' events, brochures were designed and printed for people to read the projects bidding for funding. These were also made available online.
- 6.9. A journalist from The Guardian attended the Wembley 'Decision Day' and covered the story online: www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jul/13/dragons-den-style-event-hands-control-of-225m-to-residents-of-brent-council

- 6.10. During phase 2, officers worked with CVS Brent to identify organisations that could support individual residents to deliver their proposed project idea. The team also encouraged applicants to book at least one of the presentation support sessions.
- 6.11. 149 applications were submitted. 10 of the 149 applications were rejected as they did not meet the criteria. **Appendix B** lists the eligibility criteria.
- 6.12. Of the remaining 139 applications, 59 projects were selected by residents and awarded You Decide funding from across the five Brent Connect areas. The Decision Days were led by an external facilitator.
- 6.13. Projects were assigned to one of the five priorities from the 2019-2023 Borough Plan:
- Most fell under the 'every opportunity to succeed theme' (57/130 projects, 43.9%). These projects were primarily about improving life opportunities for children and young people or helping people find ways to work.
 - Projects under 'A borough where we can feel Safe, secure, happy and healthy' were the least likely to be successful (9/26 successful, 35%), in part because this includes projects based on culture which was the least successful theme overall with none of the 9 projects being successful.
- 6.14. A decision paper was provided to Assistant Chief Executive and CMT to authorise delegated powers to release the funds to successful applicants in July 2022.
- 6.15. **Appendix C** lists all successful projects and the amount awarded. 35/58 projects fall within social infrastructure and 23/58 projects fall within physical infrastructure – which are fairly distributed across the Brent Connect areas as detailed below:

Connect Area	Projects awarded funding
Harlesden	10
Kilburn & Kensal Rise	10
Kingsbury & Kenton	14
Wembley	11
Willesden	13

- 6.16. **Appendix D** provides a comprehensive breakdown of You Decide data by Brent Connects.
- 6.17. All organisations entered a legally binding agreement to deliver the projects by signing a Funding Agreement containing the council's Standard Grant Terms and Conditions. Funds are expected to be released in October 2022. Most projects will be completed within a year and two projects will be delivered within a two-year period.

- 6.18. All project schedules are assigned a Council priority. Each individual project schedule lays out the agreed outcomes for each project which aligns with their assigned Council priority.
- 6.19. All successful projects had further checks conducted by the team e.g. officer ensuring safeguarding and equality policies in place.
- 6.20. As of the time of writing of the report 42/58 projects have received their project schedule. The remaining 16 were are awaiting for either planning permission and/or further details from projects before we can proceed with the project schedule. Officers are working for these projects for to complete the process.

6.21. Project monitoring

Project monitoring is led by an officer team. This includes project visits and reports. Funds are released through the standard process which ensures suppliers are fully set up on the council's payments system and in line with financial management processes.

Currently there are 160 projects in monitoring and a further 58 will begin monitoring in January. Once the new round opens in January it is likely that this number will increase.

6.22. Future NCIL rounds:

Since You Decide, feedback has been received from ward councillors, lead members and CMT. The feedback received to date is being used to improve future programmes. Initially, revisions will be introduced to:

- NCIL will run twice in a financial year. One round will be the standard NCIL application and the second will be allocated via the You Decide participatory budgeting process
- The criteria has been revised. This is to make the eligibility criteria and exclusions more defined for prospective applicants. This includes successful projects for the last round will not eligible for the next round to ensure grant funding is spread throughout the community. The criteria is detailed in **Appendix B**.
- The next round of NCIL round will be a standard application
- Bid limit is £50k. Smaller organisations (up to £10k) and Medium/Larger organisations (up to £50k)

- 6.23. The communications and engagement campaign will begin earlier and be even more ambitious in its desired reach. The voting rules for participatory budgeting will be published on the council's website and will also be shared with all applicants. Proof of address will be required to confirm residential status. Internal departments will be consulted earlier – in advance of project going forward to Decision Days.

7. Brent Health Matters 'You Decide'

- 7.1. As part of the You Decide participatory budgeting process, the Brent Health Matters Team also allocated a £250k Health and Wellbeing grant to community organisations. This was also divided equally among each Brent Connects area giving each £50k.
- 7.2. Community organisations were invited to apply for projects to a maximum value of £10k. The application criteria is available to view in **Appendix E**.
- 7.3. Brent Health Matters received 79 applications, the breakdown for each Brent Connects area was:

Brent Connects area	Number of applications
Harlesden	19
Willesden	14
Wembley	28
Kingsbury and Kenton	9
Kilburn	9

- 7.4. Brent Health Matters Decision Days were the same as NCIL You Decide except Wembley where the Brent Health Matters and NCIL decision days were held on different days:

Connect area	Number of attendees	Number of successful organisations
Harlesden	53	6
Willesden	21	6
Wembley	85	6
Kingsbury and Kenton	107	6
Kilburn	59	6

- 7.5. A range of different projects and organisations were successful, including some small organisations that received funding for the first time.
- 7.6. Overall, participatory budgeting was successful because it encouraged local community organisations to come together and support each other, including developing joint working and resource sharing.

8. Additional council grants

- 8.1. **Appendix F** provides more information on the additional council grants available to the voluntary community sector:
- Brent for Business: Energy Saving Scheme
 - Food Aid grants
 - Resident Association grant
 - St Raphael's Voice group grant
 - Together Towards Zero grant

- Duke of Edinburgh Holiday and Food Programme grant

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The Council is required to spend at least 15 per cent of CIL (capped at £100/dwelling each financial year) on neighbourhood projects, in consultation with the local community. Areas with a neighbourhood plan receive 25 per cent of the CIL collected in that area. Together these form the funds available for Neighbourhood CIL.
- 9.2. Neighbourhood CIL can be spent on a wider range of projects than normal CIL, both infrastructure as with strategic CIL and anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area, as long as this is done in consultation with the local area.
- 9.3. Each project will be required to sign a funding agreement to confirm project milestones, outputs and payment instalments. Brent's Community Social Infrastructure Team will conduct regular project monitoring.
- 9.4. The Council is permitted to spend up to 5% of CIL income on administrative costs, the costs of running this scheme will be met from this 5% share.

10. Legal implications

- 10.1. The outcome of the You Decide process will require a formal decision by an officer or Cabinet Member with appropriate decision-making authority or by Cabinet.
- 10.2. The Planning Act 2008, and CIL Regulations 2010, provide for local authorities to apply the CIL to infrastructure to support development. The Neighbourhood element may be used to fund the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area (Reg. 59F).
- 10.3. CIL spending is governed by Part 7 of the CIL Regulations. For any financial year in which CIL, receipts are received, an infrastructure funding statement outlining receipts and expenditures must be prepared and published on the council's website. (Reg. 62).
- 10.4. Government Guidance (2014, as amended) states that the Council must engage the community where development has taken place and accordingly, agree with them on how best to spend the funding. The use of neighbourhood funds should match the priorities expressed by the local communities.
- 10.5. The Council has the power to award grants to organisations using its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. The Council should however act reasonably and follow internal governance requirements.
- 10.6. The GLA guidance 2018 provides that Carbon offset funds allow for a source of funds for carbon reduction projects across London. The intention is that the

fund helps with emission reductions from existing buildings where achieving carbon savings can be more challenging. The guidance states that the London Plan requires that Councils :

- set up a carbon offset fund that is ring-fenced to secure delivery of carbon savings within the relevant LPA
- set a price for carbon, i.e. price per annual tonne of carbon, that developers pay
- to make up any shortfall in on-site carbon savings, securing contributions through Section 106 agreements
- identify a suitable range of projects that can be funded through the carbon offsetting fund
- put in place suitable monitoring procedures to enable reporting to the GLA

11. Equality Implications

- 11.1. Participatory budgeting aligns the links between equality and community empowerment and participation in local financial decision-making. Participatory budgeting has significant potential to transform the relationships between local communities and the local authority.
- 11.2. The equalities implications include utilising a strong blend of engagement approaches to reach a broad spectrum of diverse organisations and residents to enhance participation opportunities.
- 11.3. An Equality Analysis (EA) of all grant programmes is completed and continually reviewed. The overall assessment is that Brent's grant programmes have a positive impact in terms of promoting equality. Each project also completes an initial screening of the likely impact of their plans on the protected characteristics.
- 11.4. Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council has a duty when exercising its functions to have 'due regard to the need to:
- 11.5. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
 - Advance equality of opportunity; and
 - Foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.
- 11.6. 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.

12. Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 12.1. Approximately 43% of the carbon emissions emitted from within Brent's borough boundary come from domestic properties (homes), which is the single biggest contributor to Brent's overall carbon emissions total. Theme 3 of the council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (2021-2030) seeks to address this through focusing on 'Homes, Buildings and the Built Environment'.

The objective of this strategy theme states: “By 2030, as many homes and buildings in the borough as possible will be more energy efficient, be powered by renewable sources and be resilient to future adverse weather events caused by climate change – and we will do all in our gift to achieve an average rating of Energy Performance Certificate B in directly owned council stock.”

- 12.2. The purpose of CO2GO initiative therefore contributes to this objective, with a particular focus on the elements relating to improved energy efficiency of homes and buildings. As stated within paragraph 39 flats, maisonettes, houses and two community buildings in Willesden were awarded funding to complete sustainability works to reduce their carbon footprint. Once completed, the retrofit improvement works on the homes and buildings mentioned are likely to see a substantive reduction in the carbon emissions generated from those properties, which will in turn contribute to a small reduction in Brent’s overall borough-wide carbon emissions total generated from domestic properties and commercial/industrial buildings.
- 12.3. All of the planning meetings and decision day took place online so the overall carbon footprint of the CO2GO project to this point will also have been minimal.

13. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 13.1. The Lead Member for Community Engagement, Equalities & Culture is regularly briefed on Love Where You Live, Edward Harvist and NCIL grants and the You Decide programme.
- 13.2. The Lead Member for the other listed grants is regularly briefed.
- 13.3. All members are kept up to informed on the dates of the opening of grant rounds and You Decide launch via the Members Information Bulletin.
- 13.4. A member’s development session on the next NCIL round will take place in November.

Report sign off:

Lorna Hughes

Director of Engagement, Strategy &
Communications

Appendix A Successful Carbon Offset Fund Pot 2 Applicants

Organisation	Project	Amount Awarded	Payment release date
Jason Roberts Foundation	Carbon Footprint Reduction Education project	£2,037 (partial)	14/11/22
Brook Way Biodiversity Project	Brook Way Community Biodiversity Project	£10,000	24/08/2022
Advice 4 Renters	Energy Advice Bus project	£20,000	15/10/2022
Ultra Education CIC	Climate Change Schools Education project	£20,000	24/08/2022
Hilltop Circle	Community Carbon Footprint Reduction project	£16,000	26/08/2022
Diffusion Elite Security Ltd	CO ₂ awareness course project	£2,500	*
Clube dos Brasileirinhos	Cotton Bag for Life project	£1,503	17/09/2022
Mums for Lungs	Clean Air Art Display project	£9,960	08/09/2022
Young Brent Foundation	Voluntary Sector Carbon Footprint Training project	£18,000	17/09/2022

**Please note that this organisation has been contacted numerous times via email and telephone calls to return their signed grant funding agreement but have not supplied the document. The payment has therefore not been made.*

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Appendix B NCIL Old and revised criteria

Old Criteria	New Criteria
<p>To apply you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must be a registered organisation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered organisations include: Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) Charitable Trust Constituted Community Groups Unincorporated association Private companies limited by shares. Public limited companies (PLCs) Companies Limited by guarantee including Charitable Companies and Community Interest Companies (CICs) Unlimited companies. Right to manage (RTM) companies Schools Brent Council <p>Your project will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the local community by delivering a physical or social infrastructure project. A physical infrastructure project should aim to support the local community through initiatives such as improving or renovating a building or installing a new facility like a play area. Some examples of past successful projects include: 	<p>To apply you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a community, voluntary group or charity, or not-for-profit organisation such as a social enterprise based in Brent; Submit one application per organisation; Deliver your project to Brent residents within Brent; Be able to evidence supporting documentation, including safeguarding policies, charity registration, constitution, annual report (if available), volunteer policies; public liability insurance; A one-off project that does not require additional revenue funding in its delivery or its operation; Reflect the strategic priorities of the Council and reflect the neighbourhood priorities; It is a legal requirement for the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) that projects must address the impact that development has on an area in the form of infrastructure. <p>Funding limits for both NCIL rounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small organisations – can apply for a maximum of £10k; Medium/Large organisations – can apply for a maximum of £50k. <p>The criteria to define a small or large organisation is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small organisation covers income of £10,000-£100,000 per year; A medium/large organisation covers income £100,000 - £1,000,000 per year. The definition for small and medium/large organisations is guided from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). <p>Funds can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A physical infrastructure project, with an aim to support the local community through initiatives such as improving or renovating building or space

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social infrastructure project, with an aim to support local community through initiatives such as children and young people clubs and dementia cafes. <p>Exclusions for both NCIL rounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Sector Bodies in receipt of public funds; • Organisations that received funds in the last You Decide round in 2022; • Councillors cannot directly benefit from projects; • Standalone events, markets, and festivals; • Private businesses or business investment; • Expenditure that Brent Council has an obligation to pay e.g. pothole repairs, some roads and pavements works; • Proposals that are not community-led; • Addressing neighbourhood needs that are pre-existing and not caused by development; • Faith organisations whose activities are not inclusive for the whole community
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Appendix C–List of Successful You Decide NCIL and BHM 2022 Projects

Project	Amount
Ashford Place	£14,076
Beyond Sports Education Foundation	£48,990
Boom-wow Theatre	£23,512
Brent Carers Centre	£48,669.00
Community Action on Dementia in Brent	£30,000
Sunah's Crisis Team	£31,000
The Sheriff Centre	£32,032
Asian People's Disability Alliance	£50,000
AFC Wembley	£16,140 – partial funding awarded
Ansar Youth Project	£49,422
Charteris Sports Club	£26,400
Connect Stars	£35,000
Daniel's Den	£13,484
Free the forgotten	£15,314
Hilltop Circle	£26,676.00
Islamic Cultural Centre	£50,000
Jason Roberts Foundation	£45,837
Kore Development	£39,500
Loud Futures	£33,800
Sterling Academy Youth Ltd (SAY)	£22,000
Michael Styles - Save a London life	£9,500
Nutrition Ed UK	£50,000
Set Them Up Foundation	£50,000
Sovereign Comics	£46,975
The Angels Initiative Ltd	£50,000
Treasure Sports Club	£20,000
Young Male Leaders	£5,000
Ultra Education CIC	£43,405

Kensal Green Under Fives	£19,000
Kilburn State of Mind	£46,000
Shree Swaminarayan Mandir	£27,030
Silver Jubilee Park	£21,280
Elders Voice	£49,500
Justice for Litigants in Person Charity	£45,000
PLIAS Resettlement	£30,700
Yardstyle	£33,000
Willesden Seventh-day Adventist church	£48,253
Cycletastic	£46,767
2nd Kingsbury Scout Group	£9,000
8th Kenton Scout Group	£7,000
27th Willesden Scout Group	£10,000
Barn Hill Conservation Group	£45,700
Bush Farm Collective CIC	£47,000
Central Mosque of Brent	£29,500
Chalkhill Community Centre	£28,450
City of London Corporation	£45,000
Coles Green Tennis Club	£49,000
Creative Genies	£21,396
Destiny Boxing Club	£45,500
Fore Vision Ltd	£49,438
Glen and More Rents Ltd	£5,000
Harlesden Ummah Community Wellbeing Centre	£10,000
Malorees Junior School	£50,000
Preston Mall Youth & Community Centre	£29,500
SMVS: Community Service	£30,815
Stonebridge Boxing Club	£50,000
Sufra NW London	£43,000
Urban Growth Learning Gardens CIC	£50,000
Brook Way Community Biodiversity Project CIC	£46,941 – partial funding

BRENT HEALTH MATTERS

Organisation	Awarded
Sufra NW London	£8,500
Sport at the heart	£8,980
Let's Unite for Autism	£8,984
Jason Roberts Foundation	£9,180
Supporting Incarcerated Families Together (SIFT)	£6,356
Charteris Sports Club	£8,136
Granville Community Kitchen	£9,233
It's Good to Talk	£7,410
The SPACE	£9,080
Elders Voice	£9,280
Treasure Sports Club	£6,861
SMVS: Health and Wellbeing	£6,850
Shree Swaminarayan Mandir	£9,000
Oshwal Association of the UK	£9,960
Preston Mall Youth & Community Centre	£9,000
Elders Voice	£9,780
Urban Growth Learning Gardens CIC	£5,410
Islamic Culture Centre	£9,800
Royal Association for Deaf People	£9,996
Preston Community Library	£2,006
Middlesex Association for the Blind	£9,500
Brent Punjabi Association	£10,000
Almis Association	£8,698
Muzani community centre	£9,500

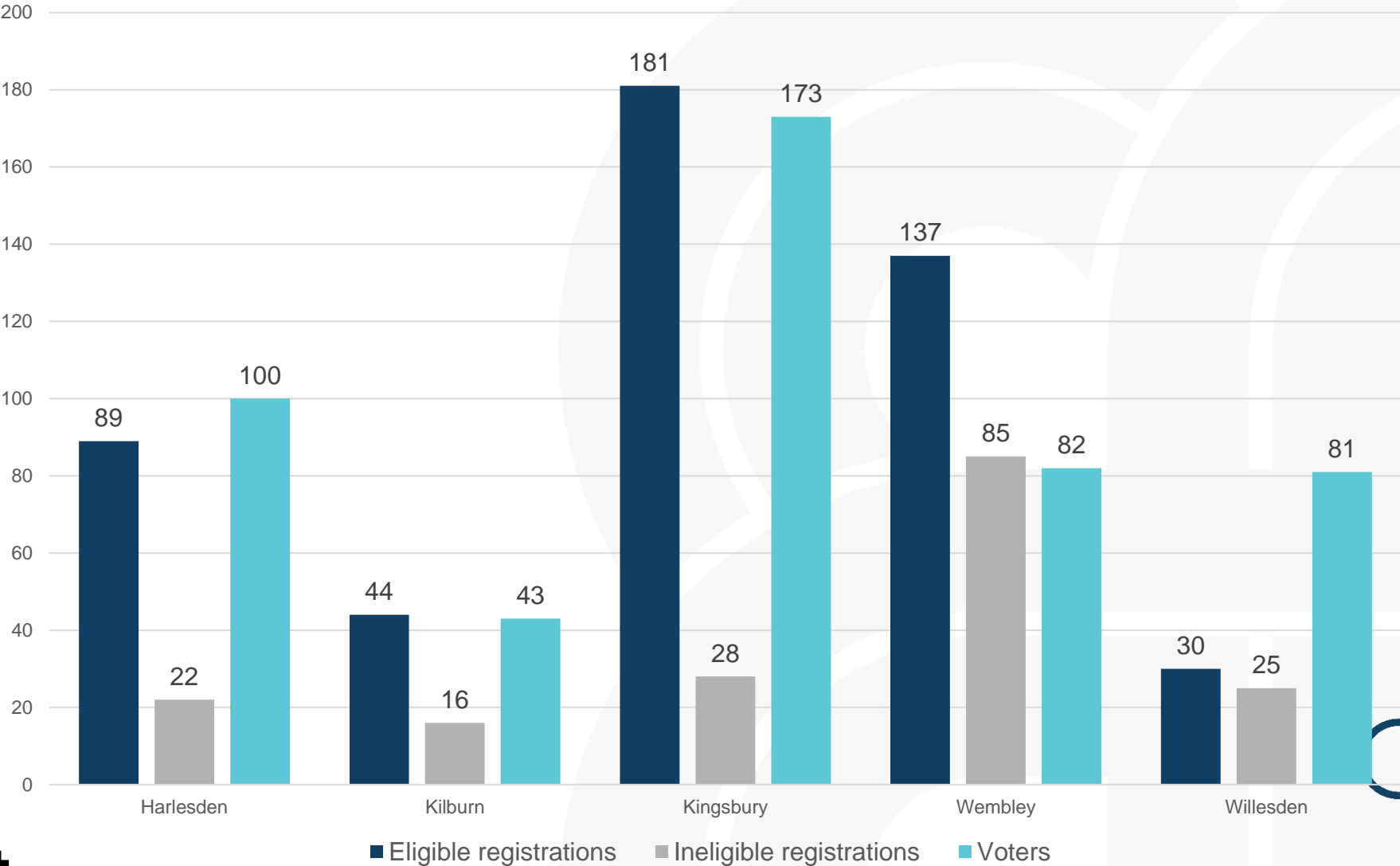
Hilltop circle	£9,429
Harrow and Brent United Deaf Club Association	£10,000
Elders voice	£10,000
Sunah's Crisis Team CIC	£9,000
Always Furthering & Nurturing Development	£2,871



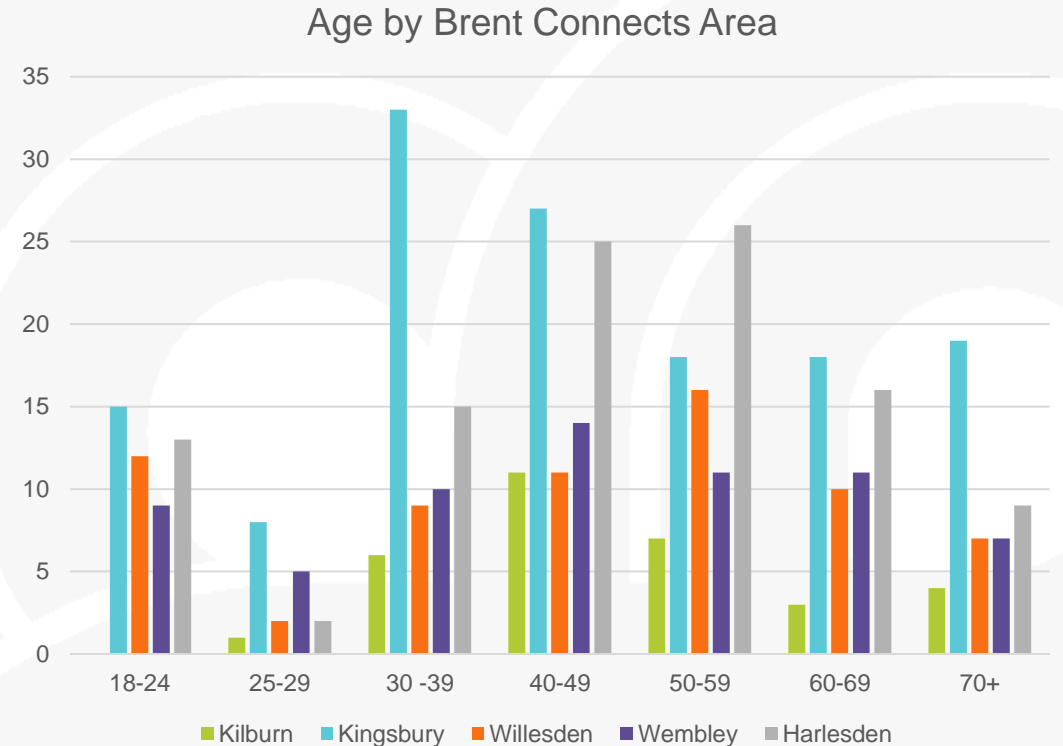
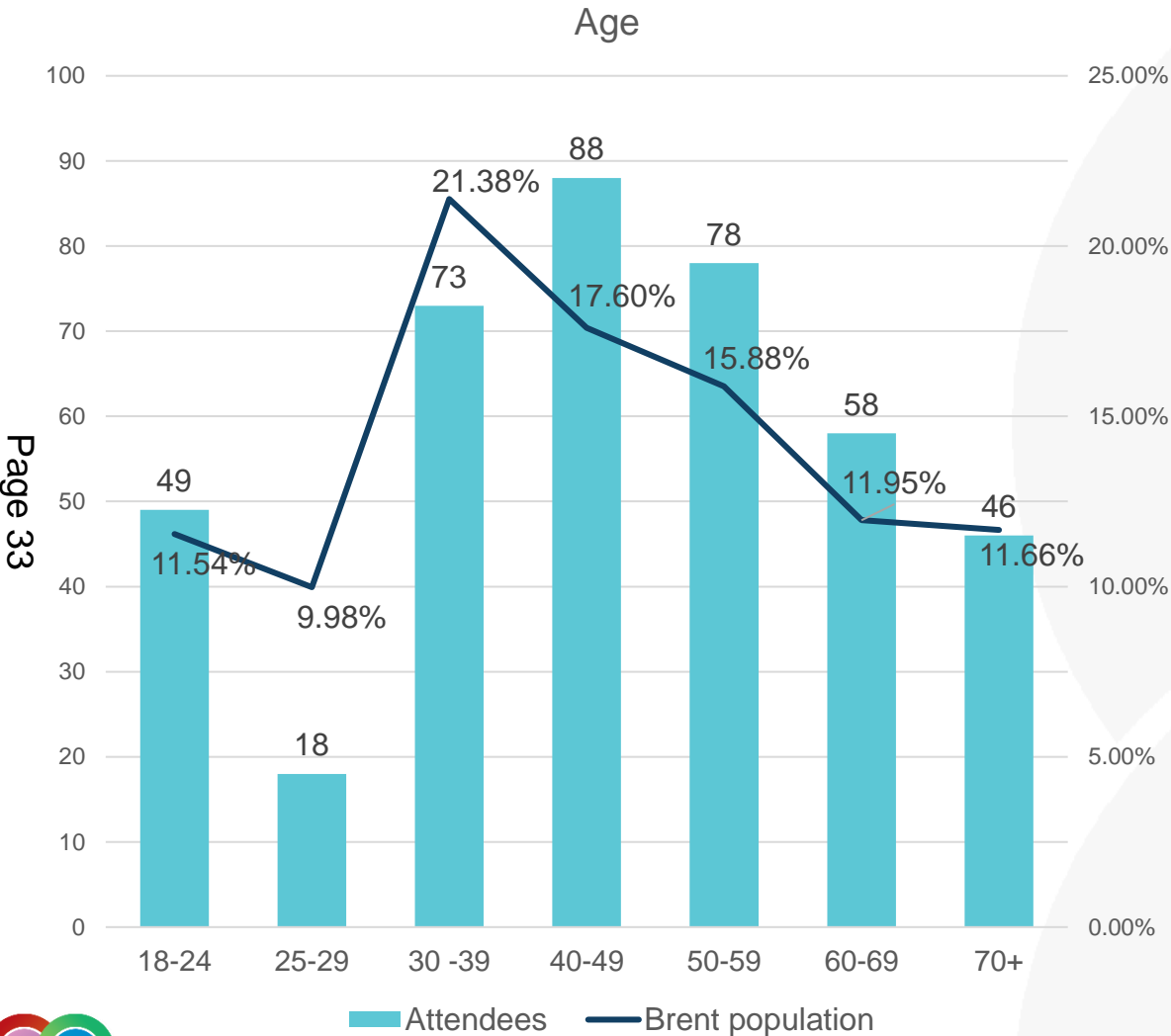
Appendix D You Decide



NCIL - Attendance



NCIL - Demographics



NCIL – Applications & Success Rate

130

projects were submitted in total

54
5

were successful,
with another

partially
successful

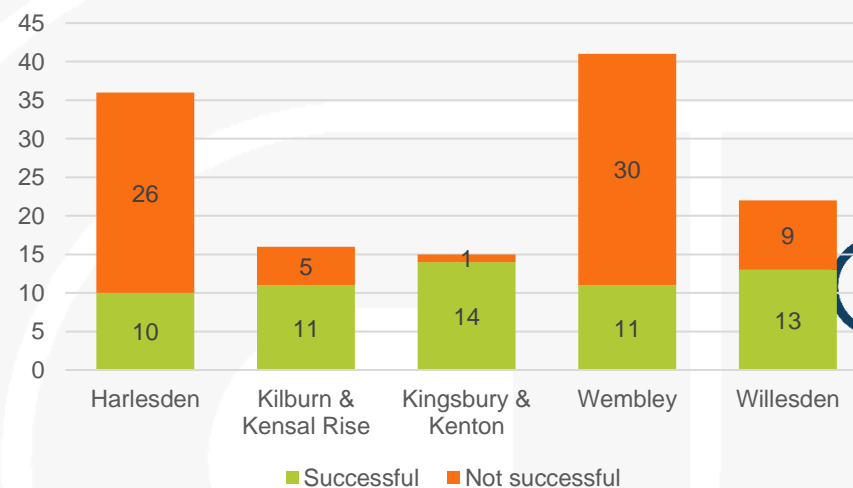
71

were
unsuccessful

45.4%

success rate
(including partial success)

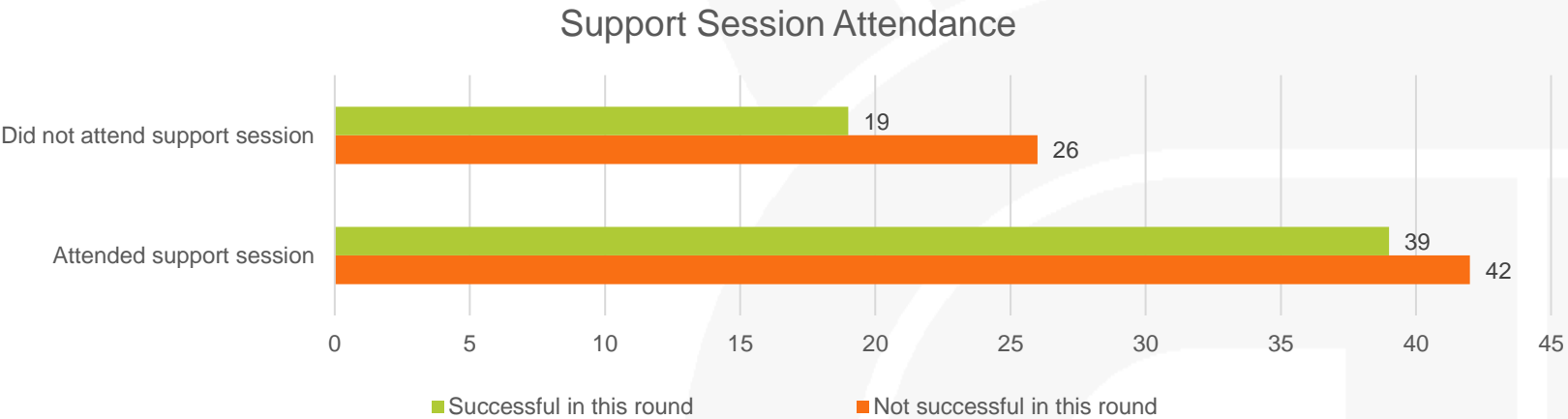
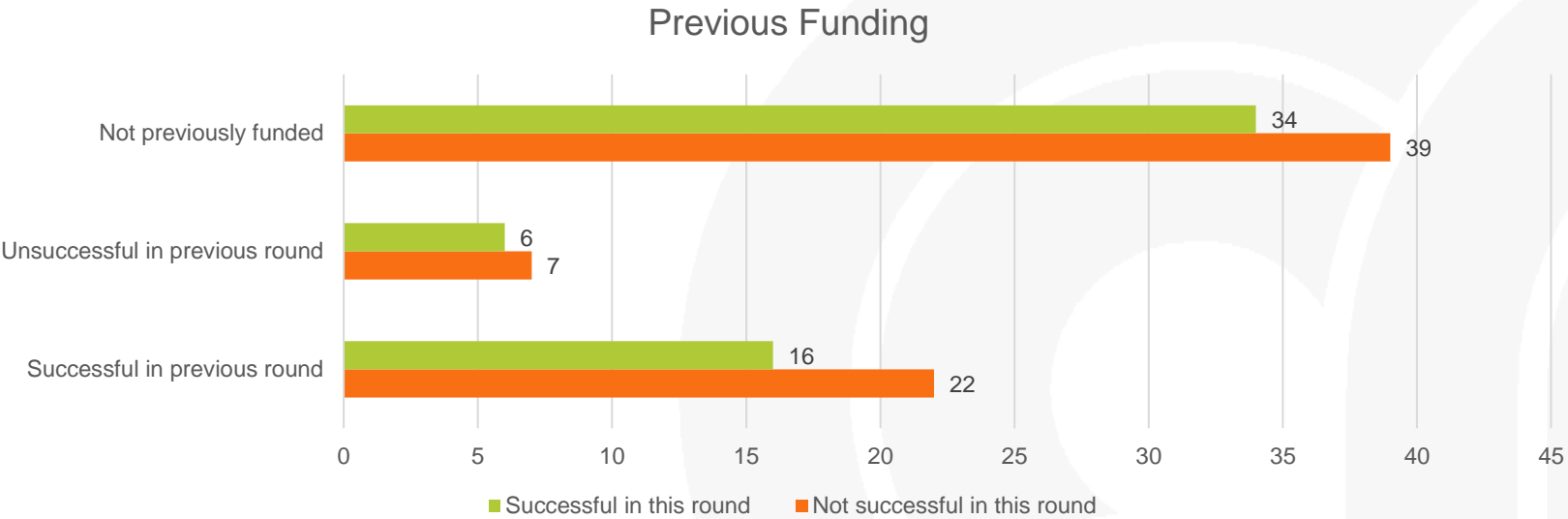
Success rate



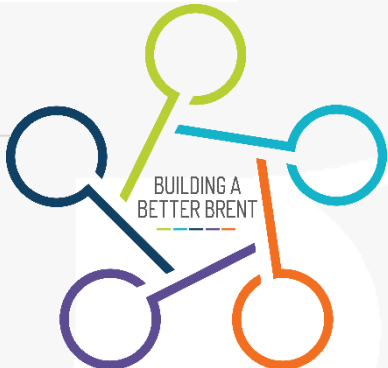
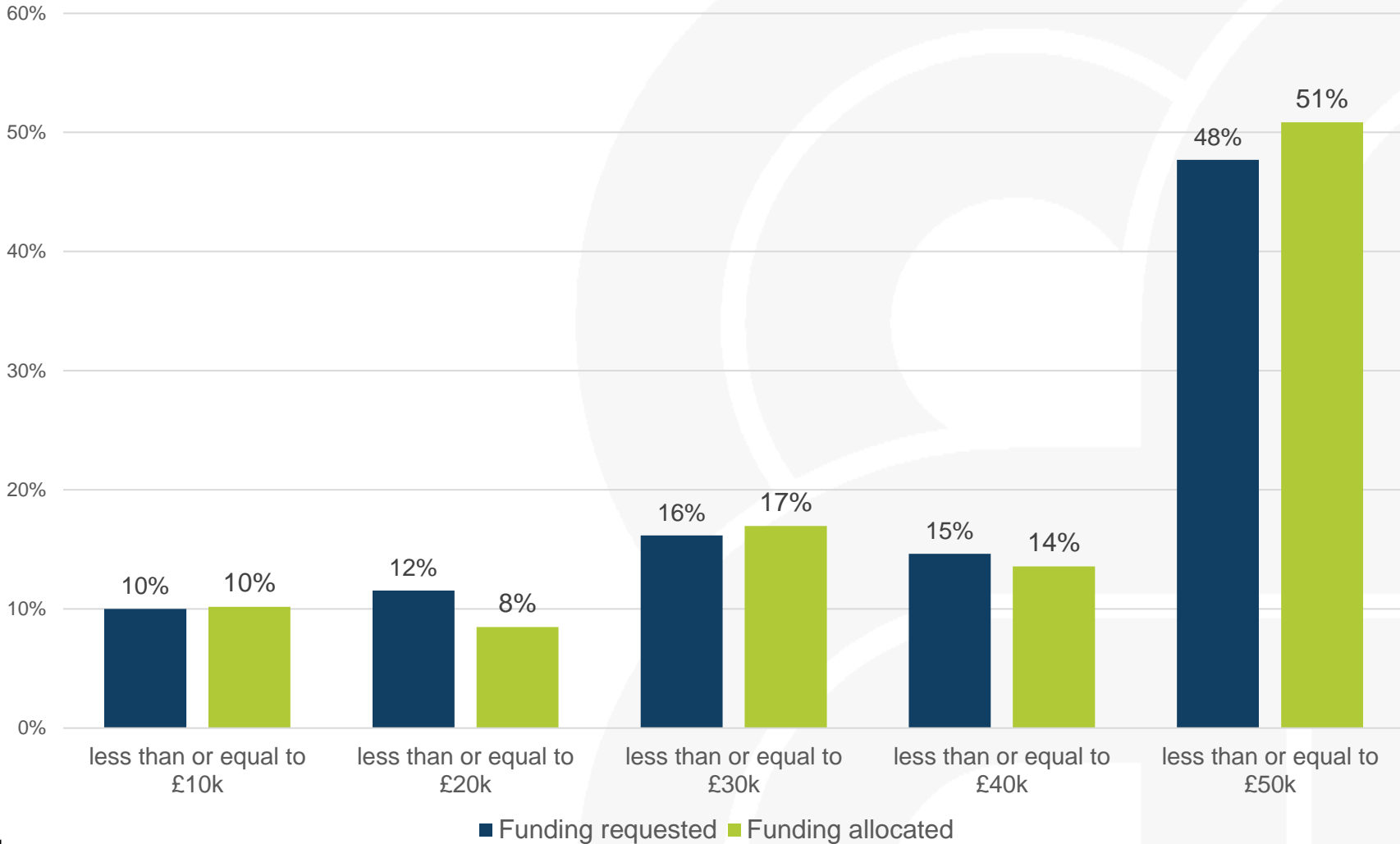
NCIL – Rejected votes

- Some voters left early and their votes were discounted – this was two users in Kilburn and one in Willesden
- In Wembley, due to the large number of projects we took a break during the session and some voters left after this – their votes were not discounted
- 42 of the devices used in Harlesden were discounted due one voter using the voting devices of several other attendees
- In Kingsbury a set of votes were suspected to be participating in block voting, where 20 devices gave full marks to one project and either minimal or very low votes to all other projects – these were not discounted as they were shown to not change the overall ranked order of the projects

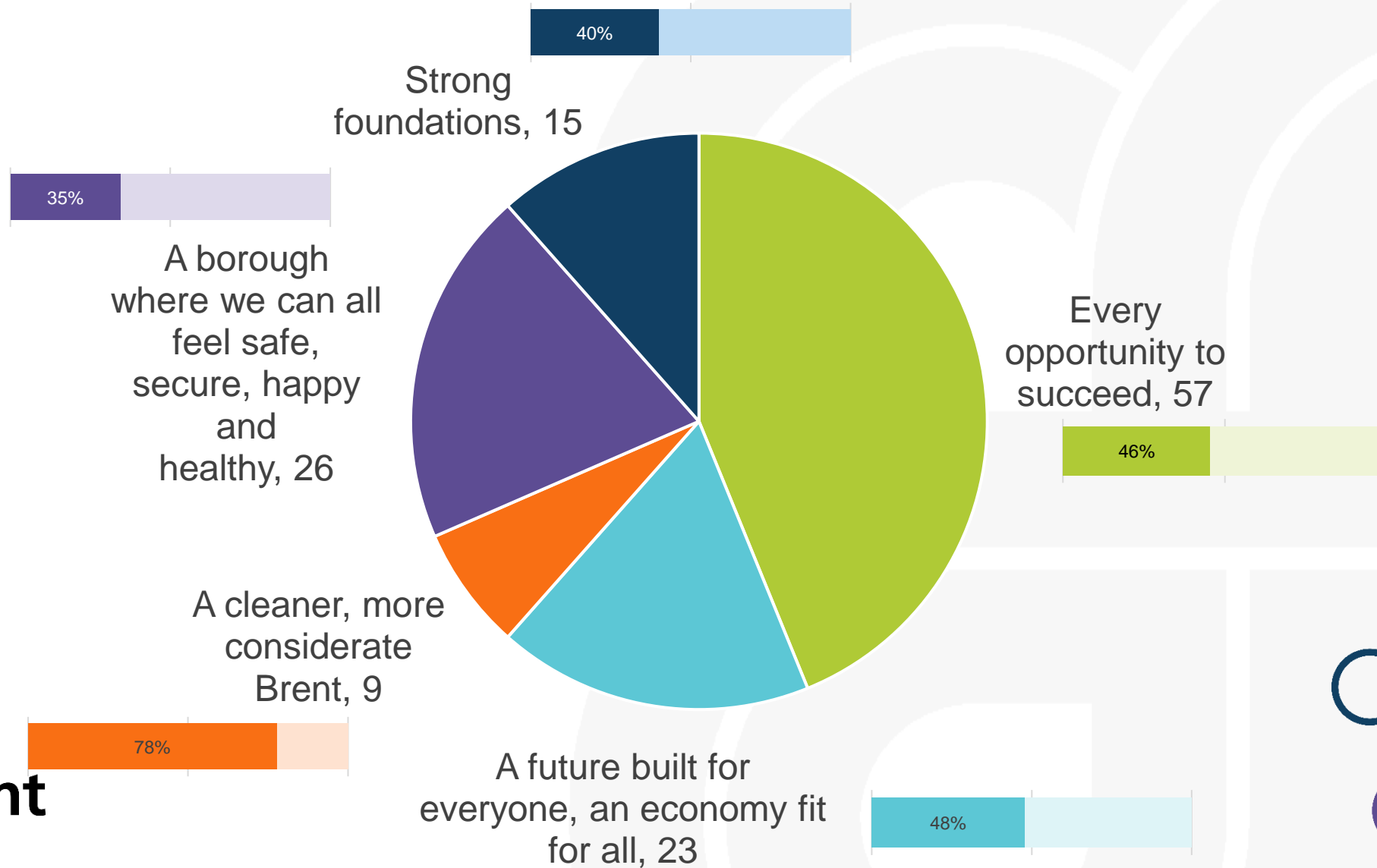
NCIL – Engagement



NCIL – Funding Requested

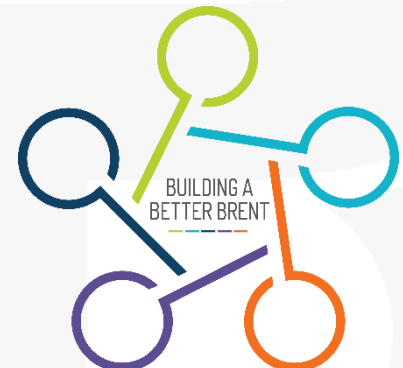


NCIL – All projects submitted by Borough Plan



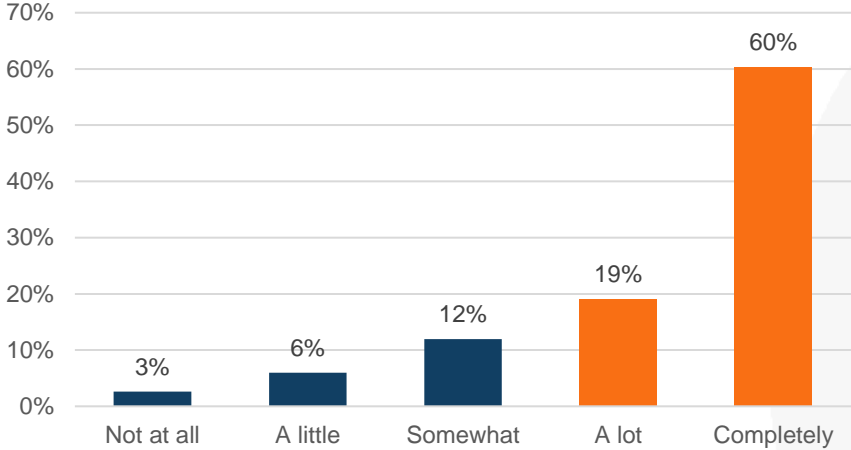
NCIL – Successful

- **60% of physical infrastructure projects were successful** compared to **39% of social infrastructure**; however, there were far fewer physical infrastructure projects submitted (40 physical projects vs 90 social)
- Project themes that were most likely to be successful include
 - Disability (7/8 projects successful, **88%**)
 - Older people (4/6 successful, **67%**)
 - Gender (4/6 successful, **67%**)
- Unsuccessful themes include
 - Culture (0/9 projects successful, **0%**)
 - Employment and training (2/16 successful, **13%**)
 - BCAP (1/4 successful, **25%**)

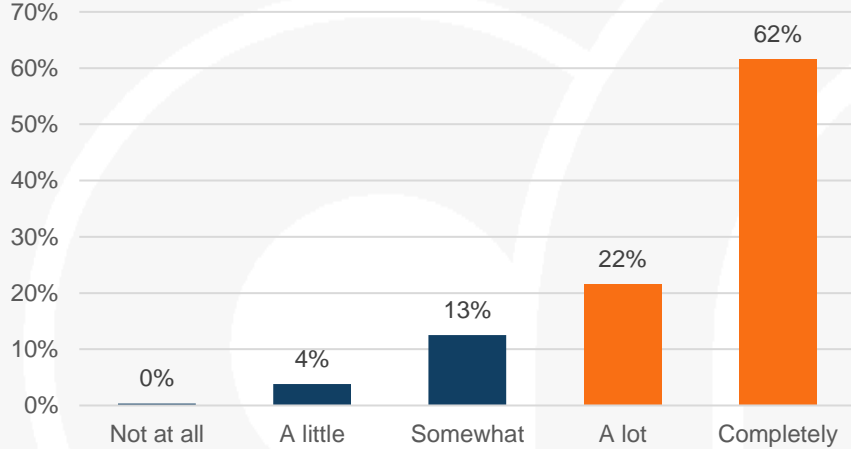


NCIL - Feedback

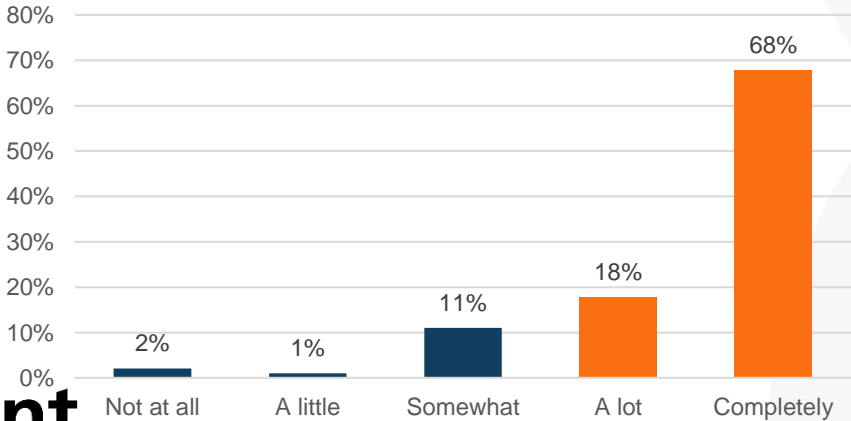
Did you enjoy this event?



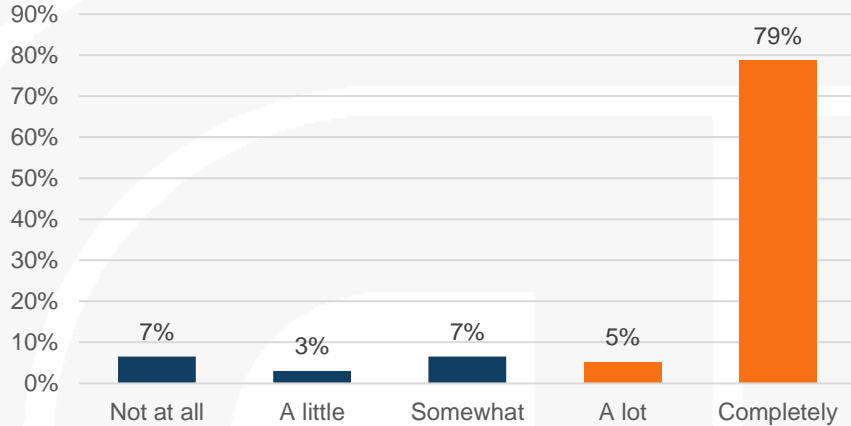
Did you find this session useful?



Would you recommend this Decision Day event to a friend?



Would you like to see Brent Council continue to allocate grant funding in this way?



Appendix E Brent Health Matters Criteria

- A charity/CIC/Voluntary organisation describe and pitch their projects that will address health inequalities areas around any of the following areas:
 - Raise the number and level of engagement with faith, voluntary and community organisations covering a wide range of groups
 - Reduce impacts of Covid-19 in the community
 - Raise uptake of vaccinations and health screenings
 - Increase awareness of both statutory and community support services, including mental health and primary care services.
 - Increase the number of people registered with a GP
 - Increase referrals to support services
 - Support the path towards reducing the long term health conditions

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Appendix F Additional Council Grants

Brent for Business: Energy Saving Scheme:

The aim is to tackle the climate ecological emergency and support businesses through the cost of living crisis. Businesses can apply for a free on-site energy audit to review their operations, equipment, building fabric and historic energy use. The council is working with expert advisors, Groundwork, who will then write a tailored energy report and action plan for businesses to help them reduce their energy use, bills and carbon emissions. Following this audit, businesses can apply for a grant up to the value of £18k to fund up to 60% of a project that can reduce their energy use, generate clean energy or increase energy efficiency. The total fund for 2022/23 is £170,000

This scheme is open to businesses that can show they are:

- an SME (fewer than 250 employees and annual turnover of less than £50 million)
- not owned by a group or larger company that, all holdings combined, does not comply with the above
- operating from commercial premises in the London Borough of Brent
- investment ready, willing and able to cover 40% of work as part of the grant application
- Able to make environmental changes to business premises. This might be because you are the property owner, or with long lease and can demonstrate support from the landlord
- responsible for paying energy bills
- Not in receipt of Small Amounts of Financial Assistance totalling over £357,000 (subject to exchange rates), in the preceding 3 years.

Food Aid Grants:

This fund uses monies from the government's Household Support Fund to provide grants monies to organisations that deliver food aid in Brent. Funds can be spent on food and other associated costs. This fund is subject to government funding cycles. Eligible projects can apply up to £15,000. To be eligible the applicant must be an established organisation who delivers food aid, be a member of the Brent food aid network, have referral routes with Brent Hubs and can deliver the project in six months. Due to the nature of government funding cycles, we are unable to confirm the total fund for 2022/23.

Resident Association Grant

Each established Resident Association is granted £200 per year to support the facilitation of their governance meetings. This however is dependent on the Council being satisfied that all Resident Associations are operating in line with the code of Governance and Code of Conduct. The grant runs annually with a total fund is £3,400.

St Raphael's Voice group grant:

An arrangement was agreed upon with St Raphael's Voice residents group to use for Community Development whilst the estate is being improved. This arrangement is under review. It is £6,000 ongoing grant at £500 per month.

Together Towards Zero Grant:

A dedicated scheme for green community projects. The purpose of this scheme has been to provide Brent residents and communities with an accessible source of funding for local projects and initiatives which will support our plans to tackle the climate and ecological emergency and to improve local areas by making them greener, cleaner and more environmentally friendly. In 2021/22 the fund was £50,000. In this financial year 2022/23 the fund is £68,000. With a maximum of £1,000 per application in phase 1 and subject to Cabinet approval, £5,000 maximum per application in phase 2.


To be eligible for funding, applicants must be one of the following:

- A resident of Brent applying on behalf of their community
- Constituted community group
- Established tenant/ resident association
- Faith group
- Housing association
- Social Enterprise
- Local business (for schemes which benefit the community)"

Phase 1 has closed while Phase 2 will re-open on 10 November 2022. The remaining funding is secured until 31 March 2023. At the time of this report, there has been no confirmation

Duke of Edinburgh Holiday and Food Programme Grant:

Duke of Edinburgh Holiday and Food Programme monies are distributed as grants to the community and voluntary sector. Each Brent organisation registered to Duke of Edinburgh Scheme is eligible.

	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 8 November 2022
	Report from the Director of Engagement, Strategy & Communications
Draft Borough Plan 2023-27	

Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	Three Appendix A Draft Borough Plan 2023 – 27 Appendix B Borough Plan 2023-27 Evidence Pack Appendix C Borough Plan Community Engagement & Communications Plan
Background Papers:	<u>Brent Borough Plan 2019 - 23</u>
Contact Officers:	Lorna Hughes Director, Communities and Strategy Lorna.hughes@brent.gov.uk Tom Pickup Policy, Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager Tom.pickup@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the draft Borough Plan 2023-27, which has been developed with departmental leads and sets out the vision and strategic priorities developed with CMT and Cabinet earlier this year. This includes outlining next steps, particularly around engagement, ahead of finalising early in the New Year.
- 1.2 To invite feedback and comments on the ambitions outlined within draft Borough Plan, including next steps.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment on the draft Borough Plan 2023 -2027 (Appendix A) and

next steps to inform and consolidate the Borough Plan, including the communications and engagement plan for the draft Borough Plan (Appendix C).

- 2.2 Following feedback and comments, endorse the draft Borough Plan 2023-27 and next steps ahead of finalisation.

3.0 Draft Borough Plan 2023-27

Background: establishing our new draft priorities

- 3.1 The council's previous Borough Plan was originally established in 2019 and was set up to guide the organisation until 2023. During its lifetime, the Borough Plan was also updated to respond to a series of significant events, including the impact of Covid-19, the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent amplification of health inequalities and racial inequality. Additionally, over the four years, we have made important progress and achievements including becoming the London Borough of Culture 2020, delivered £16 million in funding across the community, as well as helping 1,000 residents into employment. This progress was delivered against the current priorities:

- Every Opportunity to Succeed
- A future built for everyone, an economy fit for all
- A cleaner, more considerate Brent
- A Borough where we can all feel safe, secure, happy and healthy
- Strong Foundations

- 3.2 As we are approaching 2023, we are working and living in a different landscape with new emerging issues, in particular the Cost of Living Crisis. To reflect this, we are updating our priorities. By listening to, and building on evidence from residents the council commits to delivering a Borough Plan 2023-27 that focuses on five new strategic priorities (further detail in Appendix A). Evidence and 'voice' is, and continues to be, central to our approach. As such, our draft priorities are shaped and informed by a range of data and engagement, including from our:

Young people	Residents who are carers
Residents with disabilities	Older people
Homeless community	Business community
Key partners e.g. NHS	Community and voluntary sector
Residents in low socio-economic situations	Staff

- 3.3 To drive our engagement and this process, officers established a set of provisional ideas and identified areas for further exploration in order to shape and inform new strategic priorities. We then commissioned SMSR research to undertake ten focus groups with specific stakeholders in May 2022. This research intended to help us to understand the needs and priorities of groups and individuals with particular characteristics and life circumstances. The groups were asked to analyse and feedback on the following areas:

- **Accessibility** – Enabling people with disabilities to participate in all walks of life; access to information; people knowing their rights and entitlements.
- **Removing barriers – equity in all areas** - Tackling inequalities, including health inequalities. This is about making life better for the most disadvantaged.
- **Active and connected residents** – Support local community life; neighbourhoods; caring for our communities (through mutual aid and volunteering); working with and listening to our residents and provision of places for people to meet.
- **A decent standard of living underpinned by secure homes, jobs, and incomes** – Affordable, quality and suitable homes; reducing homelessness; real jobs and real wages; employment support; inclusive growth.
- **A green and sustainable Brent** – Improved accessible green spaces and places to exercise; responding to the climate and ecological emergency; keeping our streets clean. In relation to safety – reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- **Digital enablers** – Upskilling residents; providing support and technology; using technology to support innovation (e.g. customer access; health interventions).
- **Leading anchor institutions across the borough** - digital opportunities; social value and ethical procurement; leading local government workforce.
- **Community safety** – A borough where residents feel safe; this includes safeguarding and addressing issues such as modern slavery.

3.4 Overall the groups found these themes relatable and important to drive our ambition to establish a better borough. When providing feedback, the following key themes emerged from participants:

1. All attendees were initially asked what is it like to live in (or work) in Brent and there was a wide range of responses across all the groups. Diversity was highlighted as a key positive of living in Brent. For many, this is one of the main reasons they lived or stayed in Brent, stating that the multiculturalism across all areas made the borough feel “*vibrant*” and gave Brent its “*personality and spirit*”.
2. Businesses were very positive about the support they had received from the council in terms of set-up and growth and considered Brent to be a borough that held many opportunities for both businesses and its residents and is a good area to work.
3. There were concerns around inequality mentioned by residents; this was also observed by businesses and other groups.
4. A lack of access and suitable facilities for the disabled was mentioned by several groups, including carers, working parents and by those in the disabled group.
5. Crime was highlighted by all groups, with women in particular feeling unsafe in most parts of Brent. Drugs and Anti Social Behaviour were also mentioned as part of these discussions.

3.5 The engagement and associated exercises between officers and Members resulted in the following new draft strategic priorities, as outlined in Appendix A (this also includes desired outcomes and success measures):

- Prosperity, Pride and Belonging in Brent
- A Cleaner, Greener future
- Respect and Renewal in Brent
- The Best Start in Life
- A Healthier Brent

3.6 Our Borough Plan is driven by evidence. To support and complement the Borough Plan we will develop a supporting evidence base that will capture the key information, data and trends (from publically accessible sources) that clearly describes Brent – its make-up, needs, uniqueness and challenges. Appendix B provides an overview of key data used and captured, to date, to shape our ambitions. The final evidence base will be available and published alongside the final Borough Plan. At a high level, the evidence base will set out the following:

- A Picture of Brent: Demography, needs and challenges
- What residents have told us: concerns, needs and priorities
- What Brent Council has delivered and achieved
- Possible data projections around we expect to look like in the future

Next steps: Refining and consolidating our priorities

Communications and engagement

3.7 Our priorities are not final, and we want to ensure that they are correct and truly reflect the needs and ambitions of residents and partners within the borough. To ensure these priorities are right we will engage with communities and partners through a range of methods including partnership events, drop-in sessions at Brent Hubs, focus groups and an online survey. We want as many voices as possible involved in this process to make sure our priorities are as reflective as possible.

3.8 From October 2022 – January 2023, the council will carry out engagement activities with residents and services, see Appendix C for further details. Our communications and engagement will target four key groups: specific communities, stakeholders and partners, general public and internal staff. The engagement will also align with plans to consult on the draft budget, this is to help contextualise the draft ambitions within the resources available and to ensure the final ambitions are reflective of our resources. Our Medium Term Financial Strategy will also need to ensure it provides a framework to enable and support the delivery of our ambitions, priorities and any subsequent or existing programmes, considering the significant financial pressures the council is currently facing.

3.9 The key, overarching aims of this communications and engagement process are to:

- Share and amplify the new, proposed strategic ambitions
- Provide information on the council's budget situation and current pressures
- Receive feedback on our ambitions and the council's budget pressures

- Understand and align our ambitions with stakeholder, partner and resident priorities
- 3.10 The success of this process will be measured by participation level across sessions, attendance at public events across the Brent Connects areas and the response from key groups.

Measuring progress and success

- 3.11 As outlined within the draft Borough Plan (see Appendix A) we will seek to measure our success and progress against each priority through several measures.
- 3.12 The 'What Success Will Look Like' criteria within the Borough Plan will drive and help build a new performance framework that will set out how the council will manage its performance from the commencement of the new Borough Plan in April 2023. The new framework will ensure focus on delivering improved outcomes by driving improvement throughout the organisation. The performance framework will cover Tier 1 strategies (the new Borough Plan and delivery plan) and Tier 2 strategies (e.g. the Black Community Action Plan, Equality Strategy, Poverty Commission, Climate Emergency Strategy and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy).
- 3.13 The framework will be developed with a number of principles in mind:
- There should be a clear understanding and link from the Borough Plan, as the outline of strategic ambitions, to front line delivery.
 - The Borough Plan and key strategies/plans are interlinked and cross-referenced.
 - Performance measures must be proportionate and meaningful, and include the use of 'milestone' indicators to demonstrate progression.
- 3.14 Once agreed by Cabinet and considered jointly by the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, the following next steps will be taken:
- Officers will initiate public consultation and broader engagement, as outlined in Appendix C. The consultation will be underpinned by a strong communications plan that will be developed and launched for a period of approximately six weeks, aligned with the duration of the final engagement plan.
 - Consultation and engagement findings and feedback and recommendations from the Committee will be considered, and any relevant amendments made to the plan ahead of the Council's final agreement and adoption in February 2023.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The draft Borough Plan highlights the existing financial context, such as the cost of living and post-pandemic recovery.

- 4.2 At the time of reporting, the working assumption is that £28 million worth of savings will need to be found to balance the budget over the next two years. Proposals to balance the 2023/24 budget will be presented to Cabinet on 14 November. The Medium Term Financial Strategy will need to ensure it provides a framework to enable and support the delivery of the Borough Plan, considering the significant financial pressures the Council is currently facing.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Borough Plan is one of the Council's Policy Framework documents which is required by the Constitution to be adopted by the full Council. The committee is asked for its views in accordance with Standing Order 20(d).
- 5.2 Legal advice will be required in respect of the implementation of a number of the actions in the Borough Plan.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010. This is known as the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 6.2 The 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 There will be equality implications, positive and negative, for many of the activities undertaken under the Borough Plan in the next four years.
- 6.5 All departments implementing changes, through policies or initiatives will complete an Equality Impact Analysis. These will be reviewed by the Equality Officer before submission. In addition, a full EIA will be completed for the Borough Plan in its entirety.
- 6.6 Responses from the public consultation on the plan will form a key of the evidence to support these.

Related Document:
Cabinet Report Draft Borough Plan October 2022

Report sign off:

Lorna Hughes
Director of Engagement, Strategy &
Communications

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Moving Brent Forward Together for **2023-2027**





It gives me great pleasure to introduce Brent's Borough Plan for the next four years.

This document is informed by your priorities, expressed through your vote at the ballot box earlier this year and through your participation in the Residents Attitude Survey that over 1000 people completed at the end of 2021. Throughout this plan, my eyes remain on the same principle as always – to leave no resident behind. This will be more important than ever, as we stare down the cost of living emergency together.

The plan on the following pages sets out the direction of travel Brent Council will take over the coming years. It is a snapshot of what we want to achieve and the path we will take to get there together.

What is still unclear is our destination. As you will recognise, four years is a long time in the world of today, where every day brings a new unknown and a different crisis to respond to. With every change comes opportunity and Brent is a borough of unlimited opportunities.

Over the last ten years, Brent Council has needed to strip out close to £200m from its budgets. We have needed to be agile, cut back our workforce and reduce spend. We have innovated, using new technology and modern ways of working. We have streamlined senior management and worked ever more closely with community groups and residents.

Our ambitions for Brent can regrettably diminish in line with inflation. The same rising cost of living that has affected us all individually has also cut our already shrinking pot of funding even further. Increased inflation does not only drive up the price of everyday essentials, it stretches the cost of goods, services, supplies and running buildings too.

This has obvious

effects on what it is we can deliver for you.

With all that said, we will look to continue our record as the Council of the Year, the award we received back in 2020 – recognising that despite the challenges, Brent Council will always take tough decisions in seeking to ensure that no one is left behind. We will continue to prioritise the most vulnerable in our community and make sure that essential services like waste collection, libraries, education, public health and care are protected.

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

We have so much to be hopeful for though. We are a place of renewal; filled with people that come from far and wide, people that wish for a brighter future. Our children attend more Ofsted 'Good' and 'Outstanding' schools than ever. We will seek to deliver more genuinely affordable homes than any other London Borough and we will re-affirm our commitment to do whatever we can to respond to the Climate Emergency before us.

Brent Council exists to serve you, our residents.

I hope that our new Borough Plan shows that we are committed to supporting everyone that lives and works in Brent. Together we will build a better Brent, with a brighter future.

Cllr Muhammed Butt
Leader of Brent Council



Building a Better Brent – our journey

In Brent we think it is important to always talk to you, our residents, about what our plans should be now and in the future. In 2019 we spoke and engaged with residents (you) across Brent to decide on the five priorities to build a Better Brent. Since this, we also updated the plan during Covid. We wanted to make sure we supported you, the people of Brent, in the best way we could, by responding to the pandemic's impact on our communities.

Here are the previous priorities and what we have achieved so far:

Every opportunity to succeed

We focused on equipping our young people for the future. We wanted to improve attainment and exam results for our young people who are in or have left care, our young men of Black Caribbean heritage and to help young people to have more employment opportunities. We invested £44 million to upgrade our schools, adding 427 places for our young people with special education needs and disabilities. We have helped 1,000 residents into employment, including over 200 apprenticeships and 90 kick-start places.

A future built for everyone, an economy fit for all

We focused on making Brent a great and affordable place to live and work. We are committed to investing in our towns and high streets and bringing jobs into Brent. We wanted to provide safe, affordable housing for our residents. Over the last four years, our council homes programme has built 871 homes. We have introduced licencing laws to protect our renters' safety and wellbeing. We repaired over 128km of roads and pavements.

A cleaner, more considerate Brent

We focused on how we could play our part in tackling climate change and improve air quality. By 2030 we aim for Brent to be a carbon-neutral borough. £500,000 has been provided to make residents' homes more energy efficient and for community groups to run education programmes. In Brent, we have installed over 21,000 energy efficient streetlights. We have fitted 515 electric vehicle charging points. We have planted 4,533 trees, 22 wild-flower meadows, and bee corridors to protect residents from harmful emissions.

A Borough where we can all feel safe, secure, happy, and healthy

We focused on crime, safeguarding, physical activity, and culture. We aimed to reduce anti-social behaviour and violent crime, with reported incidents falling over the last 4 years. We strived to increase resident physical activity as we were the fourth lowest borough. We have installed 20 open space gyms and offered free instructor-led sessions. We sought Brent to be a borough where culture is celebrated and vibrant. We were awarded the Borough of Culture in 2020, which our culture services delivered successfully.

Strong foundations

We focused on making Brent a digital place, where our services meet the needs of residents and are value for money. We created a new way of working with our voluntary and community sector. Our digital strategy has set up a fund to provide residents with a free laptop internet, and training. We have given over £16 million in funding to our communities. We created a social value and ethical procurement policy, which means our suppliers have agreed to invest in Brent.

Our plan for the next 4 years

The new Borough Plan builds on our work and progress over the last four years but recognises that we have more to do. The Borough Plan will be a guide for the things we will prioritise and focus attention on as a council, as we try to make Brent the best place it can be. We will support our residents and businesses through the cost of living crisis and help everyone to recover following the pandemic. We recognise that we need a Borough Plan that builds on the lessons we have learned and prepares us for the challenges facing our residents, communities, partners and businesses. We must also be honest and acknowledge that the cost of living crisis will impact our resources and capacity to provide everything we have in the past. We expect to see an increase in our costs to deliver services. We have listened to, and will continue to listen to residents and partners to decide the best way for us to respond to any upcoming challenges together.

We would like to build on the strong community spirit in Brent, which saw the council and residents working together so effectively during the pandemic. We want the council and the community to continue to work together, building on these strong foundations and making sure your voices are heard and influence the services we deliver. To capture your voices, in recent months we have consulted:

- Our young people,
- Our residents who are carers,
- Our residents with disabilities,
- Our older people,
- Our homeless community,
- Our business community,
- Our key partners e.g. NHS,
- Our community and voluntary sector,
- Our residents who are in low social-economic situation,
- Our staff.

To help present a picture for Brent and demonstrate how our ambitions are informed by data, we have put together the information we have gathered in one document ["<<hyperlink>>"](#), published alongside the Borough Plan. We have called this document an evidence base as it tells us the make-up of our borough, our needs, our diversity, our uniqueness, and also includes opportunities for Brent.

By building on what you told us and using the evidence, we commit to delivering a Borough Plan 2023-27 that prioritises:

1. Prosperity, Pride and Belonging in Brent
2. A Cleaner, Greener Future
3. Respect and Renewal in Brent
4. The Best Start in Life
5. A Healthier Brent

Strategic Priority 1: Prosperity, Pride and Belonging in Brent

The cost of living crisis is affecting everyone in Brent, with residents and communities with the most complex needs being hit the hardest. In our residents attitude survey, one in five people stated their finances will get worse over the next year. We expect greater demand for our support as energy costs and use of foodbanks continues to increase.

We want to tackle inequality and ease the pressure of the rising cost of living. This means continuing to work with partners and building on our existing joint plans to reduce poverty and ensure everyone has access to direct support when they need it – whether it be financial, digital, welfare centred advice or for employment. This is also about making sure our residents and communities with more complex needs receive the best possible support. To enable this, we will continue our progress to be a Digital Place and Digital Council that make it easier for residents to access support and for us all to interact.

We want to be clear that Brent is open for business. This means building stronger partnerships to ensure our high streets and local organisations are able to thrive. To achieve this, we will support our business community in providing and developing appropriate training. This will help residents gain the high quality skills they need to access and secure local well-paid jobs.

DESIRED OUTCOME 1: Easing the Cost of Living Crisis

We will:

- Work together with partners across Brent to work collaboratively to reduce poverty. This includes spreading awareness, improving access to services and support and providing tools and resource to help residents improve their lives.
- Provide a range of programmes which residents can access and understand their options for direct support. This includes maintaining support already available through the Resident Support Fund, Digital Inclusion, Fuel Poverty Toolkit, Fuel Vouchers, Digital devices.
- Deliver welfare support services from Brent Hubs to ensure residents access advice and guidance, help them to understand their rights and entitlements, promote Credit Unions and provide support that encourage small businesses to thrive.
- Provide tailored resources to those residents with the most complex needs to ensure our services are as accessible as possible and remove any unnecessary barriers.
- Work with partners, to create more opportunities for residents to develop skills and secure higher-paid jobs in growth markets, for example tech and green skills.

DESIRED OUTCOME 2: Brent for Business

We will:

- Improve the way we work with businesses to better support our high streets by increasing footfall and creating a Community Shops that encourage local shopping and increase the reuse, hire, and to reduce the cost of household goods.
- Lead by example and work with partners to employ more local people and create more opportunities to develop skills and training that help people to secure well-paid jobs.
- Work with neighbouring boroughs to attract more large businesses to the North West London and support them with local recruitment, skills and training.
- Better understand our business community so that we can raise awareness of appropriate training and employment opportunities for local people.
- Supporting community wealth building by encouraging retention of investment in the Brent economy and connecting local businesses to help them access supply chain opportunities.

What Success Will Look Like

- Greater accessibility for our welfare support and advice programmes, including Brent Hubs, Family Wellbeing Centres, Resident Support Fund, Digital Inclusion, Fuel Poverty Toolkit, Fuel Vouchers.
- More council homes and more temporary accommodation provided by the council.
- Providing digitally excluded households with devices, internet access and digital skills.
- Greater availability and uptake of skills development and training initiatives.
- More people securing work through training and development provided through Brent Works and Brent Starts.
- The council continues its commitment to, and encourages more businesses and partners to pay the London Living Wage.
- More people are employed in well-paid jobs and an increase in average hourly wage.
- Creating a Community Shop that supports local communities and their needs.



Strategic Priority 2: A Cleaner, Greener Future

You have told us that safety should be the most important priority for the council. We commit to working hard to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. Prevention is essential so we want to tackle the causes of crime. We will help people leave criminal lifestyles and we will pursue justice for victims. We will also work with our communities to build trust, prevent criminality and improve our response to crime.

In addition to making our borough safer, we want to make it cleaner. However, if we want to deliver quality public services such as street cleansing, bin collections and park maintenance, we need you to tell us what you want and need from these services. We need to ensure there are ways for you to do that, which give you the opportunity to influence decisions on council services and activity.

The effects of climate change are here, and we all have a role to play. We are determined to work with our residents, partners and communities to reduce our carbon footprint as far as possible. We will also work with partners to reduce our emissions and usage of harmful material.

We want you, as a community, to have opportunities to take part in the council's decision-making process. Brent Connects is a central part of our approach to this, as it allows residents to come together, discuss what matters most to them, and work with us to develop and test new ideas. We will continue to work with faith leaders, Brent hubs, and other voluntary and community sector partners to engage with under-represented groups. Another way we enable the community to influence council decisions is through You Decide. You Decide is a funding initiative, also known as participatory budgeting, which allows local residents to vote on which local projects should receive grant money.

DESIRED OUTCOME 1: A Cleaner and Safer Borough

We will:

- Offer provision of high quality responsive universal services to all residents, ensuring we reduce negative impacts on the environment while delivering high standards and meeting our Customer Promise— for example, clean streets, waste collection, skills, parks and libraries.
- Work with the Safer Brent Partnership and our partners to improve community safety, and reduce violence and vulnerability with a focus on reducing violence against women and girls.

DESIRED OUTCOME 2: Empowering our Communities

We will:

- Introduce and deliver our new Community Engagement Framework. The framework is our plan to engage with people at a neighbourhood level to better capture and understand residents' voices, encourage greater involvement in council activities, and use different methods to do this.
- Support the Voluntary and Community Sector with clear communication and forums to provide insight, data and case studies of the lived experiences of residents.
- Deliver grant funding schemes that enable local people to lead on community activities and infrastructure

What Success Will Look Like

- Maintain our recycling targets as a proportion of overall waste.
- Reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.
- Increase in resident engagement and influence in decision making.
- Delivery of successful and impactful grant funded programmes, including those delivered in collaboration with the voluntary sector and community sector.



Strategic Priority 3: Respect and Renewal in Brent

We want Brent to continue to grow, prosper and be a place where people want to live and work. To support this aspiration, we will do two things:

- Ensure sustainability is central to the growth of our borough and local economy
- Invest to make our streets cleaner and healthier.

We will create more accessible and genuinely affordable housing. We want to be the leaders in London for inclusive housing development that works better for everyone. This means buying houses; building new social, accessible and affordable homes and improving our existing estates. We will also continue working with partners to increase the supply of private rented accommodation.

We want a growing borough which puts sustainability and social value at the heart of all its development. This means making it easy for local businesses to choose to invest locally. We want to see as much of Brent's money as possible, re-invested in Brent. We are also developing our Local Plan to attract businesses from growing sectors into Brent. This will bring new well-paid jobs to the borough. Our Local Plan aims to revitalise and strengthen our town centres and high streets, making Brent more prosperous.

Cleaner and safer environments are key to communities becoming healthier. To do this we will invest in, and work with local communities and partners to recycle more, and to keep streets cleaner. We also want to support residents' health and wellbeing by making walking and cycling safer and more accessible in Brent.

DESIRED OUTCOME 1: Safe, Secure and Decent Housing

We will:

- Continue with our pledge to deliver 1,000 new council homes and continue to be leaders in London in building inclusive and genuinely more affordable homes.

DESIRED OUTCOME 2: A Sustainable Borough and a Greener Economy

We will:

- Seek ways of improving the use of the civic centre, including waste reduction and income generation, to lead by example, and encourage partners and the community to adopt more sustainable ways of living and working.
- Use our planning powers and land ownership opportunities to deliver more joined up projects and services with localities and neighbourhoods. Learn from good examples such as the Church End Council led development that will bring an additional £3m Social Value into the area
- Work with partners, through the West London Alliance, to create more opportunities for residents to develop skills and secure higher-paid jobs in growth markets, for examples tech and green skills.

- Ensure our social value policy encourages all the organisations we buy services from to provide benefit to our local communities, through jobs, skills, apprenticeships and training places.

DESIRED OUTCOME 3: Keeping Brent on the Move

We will:

- Invest in our roads and pavement improvement to help keep our streets clean, improve recycling, and reduce the use of waste landfill and incinerators.
- Deliver the Healthy Streets programme to encourage more walking and cycling in safe, inclusive, designed environments.
- Continue to strengthen our work force and its ability to deliver fair and equitable services through development and leadership programmes, ensuring the workforce is representative of the borough at all levels where we can.

DESIRED OUTCOME 4: A Representative Workforce

We will:

- Continue to strengthen our work force and its ability to deliver fair and equitable services through development and leadership programmes, ensuring the workforce is representative of the borough at all levels where we can.

What Success Will Look Like

- More genuinely affordable and accessible homes available to families and residents.
- New ways for council to generate income.
- More local investment and social value commitments from our suppliers in Brent.
- Increase in residents walking and cycling.
- Achieving our roadways and pavements maintenance targets.
- More local residents in council jobs, including those in graduate or entry level roles.
- Improve the representativeness of senior management, compared to the Brent population, within the organisation



Strategic Priority 4: The Best Start in Life

We want our young people to get the best start in life. We want them to receive the support they need when they need it. We also want our young people to receive a quality education, which develops their skills and allows them to achieve their potential and realise their aspirations. To do this, we will work through our Family Wellbeing Centres, with partners, communities, businesses and residents, and in particular our young residents. We also want to ensure our children and young people are safe and will aim to achieve this by improving our approach to safeguarding, including for those who are transitioning to adulthood.

We will raise attainment and aspirations. Working with schools and partners we will make sure access to education is fairer and more equal. This includes ensuring there is tailored support for our Black African, Caribbean and Somali communities to harness their talent and potential. We will also build on our existing investment to upgrade provision and SEND school places.

We want all our young people from all backgrounds to be seen and heard in our services. We will create more opportunities and spaces to empower our young people to have their say – for example, the Youth Advisory Group used their lived experience to influence the delivery of the Black Community Action Plan. We must hear all our young people's voices, from newly arrived refugees to long-established communities; from our young people with disabilities and those who belong to the LGBT+. We will constantly review how we engage with our young people to ensure we hear views from different groups of young people from across the borough.

DESIRED OUTCOME 1: Raised Aspirations, Achievement and Attainment

We will:

- Raise aspirations and address any underachievement from age 0-25 by promoting inclusion and inclusive schools.
- Focus on the Black African, Caribbean and Somali communities, through the Black Community Action Plan initiatives to continue to develop future community leaders.
- Improve our approach and support around safeguarding, both in relation to contextual and transitional safeguarding
- Promote the value of early intervention and prevention by working with families and through the activities of our Family Wellbeing Centres.
- Ensure the Children's Trust and Integrated Care System provide value for money and build better partnerships to improve our Children's Services.

DESIRED OUTCOME 2: Young People are Seen and Heard

We will:

- Enhance our existing young peoples' forums, including Brent Youth Parliament, School Councils, Children in Care Council and Youth Advisory Groups by encouraging greater involvement of diverse groups and newly arrived residents.
- Encourage young people to become active in their communities and ensure their voices are central in our key sustainability projects.
- Directly engage with our young people across all service areas using approaches and methods outlined in the Community Engagement Framework.

What Success Will Look Like

- More people leave education better equipped for future life.
- More people have the skills and attributes for work, enabling them to make a positive contribution to their communities.
- More people to enter employment including apprenticeships and graduate schemes.
- Improved opportunities and achievements for people from Black African, Caribbean and Somali communities.
- Increased use and take up of Family Wellbeing Centre support and offers.
- More opportunities for young people to participate in decisions, including more engagement with young people and people from a range of different communities.



Strategic Priority 5 – A Healthier Brent

The pandemic highlighted the health inequalities that exist in our communities. In Brent, we saw that there were more Covid cases and deaths in some groups, specifically: older people; men; Black and Asian people; and those living in more deprived areas. We know that there are a range of underlying factors such as housing, employment, and income that contribute to these inequalities. To tackle this, we want to establish ways to improve health outcomes for those who need it most.

We will learn from the pandemic. We will make sure our health services meet local need and reduce health inequalities. This means engaging with our communities and health partners to understand the challenges and differences that exist. We will use this information to develop community-centred approaches and solutions. We also want to improve communication with our communities so our residents know to access support and improve their health.

We want Brent to be a healthier and stronger borough. We can do this by removing barriers residents face to becoming physically active. This includes making our green spaces, walking, and cycling routes more SEND friendly, inclusive, and well-maintained.

DESIRED OUTCOME 1: Tackling Health Inequalities

We will:

- Work with the North West London Integrated Care Partnership Board to address health inequalities and strengthen our relationship with health partners to deliver priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Work with the North West London Integrated Care Partnership to ensure children's health needs are prioritised. For example, addressing health inequalities for young people and ensuring children gain access to mental health and wellbeing support when they need it.
- Maintain preparedness to cope with public health emergencies. Make sure lessons from the pandemic are used to focus public health attention and resources to the communities most affected by and still recovering from Covid.
- Work with NHS and partners to deliver more cross-sector working within services that impact on health, such as housing, mental health and community safety.
- Use the Health and Wellbeing Strategy action plan to make sure Parks and Green spaces offer more opportunities for accessible physical activities and exercise. This includes making inclusive design improvements and management of pocket parks and community gardens.

DESIRED OUTCOME 2: Localised Services for Local Needs

We will:

- Respond to the Health and Social Care Act 2022 with the creation of more locality-based decision-making and delivery of services that meet the needs of Brent's diverse localities.

- Continue our community based work through Brent Health Matters and work with NHS partners to increase more community led approaches.
- Focus our commissioning approach on prevention and wellbeing and ensure residents are involved in deciding local solutions.
- Engage with communities to ensure they can access information and services to support them in managing their health better. This includes investing more and working within our Voluntary Community Sector organisations.
- Build on the successful methods of communication and engagement used during the pandemic, such as webinars with key speakers and social commentators for ongoing discussion with residents.

What Success Will Look Like

- More residents have access to outdoor activities.
- More accessible facilities in public spaces.
- Reducing health inequalities, particularly for groups disproportionately impacted by Covid and through co-designed approaches with communities.
- More people supported to sign up to GP practices.
- More people are seen by the Brent Health Matters team.
- Improved outreach to communities and residents.
- A reduction in referrals to more acute/emergency services.



Black Community Action Plan

In July 2020, Brent talked to its Black community about the inequalities they face. Together we developed our [Black Community Action Plan](#) to address these inequalities.

Brent Connects

[Brent Connects](#) is a space for local communities to come together, discuss the things that matter most to you and work with the council and its partners to develop and test new ideas that will improve the lives of Brent residents. There are five Brent Connects areas.

Brent Health Matters (BHM)

[Brent Health Matters](#) is a programme to reduce health inequalities. BHM works with the local communities to find out what services they want and need. It then delivers those services in a way which is easy for local residents to access.

Brent Hubs

[Brent Hubs](#) provide advice and support for residents in different locations across the borough.

Brent Customer Promise

[The Brent Customer Promise](#) is our commitment and promise sets out the standards of service you can expect from us whichever service you use.

Community gardens

A community garden is owned and run by the local community. It is often used to grow food.

Contextual safeguarding

An approach to safeguarding that recognises that young people may be at risk of significant harm not only within their home environment, but also outside it.

Digital Council

Digital Council is a term used in our [Digital Strategy](#). It means that we are improving the way we use technology and data. By collecting data in an ethical and secure way we are using it to make our services and information more accessible, personalised and responsive.

Digital Place

Digital Place is a term used in our Digital Strategy. It means we are building a borough-wide digital infrastructure providing fast connection to the internet. It also means we are providing training to improve residents digital skills.

Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)

The Integrated Care Partnership is a partnership of local health and care providers in Brent. Its aim is to improve local health and remove health inequalities.

Local Plan

The [Local Plan](#) is a collection of planning documents which sets out our strategy for future development in Brent

Resident Support Fund

Brent's [Resident Support Fund](#) is a support fund available to residents who are in financial difficulty.

SEND

SEND is an acronym which stands for Special Educational Needs and Disability.

Transitional safeguarding

A safeguarding approach and response that addresses specific developmental, social and contextual needs from a person going from adolescence to adulthood.

West London Alliance

The [West London Alliance](#) is a partnership between seven London boroughs. They are: Brent, Barnet, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, and Hounslow.

You Decide

[You Decide](#) is a Brent programme in which local people choose how local funds are spent. Projects are submitted and local residents are invited to a decision day to vote on which projects they think would benefit their community, and they would like to go ahead. Funding is then given to these projects.





Borough Plan 2023-27 Evidence Pack

This pack provides an overview of key information and data used to frame and shape the draft Borough Plan 2023-27 priorities. The data was used to contextualise Brent – outlining needs, challenges, successes and opportunities within the borough. This data will also feature within the upcoming evidence base that will be published alongside the final Borough Plan.

Demographic data

Age – Brent has a relatively young population: the median age of the population is 36 compared with 40 across England. However, in line with national trends, the population is ageing; projections suggest the number of residents aged 65 and over could increase by 78% between 2020 and 2041 – an additional 33,000 older residents.

Sex – The gender split in the population is 51% male and 49% female. The proportion of men is highest in the 20-39 age group where they comprise 55% of the population. In contrast, women make up a higher proportion of the Borough's very elderly population, comprising 61% of those aged 85 and over.

Ethnicity - Brent is one of the most diverse boroughs in London; almost two thirds of the population (64%) are from BAME groups, the third highest in London. Around 16% of residents are White British, the second lowest rate in London. One in five Brent residents are from other White minority groups.

Disability – Around one in seven Brent residents have a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities in some way. The prevalence of disability rises sharply with age; more than half of all residents aged 65 and over have a long-term health problem or disability.

Language – Around 150 different languages are used in Brent. In 2011, 37% of the Brent population used a main language other than English – the 2nd highest in England. At the time of the 2011 Census, the top 10 language groups in Brent were; Gujarati, Polish, Arabic, Portuguese, Tamil, Somali, Romanian, Urdu, Persian/Farsi and Nepalese speakers.

Religion – The borough's three largest religious groups are Christian (41%), Muslim (19%) and Hindu (18%). Overall, 82% of residents have a religion – the fourth highest rate in England and Wales. The borough has the second largest Hindu population in England and Wales, and the tenth highest Muslim population (as a percentage of the population).

Sexual orientation – Statistics about the size of the LGB population vary considerably and there is no single widely accepted measure. The 2020 GP Patient Survey found that 7.4% of Brent residents surveyed identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other – above the England rate (4.5%). ONS survey estimates are typically lower (England, 2.9%).

Strategic Priority 1: Prosperity, Pride and Belonging in Brent

DESIRED OUTCOME 1: Easing the Cost of Living Crisis

Poverty & Deprivation

- The overall poverty rate after housing costs (AHC) in Brent was estimated at 33.0% by the ONS in 2017 (*Small area model-based households in poverty estimates, England and Wales*); this is notably above the London average of 26.4%.
- Child poverty AHC was 39.5% in Brent for 2020-21, the seventh highest level across London (*End Child Poverty*). The average for London in the equivalent period was 35.2%. In the seven years since 2014/15 that these figures have been published there has been very little change in Brent's performance over time, with figures between a high of 40.9% for 2018-19 and a low of 39.5% in 2021-22.

Support and provision

- Demand for Community Hubs continues to grow, with 11,823 residents seeking help in 2021-22, compared to 9,693 in 2020-21.
- 3,423 food bank referrals were made through Brent Hubs in 2021-22.
- Demand for the Resident Support Fund is also increasing with 2,277 applications received in Q1 of 2022-23 alone; this is a 220% increase from the 711 received in Q1 of 2021-22. There were 6,609 applications made for 2021-22 overall.
- As of December 2021, 7.7% of the Brent population aged 16-64 report having no formal qualifications at all – this is the second highest level in London, behind Barking & Dagenham at 12.4% (*Annual Population Survey*).
- Last year, 273 local residents were helped into employment or apprenticeships through Brent Works. 171 of these were in work paying on or above the London Living Wage.
- 4,813 students enrolled on Brent Starts courses during 2021/22, including 1,908 who were doing an ESOL course.

DESIRED OUTCOME 2: Brent for Business

- 27.9% of full time employees in Brent for 2021 earn less than the London Living Wage of £11.05 per hour. This is the second highest level in London after Enfield (28.2%) (*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings*).
- Brent's median annual wage for full-time employees is £33,805. This is the third lowest level in London after Hounslow (£32,516) and Barking and Dagenham (£32,931), and are 10% below the London median of £37,500 (*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings*).

Strategic Priority 2 – A Cleaner, Greener Future

DESIRED OUTCOME 1: A Cleaner and Safer Borough

Community Safety

- In the 2021 Brent Resident Attitudes Survey (RAS) the most valued feature of living in Brent is that it is a safe area, free from crime and bad behaviour, with 44% of residents considering this a priority.
- Community safety (jointly with health services) was the most frequently mentioned area where residents would like more money spent on services, with 34% of respondents identifying them as a priority (RAS).
- In the year to September 2022 there were 3,661 domestic abuse offences in Brent, up 4.4% from the previous 12 months. (*Metropolitan Police Service Crime Data Dashboard*). There were also 867 offences of domestic abuse violence with injury in the year to September 2022.

Environment and recycling

- Parks, open spaces & trees were the third most valued feature of living in Brent, with 24% of residents selecting them as a priority (RAS).
- In 2020-21, only 33.4% of Brent's Household waste was recycled; this is ever so slightly above the median score for London boroughs of 32.1%.
- There were 3,703 waste cases investigated which led to enforcement action in 2021-22.

DESIRED OUTCOME 2: Empowering our Communities

- 28% of Brent residents had given unpaid help to groups, clubs or organisations in the last 12 months – this is the same as 2018. (RAS)
- 58% of residents would like to be more involved in decisions made in the local area. (RAS)
- 641 residents attended the 10 participatory budgeting decision day events, with 89 local projects being either fully or partially funded. 2,030 residents engaged with the participatory budgeting pilot over its complete run.

Strategic Priority 3: Respect and Renewal in Brent

DESIRED OUTCOME 1: Safe, Secure and Decent Housing

Housing delivery

- At the end of June 2022, Brent had so far delivered 660 homes of its 1,000 new council homes target. There are additional 496 homes on site and another 440 with planning permission and moving to site shortly.

Housing need

- There are 26,014 households on the Housing register list at the end of June 2022, 3,118 of those with priority. Compared to the last published data from March 2021 this is the third highest level in London, behind Lambeth (30,864 households) and Newham (31,887) (*Local Authority Housing Statistics*).
- There were 1,671 Brent households in temporary accommodation at the end of June 2022.
- As of May 2022 325 Brent residents had their housing benefit capped, to an average cost of £63.72 per month (*Benefit Cap: HB Point in Time Caseload*).
- The median private rent for a two bed property in Brent is £1,400 per month – this is the fourth highest level in Outer London, above the Outer London Median of £1,350 (*Private rental market summary statistics*).

DESIRED OUTCOME 2: A Sustainable Borough and a Greener Economy

- 99% of contacts procured meet the London Living Wage standard, and 35% of Brent suppliers are locally based.
- In 2021-22 17 local apprenticeships and work experience opportunities were created with suppliers as part of our Social Value and Ethical Procurement Policy; this policy also saw 59 hours of support for community initiatives.
- Over £3m in revenue income was secured from our commercial portfolio in 2021-22.

DESIRED OUTCOME 3: Keeping Brent on the Move

- In 2021/22 only 66.6% of Category 2 defects (non-emergency repairs to highways/footways) were responded to within their target time.
- 40.4% of Brent adults have not engaged with any kind of active travel within the past year. 15.6% adults have not done a continuous walk of at least 10 minutes within the past year, which is the fourth highest level in London (*Active Lives Survey*).
- 71.7% of Brent adults have not cycled within the past year (*Active Lives Survey*).

DESIRED OUTCOME 4: A Representative Workforce

- Brent Council has the most ethnically diverse workforce in London with 66% of staff identifying as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic, compared to 46% for London as a whole. However, Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic employees are less well represented at higher grades (31% PO5-PO8 and 55% PO1-PO4), compared with 77% of those in the lowest grade group (*Brent Workforce Equalities Report 2021*).

Strategic Priority 4: The Best Start in Life

DESIRED OUTCOME 1: Raised Aspirations, Achievement and Attainment

- Brent is ranked 15th in London for children achieving a standard 9-4 pass at GCSE, with 75.4% of children achieving the desired grade in 2020-21. The average Attainment 8 score varied between different ethnic groups – for example, Brent is ranked 23rd out of 32 for the performance of pupils from a black ethnic background, with an average score of 48.9, compared to 53.7 for the borough as a whole (*DfE Statistics: GCSEs (key stage 4)*).

DESIRED OUTCOME 2: Young People are Seen and Heard

- 46 residents engaged with Moving on Up in 2021/22.
- Only 55% of residents aged 16-34 felt very or fairly well informed about Brent council services; this is compared to 64% for the population overall (*RAS*).

Strategic Priority 5 – A Healthier Brent

DESIRED OUTCOME 1: Localised Services for Local Needs

- Only 18.7% of people in Brent aged 40-74 received an NHS health check – well below the London average of 33.0% (*Office for Health Improvement and Disparities: Optimise Health & Reduce Risks Early*).
- 8.9% of residents aged 17+ have diabetes. As well as being the fourth highest level across London, it's the eighth highest within England (*Office for Health Improvement and Disparities: Diabetes Prevalence and risk*).

DESIRED OUTCOME 2: Tackling Health Inequalities

- Health services were the second most valued feature of living in Brent, with 25% of residents selecting them as a priority. Health services were also the most frequently mentioned area where residents were asked where more money should be spent on services (chosen by 34%, joint with community safety) (*RAS*).
- Only 59% of residents feel there are enough opportunities to improve their health through exercise, down from 69% in 2018 (*RAS*).
- 40.1% of Brent five year olds have experience of visually obvious dental decay– this is the second highest level in London, behind Harrow on 42.4% (*Office for Health Improvement and Disparities: Child Health Profiles*).
- Brent is ranked ninth in London for the prevalence of obesity in year six pupils, with 25.2% of pupils being obese (*Office for Health Improvement and Disparities: Child Health Profiles*).
- 29.60% of Brent Children are active for an average of less than 30 minutes a day (*Active Lives Survey*).

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Community Engagement and Communications Plan - Borough Priorities/Budget Consultation

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of this community engagement and communications plan is to:

- Share and amplify the new, proposed strategic ambitions
- Provide information on the council's budget situation, current pressures and draft priorities
- Receive feedback on our ambitions and the council's budget pressures
- Understand and align our ambitions with stakeholder, partner and resident priorities
- Understand if anything is missing in the draft priorities and draft budget
- Gather insights from residents, partners and stakeholders to refine the final draft priorities and draft budget.

Audience

The key audience groups we seek to reach and engage with include the following:

- Residents
- Community leads e.g. BHM Community Champions, BCAP steering group, mutual aid groups
- Community organisations / groups / partners
- Local media
- Members
- Internal staff
- West London Business (a non-profit business membership organisation)
- The Federation of Small Businesses
- Town centre business associations
- Brent Business Board

Strategy and methodology

A range of communications and engagement methods will be used to capture the views/ideas of residents.

Community engagement methods

The engagement methods will include the following:

Draft Borough Plan consultation

- Partnership events
- Online Brent Connects sessions
- A questionnaire on the Citizen Lab platform – widely circulated through the voluntary sector
- Drop-in sessions at Libraries and Community Hubs
- Face-to-face meetings organised through key community organisations (CVS Brent and Young Brent Foundation (YBF))
- Targeted focus groups with specific groups (Brazilian Community, Eastern European community etc).

Draft Budget consultation

- Partnership events
- Online Brent Connects sessions
- A questionnaire on the Citizen Lab platform – widely circulated through the voluntary sector.

Communication channels

The communication channels we will use to reach our desired audiences will include the following:

Draft Borough Plan consultation

- News story on the council website

- Press release
- Social media, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram
- Your Brent e-Newsletter copy and dedicated Leader's intro
- Business and libraries e-Newsletter copy
- Yammer and weekly round-up
- Members Information Bulletin
- Social media headers
- JCDecaux print and digital boards
- Your Brent magazine advert
- e-Signature
- Atrium screens
- Library screens

Draft Budget consultation

- News story on the council website
- Press release
- Social media, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram
- Your Brent e-Newsletter copy and dedicated Leader's intro
- Business and libraries e-Newsletter copy
- Yammer and weekly round-up
- Members Information Bulletin

Implementation

The draft Borough Plan and Budget consultations will adopt slightly different but overlapping timelines. This difference are due to when the respective documents were available in the public domain:

- Draft Borough Plan: 31 October 2022 – 10 January 2023
- Budget: 15 November – 31 January 2023

The table below sets out the identified engagement groups and the specific methodology that will be applied:

Community Engagement Activity	Forms of Engagement	Details	Focus
Partnership events	Two large partnership events with organisations (e.g. Police, Health, VCS, Businesses) across Brent With workshop style discussions around the Borough Plan	The events will take place during December and January (final dates to be confirmed), with one online and the other in-person. The events will seek to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the draft Borough Plan • Have an open and honest dialogue with partners about our reflective priorities • Capture suggestions and ideas around shaping the draft Borough Plan, including around how we can work better in partnership 	Borough Plan
Drop-in sessions	Access to online survey paper questionnaires comment cards	The drop-in sessions will take place between October 2022 – January 2023. The Community Engagement team will hold drop in sessions in the following Libraries (provisional dates and locations): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willesden Library, 8 December 2022, 11am-1pm 	Borough Plan

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harlesden Library, 2 November 2022, 5-7pm • Kilburn Library, 8 November 2022, 11am-1pm <p>The Community Engagement team will also hold drop-in session at the following Brent Hubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingsbury Hub, 15 December 2022, 12-5pm • Wembley Hub, 23 November 2022, 3-5pm 	
Online survey		The online survey will take place between October 2022- January 2023 an online survey will be available for any one who lives and works in Brent.	Borough and Budget Plan
Focus groups		<p>Focus groups will take place between November 2022- December 2022 virtually via Zoom (final dates to follow)</p> <p>The Community Engagement team will hold focus groups that target the following communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian • Black (via Community Reference Group meeting) • Somalian • Eastern European • Brazilian 	Borough Plan
Brent Connects Meetings	All Brent Connects areas will receive a presentation on the Borough Plan and Budget followed by a short Q and A will follow with residents directed to participate in the online survey.	<p>Brent Connects Meeting will take place virtually across the five Brent Connects areas on the following dates:</p> <p>Draft Borough Plan – Brent Connect sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harlesden, 31 October 2022, 6-8pm • Kilburn, 4 November 2022, 6-8pm • Kingsbury & Kenton, 10 November 2022, 6-8pm • Willesden, 15 November 2022, 6-8pm • Wembley, 17 November 2022, 6-8pm <p>Draft Budget Plan – Brent Connect sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harlesden, 9 January 2023, 6-8pm • Kilburn, 10 January 2022, 6-8pm • Kingsbury & Kenton, 11 January 2023, 6-8pm 	
Additional Forums	A short presentation on Borough Plan and the Budget followed by a short Q and A – with residents directed to	<p>Additional Forum meeting will occur virtually and in-person during November 2022 – January 2022</p> <p>We will seek to attend the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Reference Group 	Borough Plan

	participate in the online survey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pensioners Forum • Disability Forum • Multi-Faith Forum • Borough of Sanctuary • Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) 	
Internal lunchtime sessions	A short presentation on Borough Plan and the Budget followed by a short Q and A – with staff directed to participate in the online survey.	Internal Lunch time sessions will take place in November and January	Borough Plan

The table below sets out the implementation of the communications activity:

Approximate dates	Communication channel
Draft Borough Plan consultation	
31 October	News story live on council website and press release issued to local media contacts
31 October	Resident e-News special with dedicated Leader's intro
31 October	Yammer post
31 October – 10 January	Social media content scheduled across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
31 October – 10 January	Atrium screens live
3 November	Item in weekly round-up
4 November	Item in Members Information Bulletin
November	Item in resident / business / libraries e-News
19 December – 16 January	JCDecaux print and digital boards live
19 December – 2 January	Social media headers live
19 December – 2 January	e-Signature live
19 December – 2 January	Library screens live
December	Item in resident / business / libraries e-News
December	Item in Your Brent magazine
December	Yammer and item in weekly round-up
January	Item in resident / business / libraries e-News
January	Yammer and item in weekly round-up
January	Item in Members Information Bulletin

Draft Budget consultation	
15 November	News story live on council website and press release issued to local media contacts
15 November	Resident e-News special with dedicated Leader's intro
15 November	Yammer post
15 November – 31 January	Social media content scheduled across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
15 November – 31 January	Atrium screens live
17 November	Item in weekly round-up
18 November	Item in Members Information Bulletin
November	Item in resident / business / libraries e-News
19 December – 16 January	JCDecaux print and digital boards live
19 December – 2 January	Social media headers live
19 December – 2 January	e-Signature live
19 December – 2 January	Library screens live
December	Item in resident / business / libraries e-News
December	Item in Your Brent magazine
December	Yammer and item in weekly round-up
January	Item in resident / business / libraries e-News
January	Yammer and item in weekly round-up
January	Item in Members Information Bulletin

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	Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 8th November 2022
	Report from Chief Executive
Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2021/22	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	Two Appendix A - Annual Report Financial Year 2021 – 2022 Appendix B - Draft - Safer Brent, Community Safety Strategy 2023 - 2025
Background Papers:	
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Colin Wilderspin, Head of Community Protection Kibibi Octave, Head of Community Safety Davina Smith, Community Safety Manager

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to note the Safer Brent Partnership, Annual Report Financial Year 2021 – 2022 and the activities undertaken to support agreed priorities.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 For the Committee to note the Annual Report, 2021 -2022 as part of the council's Crime and Disorder function.
- 2.2. Provide recommendations to feed into the Safer Brent – Community Safety Strategy and related delivery, 2023 – 2025.

3.1 Detail

3.1 The detail of the Safer Brent Partnerships' priorities and outcomes for 2021/22 are contained within the report. Activity focused on the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Reducing Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- Priority 2: Reducing the Impact of Gangs and Knives in our Community
- Priority 3: Reducing Vulnerability and Increasing Safeguarding
- Priority 4: Reducing Offenders and Perpetrators from Reoffending
- Priority 5: Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

3.2 Activity captured provides an insight into Community Safety activity as we emerged out of the Covid -19 pandemic. Overall, the report highlights an achievement in reduction of crime across all serious crime types.

3.3 Key developments and challenges to delivery in 2021/22 were as follows:

Reducing Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Achievement: Brent Housing Needs, was one of the first Local Authority departments in the country to achieve, 'Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance' (DAHA) accredited status. Area of development: To better understand the detail sitting behind the 'Sexual Offences' data and address any causes.

Reducing the Impact of Gangs and Knives in our Community

Achievement: Brent has seen a reduction in the number of knife crime with injury victims aged under 25 years. Area of development: Better understanding of why Neasden and Dollis Hill areas emerged as hotspots in 2021/22

Reducing Vulnerability and Increasing Safeguarding

Achievement: Multi - Agency attendance to the Community MARAC has improved significantly over the year, partners work well to complete actions to support vulnerable individuals. Area of development: More proactive identification of YOS cohorts with links to missing episodes and county line activities.

Reducing Offenders and Perpetrators from Reoffending

Achievement: 25 of the highest harm offenders supported through the Violence and Vulnerability Programme under the IOM cohort, with interventions put in place to divert and deter them from re-offending and violent behaviour. Area of development: To increase the percentage of Education, Training or Employment (ETE) opportunities for offenders.

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

Achievement: A decrease of 26.7% in recorded anti-social behaviour cases.

Area of development: Better understanding of the links between anti-social behaviour, intimidation, gang associations and links.

3.4 Looking ahead, we will take a “Public Health” approach to deliver our Safer Brent – Community Safety Strategy 2023 – 2025; meaning that we will work with key partners to act earlier, identify wider support needs and improve interventions to prevent criminal and anti-social behaviour.

The Safer Brent Partnership’s priorities, 2023 – 2025 are broken down into the following 4 priority areas:

1. Tackling Violent Crime
2. Challenging Domestic, Sexual Abuse and Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls
3. Focus on Incidents Impacting our Community
4. Protecting Those Most Vulnerable

We have begun shaping our ‘Draft’ Safer Brent – Community Safety Strategy, with a view to launching it in the new year.

PRIORITY	WE NEED TO	FOCUS ON
1. Tackling violent crime	Keeping our streets safe, reducing risks and threats to our community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on Serious Violence• Preventing reoffending• Challenging Prolific Offenders
2. Challenging Domestic, Sexual Abuse and preventing Violence Against Women and Girls	Prioritize Safety and Protection for victims / survivors of abuse, to be safe at home and in our streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic Abuse• Sexual Abuse• Violence Against Women and Girls
3. Focus on incidents impacting our community	Empower communities, building strength and resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antisocial Behavior• Serious Incidents, Criminal exploitation (Gang) exit and support• Hate Crime
4. Protecting those most vulnerable	Support those at risk and vulnerable to exploitation. Protect victims of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Victims of Crime (including exploitation and county lines)• Prevent (Radicalisation and extremism)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding (Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)
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4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The majority of interventions commissioned are funded by external grants. Including, MOPAC's - London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) awards. However, internal departments such as Children and Young People (CYP) and Public Health, contribute to some of our commissioned services, this includes dedicated officer positions. The detail of this is laid out in pages 48 – 49 of the Annual Report.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 As required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) brings agencies and organisations together to develop and oversee local crime reductions strategies. Wider legislation underpinning this activity includes the, Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 5.2 Section 9F, Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, *overview and scrutiny committees: functions*, requires that Executive Arrangements by a local authority must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committees have the power to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are or are not the responsibility of the executive, or on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.
- 5.3 Section 9Fe, *duty of authority or executive to respond to overview and scrutiny committee*, requires that the authority or executive;-
- (a) consider the report or recommendations,
 - (b) respond to the overview and scrutiny committee indicating what (if any) action the authority, or the executive, proposes to take,
 - (c) if the overview and scrutiny committee has published the report or recommendations, publish the response, within two months beginning with the date on which the authority or executive received the report or recommendations.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 Data analysis evidences that “Black or Black British” people are over-represented within the engaged cohorts; with the exception of individuals vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) where the higher percentage was recorded as “White”.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 The Safer Brent Annual report has been agreed by the Chair and shared with partners that attend the Safer Brent Partnership.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 N/A

Report sign off:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR NAME

Chris Whyte, Operational Director,
Environment Services;

Lorna Hughes, Operational
Director, Communications, Strategy
and Engagement

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SAFER BRENT

PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

Community Safety
LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

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Foreword by Carolyn Downs, Chair of the Safer Brent Partnership and Chief Executive of Brent Council.

Welcome to the 2021/22 edition of the Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report

I would firstly like to thank the contribution of the partnership and the work undertaken this year to further safeguard those most vulnerable and the targeted support with enforcement to reduce crime and reoffending.

The challenges we have faced this year are evident within the report, we also recognise that many people across our community have been affected by the last year and they are facing many challenges post pandemic as we return to new ways of working and living together.

However, there is a clear focus on the innovative approaches and commitment to achieve change and improve outcomes for all.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read the 2021/22 Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report. We hope you are able to recognise that as a borough we ensure that during difficult and challenging times, we are there to help and support. Targeting and sharing our resources to maximise the impact across our community.

The risk of crime increasing was a key factor of concern across 2021/22 and the Annual report outlines some of the approaches we developed locally and with partners to help reduce risk, increase safeguarding, support those willing to change and ensure that crime remained low. The 2021/22 Performance summary highlights the achievement in reductions across all serious crime types, with the exception of wider recorded crime.

Brent has always been prepared to challenge and take action against those who cause harm to our residents and visitors. There is clear recognition that this year our momentum did not wane, as we jointly used enforcement powers and tools alongside wider support programmes to reduce offending, reoffending and will continue with this approach to ensure our borough is safe for all those who live and visit.

1. Background

- 1.1 Brent is a multi-cultural and vibrant North West London Borough with around 339,800 people living within Brent (the 5th largest population among London boroughs)¹. As of the previous census data (2011), about 53% of Brent residents were born outside of the UK and over 149 languages are spoken. Around 65% of residents are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds and Brent is home to 66,000 EU citizens.
- 1.2 According to 2021 Census First Release, in 2022, Brent has a younger age profile when compared with England & Wales, characterised by more adults aged 20-44 and fewer older residents. Around 12% of Brent residents were aged 65 and over (39,500) compared with 19% nationally and 81,300 aged under 19.
- 1.3 Across Brent employment in industries related to distribution, transportation, accommodation, food and retail form the largest part of the local economy. At the same time, poverty, long-term unemployment, and adult skill levels remain key challenges for Brent, as does the low participation of women in the labour market, primarily looking after the family and home (Igs-research base 2019-2040 new regeneration - inclusive growth strategy).
- 1.4 The Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) is the multi-agency strategic group that oversees our approach to reducing crime and antisocial behaviour. It is made up of representatives from multiple agencies including the London Borough of Brent, Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, Health, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Voluntary Services and Victim Support. The SBP also works with other groups such as the Safeguarding Adults Board, the Brent Safeguarding Children Forum, and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.5 The SBP aims to ensure that our community can thrive and live with less fear of crime, with greater confidence in services and take responsibility for its own actions. It pledges to bring to justice those who cause the most harm, using trauma informed and restorative approaches. The focus of the work is intelligence-led, evidence-based, identifying real issues and taking a problem solving approach to reducing crime.
- 1.6 Each year the SBP reviews and agrees a set of local priorities for the upcoming year in line with the 2018-2021 (extended to 2022) Community Safety Strategy. The priorities are;
 - Priority 1: Reducing Domestic and Sexual Abuse
 - Priority 2: Reducing the Impact of Gangs and Knives in our Community
 - Priority 3: Reducing Vulnerability and Increasing Safeguarding
 - Priority 4: Reducing Offenders and Perpetrators from Reoffending
 - Priority 5: Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour
- 1.7 Throughout the year the local Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) delivered in Brent. SNBs have been set up in every London borough with the support of the Mayor's Office of Police and Crime (MOPAC). Their aim is to bring police and communities together to decide on local policing and crime priorities whilst solving problematic issues collaboratively. They are expected to ensure that the public are involved in a wide range of community safety decisions. Additionally, MOPAC has made £1m available for Safer Neighbourhood Boards to fund projects that will help cut neighbourhood crimes and boost public confidence.

¹ [Brent 2021 Census First Release](#)

2. 2021/22 Performance

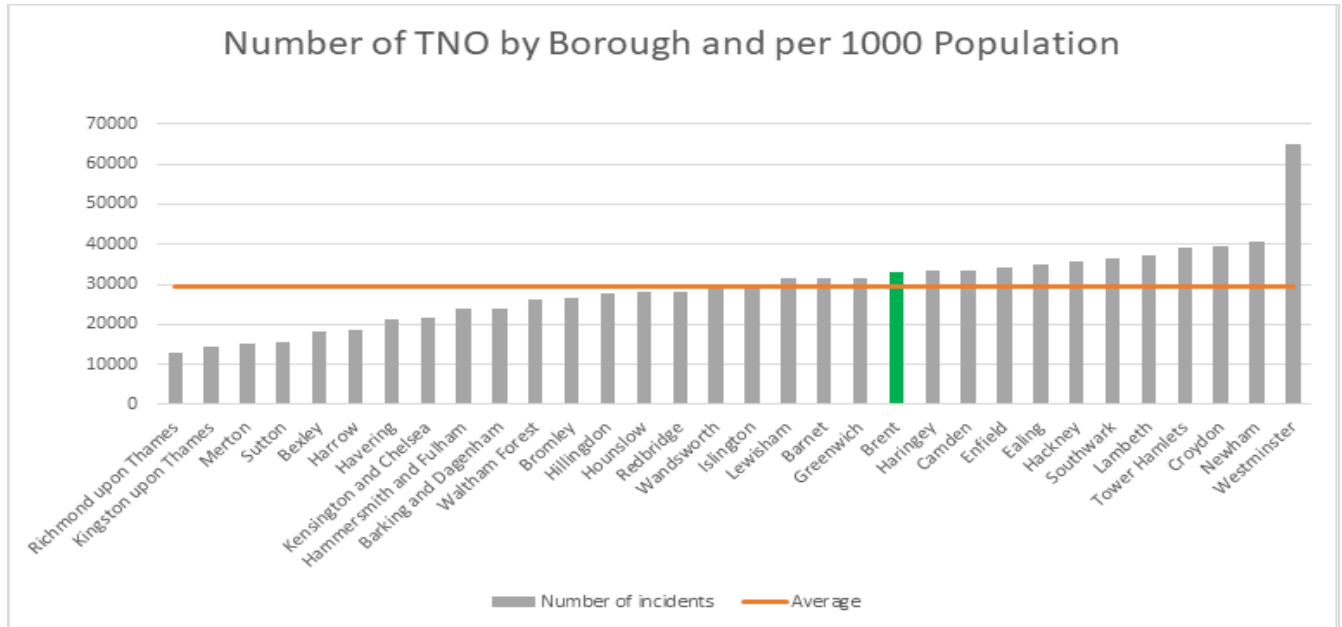
2.1 Performance Summary

Below is a summary of key outcomes as part of the Safer Brent Community Safety Strategy 2018 to 2022.

Priority	Measure	Reduction and Collection Method	Baseline 2019/20 outturn	2020/21	2021/22	RAG
Reducing recorded crime	We will aim to be below the London borough average for the overall crime rate	Total Notifiable Offences per 1000 population, as per Home Office approved statistics	91.3 crimes per 1,000	83.9 crimes per 1,000.	88.1 crimes per 1,000	London Borough Average 82.0 crimes per 1000. Lower than baseline outturn
Reducing Gang Related Offending	Reduce the number of lethal-barrelled gun discharges	All recorded lethal barrel gun discharges in the borough reported to Brent Police	8	24	21	
Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour	Reduce the number of calls to the police for ASB	All calls to Brent Police which have been flagged as ASB related (personal, nuisance and environmental)	55	50	35	
Reducing Violence and Vulnerabilities	Reduce the number of Violence with Injury Domestic abuse offences	All Brent Police recorded violent offences where the victim and suspects are intimate partners or are family members reported to the police and flagged as a domestic	870	865	859	
Reducing Acquisitive Offending	Reduce the number of personal robberies	All Brent Police recorded personal robbery offences	1366	840	807	
Reducing Acquisitive offending	Reduce the number of knife related robberies	All Brent Police recorded personal robbery offences with a knife crime flag	362	179	122	
Reducing Acquisitive offending	Reduce the number of residential burglaries	All Brent Police recorded residential burglaries	2093	1559	1521	

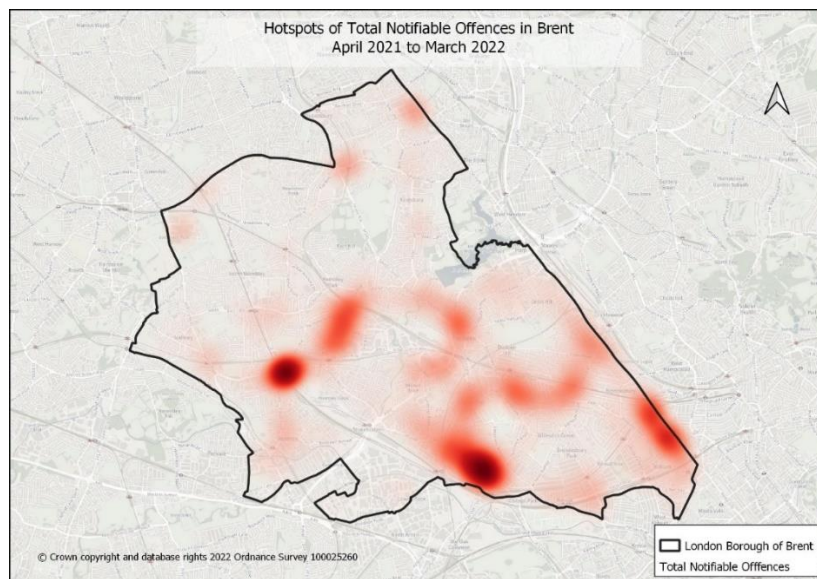
2.2 Total Notifiable Offences (TNO) in Brent

2.3 Brent is slightly above the London average for total notifiable offences per 1000 population. However, offences per 1000 have decreased significantly compared 2019/20 baseline with 2021/22.

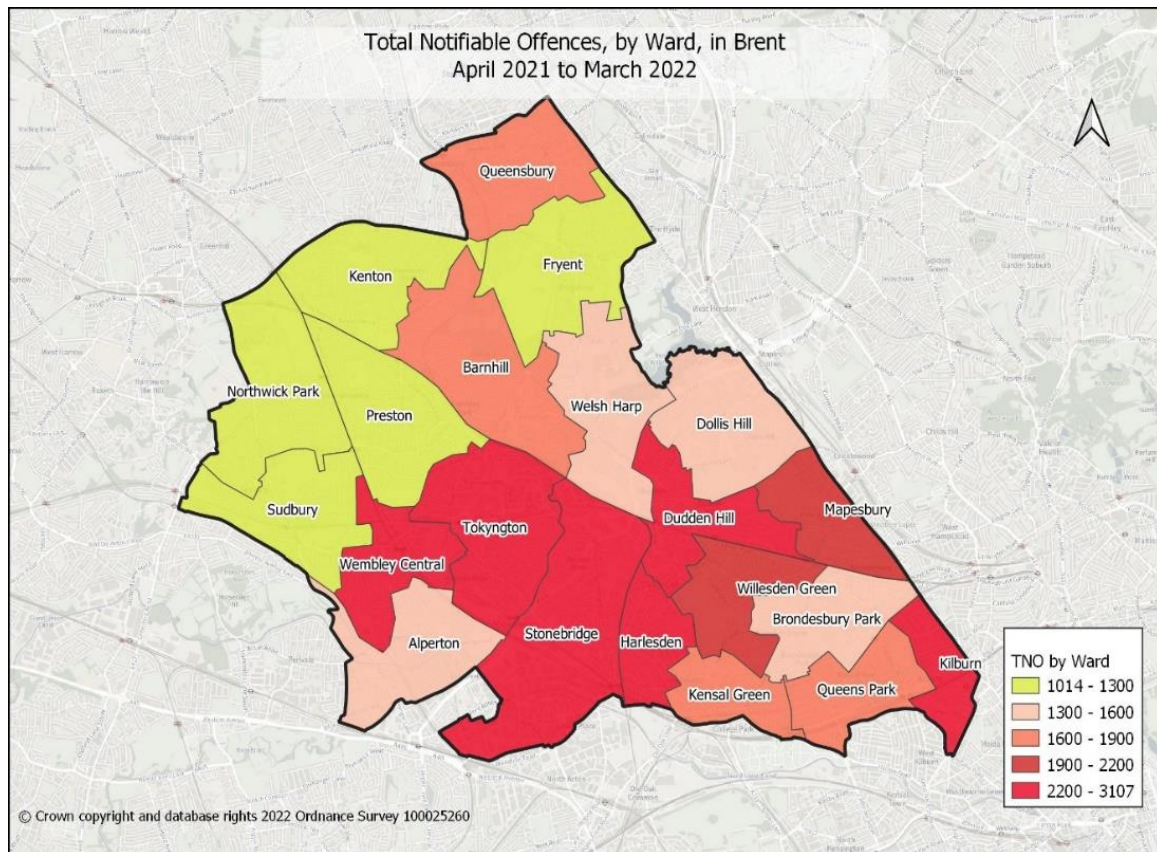


All London Boroughs saw an increase in Total Notifiable Offences throughout much of 2021/22.

2.4 Hotspot areas are largely unchanged from 2020/21. Hotspots are often reflective of areas that have high levels of gang activity and deprivation – this applies to South Kilburn and Harlesden. Other areas are crime hotspots due to high levels of footfall – Wembley High Road and Willesden High Road.



2.5 The below map highlights TNO at ward level in 2021/22.



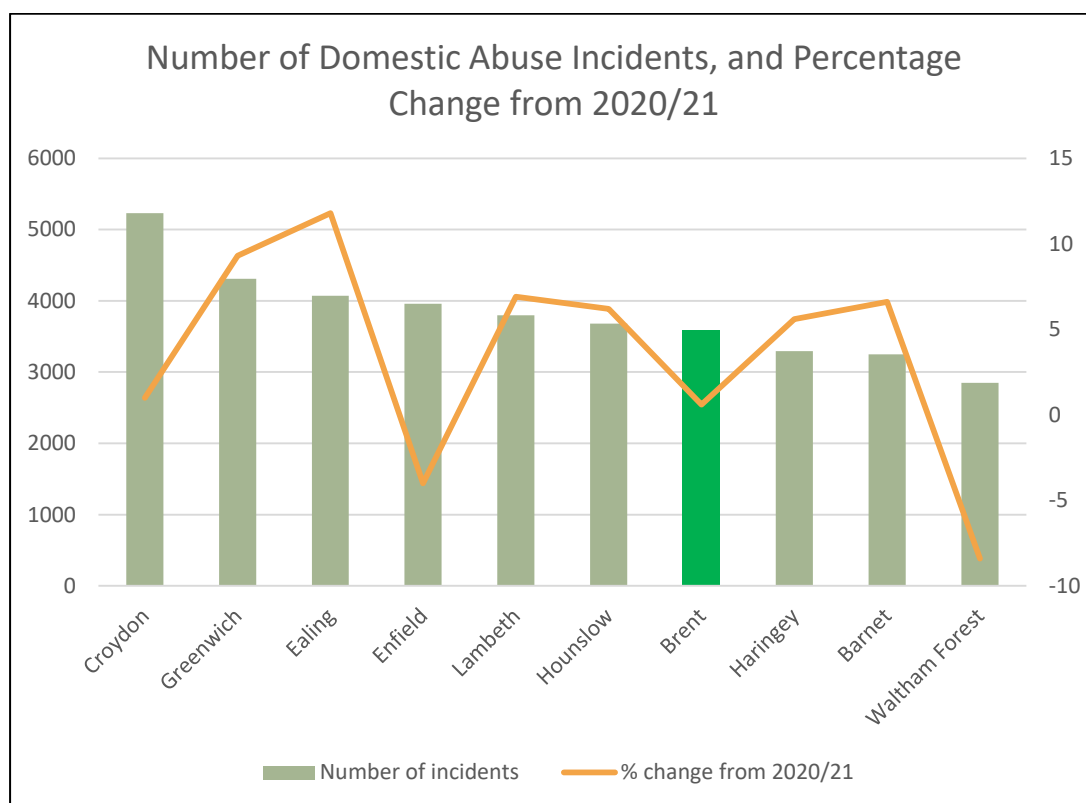
Ward	% of Total TNO
Stonebridge	9.4
Harlesden	8.9
Tokyngton	8.1
Wembley Central	7.4
Dudden Hill	6.8
Kilburn	6.7
Mapesbury	6.1
Willesden Green	5.9
Kensal Green	5.7
Queens Park	5.1
Queensbury	5.1
Barnhill	5.0
Brondesbury Park	4.8
Dollis Hill	4.7
Alpertown	4.6
Welsh Harp	4.5
Preston	3.9
Sudbury	3.8
Northwick Park	3.3
Fryent	3.2
Kenton	3.1

Please note new ward boundaries have replaced the above, see linked pages – [Local Government Boundary Commission for England Consultation Portal \(lgbce.org.uk\)](https://www.lgbce.org.uk/)
To find your ward click link - [Brent Council](https://www.brent.gov.uk/)

3 Priority : Reducing Domestic and Sexual Abuse

[Why it remains a priority?](#)

- 3.1 The commitment of the Safer Brent Partnership outlined in the Community Safety Strategy (2018-2022) to address all forms of domestic and sexual violence, with a focus on forms of violence that disproportionately affect women and girls incorporating, stalking, prostitution, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour-Based Violence (HBV), faith-based abuse, Forced Marriage (FM) and human trafficking.
- 3.2 Brent had the seventh highest number of domestic abuse incidents in comparison to our most similar boroughs in 2021/22. Only one of these boroughs saw a reduction in domestic abuse offences.



3.3 Further impact data is outlined below

[Key headlines for 2021/22](#)

3.4 **Awareness raising** Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) to increase a co-ordinated response:

3.5 The Community Safety Team worked alongside the Communications Team at Brent Council to deliver a range of communication and promotion **campaigns across the year** highlighting DA and VAWG during key periods. During the 16 days of activism - to raise awareness of these issues. This included;

- A video of key partners signing the White Ribbon Promise.
- The 16 day calendar of local and national activities promoted across the borough.

- 4 VAWG Webinars were delivered covering, survivors voices, coercive control, faith based abuse and prostitution.
- A domestic abuse pack was provided to schools through the Children and Young People's Department (CYP)
- A domestic abuse champion promotional video was published on 10th December to mark the end of the 16 days of action.
- Brent professionals and residents were encouraged to sign the White Ribbon Promise to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women.

3.6 Community Safety supported the work of the Gender Equality Network (Internal working group) to deliver a week of face to face, as well as virtual events to celebrate **International Women's Day 2022**. These events included our annual International Women's Day panel with empowering keynote speakers, a book club session, White Ribbon Making, a candlelit vigil to commemorate lives lost due to VAWG and more.

3.7 The locally commissioned domestic abuse support service, ADVANCE delivered training sessions on Domestic Abuse and MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) awareness. This training was made available through the Safeguarding Partnerships annual training offer. ADVANCE have also delivered specialist and bespoke training to key Partners. This has included Police, Housing and Healthcare professionals. In 2021/22, **204 professionals across Brent accessed specialist-training programmes** delivered by Advance.

3.8 There have been activities over the course of the year to raise awareness on women's safety issues and obtain community feedback. In November 2021, the council held a **'Time to Talk' about women's safety event**, where 85 people joined the online only event to share their experiences and views on how we can work together to make Brent a safer place for women and girls covering topics such as; street safety, online safety, relationships and education for all.

3.9 In January 2022, the Community Safety Team facilitated a **virtual VAWG workshop** attended by various Brent-based agencies, Schools / Education, health (CNWL), Police and voluntary sector partners. The workshop explored local VAWG themes, commitments, aspirations, and challenges that Brent currently faces. Brent partners discussed various aspects of VAWG in Brent, including prevention, survivor provision, pursuing perpetrators and partnership delivery.

3.10 **Community 'Walk and Talk' events** - Working in partnership with councillors, the voluntary and community sector, the MET Police, our local safer neighbourhood and town centre officers, we delivered a number of successful walkabouts locally with members of the public. This provided the opportunity to highlight areas of concern, share feedback in the local area and build relationships with the community.

3.11 Brent Council introduced its local commitment to businesses to support the delivery on the Mayor of London's, **Women's Night Safety Charter**. Working in partnership with local night-time economy venues to identify ways to increase safety of women across the borough. Offering free bespoke vulnerability training to staff within public venues such as restaurants, bars, hotels and late night eateries. The training equipped them with practical tools and resources to support any vulnerable service users, but in particular young women and girls.

3.12 The Community Safety Team continued to produce a **monthly VAWG Newsletter** for local professionals working in the VAWG sector. The newsletter is also made

available to those who do not work in the VAWG sector, but who may need to understand VAWG within the context of their work. The newsletter was launched in April 2020 and contains national and local updates, training and employment opportunities as well as a monthly spotlight on different aspects of VAWG. Spotlights have included sexual abuse, stalking, economic abuse, harmful practices and prostitution. The publication is well received with **over 150 people** on the distribution list and who also re-send on to their networks. This is also an opportunity to show case local events and training opportunity.

3.13 **Supporting victims of DA and VAWG:**

- 3.14 Brent Council commission ADVANCE Charity to provide specialist support to Victim, survivors of DA. ([Home - Advance Charity](#)) Although Domestic abuse victims significantly are female and the crime is gendered in its nature. Male victims of abuse were also offered support and couples in same sex relationships. The impact of this service is outlined in section 3.3 Impact.
- 3.15 Brent Housing Needs, **Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accredited**. The accreditation recognises a national standard in support provided to victims of domestic abuse by housing providers, making Brent one of the first local authorities in the country to achieve this status. In 2022 the team have increased capacity with the recruitment of an additional Domestic Abuse Housing Officer in order to support the DA Housing Team to manage the high volume of DA referrals. In addition, Housing Needs will be supporting Brent Housing Management to achieve DAHA accreditation
- 3.16 Brent Council has retained 25 specialist trained Domestic Abuse Champions who are internal employees ready and equipped to provide support to colleagues affected by domestic abuse. This network of champions is available for staff who do not wish to seek support from their line manager or HR representative. The champions have been providing emotional support, signposting and raising awareness about domestic abuse across the organisation.
- 3.17 The Brent Family Solutions team continues to deliver the **Freedom Programme**; a domestic abuse support course, designed for women as survivors of domestic abuse and those who are currently experiencing domestic abuse. During the reporting period 143 referrals were made into the programme resulting in 74 service users being enrolled.
- 3.18 Brent Council and partners have continued to deliver the **Chrysalis advice centre**; a one stop shop and drop in centre operating half day per week, offering specialist multi-agency support. The aim has been to build trust, to encourage earlier reporting and use a multi-agency approach to assist survivors and professionals to navigate the system more quickly and effectively, thereby increasing the effectiveness of interventions to support a safe exit.
- 3.19 Brent has also adopted the evidence-based **IRIS model**, funded by the Violence Reduction Unit until summer 2022. Being delivered in a blended approach in partnership between IRISi, ADVANCE, the Asian Women's Resource Centre and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), this project aims to support clinicians in general practice (GPs) to recognise and respond to their patients affected by domestic violence and abuse.

3.20 **Supporting children and young people affected by Domestic Abuse:**

3.21 The council continues to commission a **specialist Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Worker**, co-located with Children's Social Care staff to deliver specialist support to school-aged children who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse. In the year March 2021 – April 2022, Advance received a total of 79 cases for children and young people. Indirectly supported 130 children where the service user (non-abusive parent) was accessing their service.

3.22 Community Safety continue to oversee and ensure collaborative work between providers of Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation related support through the **Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Program**. This takes place on a fortnightly basis to review cases in a multi-agency forum taking into consideration any contextual safeguarding factors.

3.23 2021/22 **Global Thinking; a diversionary project for young women and girls** affected by gender based violence, exploitation and youth violence. This project is delivered as a partnership between Young Brent Foundation, Start Easy and Plias Resettlement and supports young women and girls (aged 10 – 25) through group work and 1-1 support. Completed an independent review of the impact of service delivery and achieving outcomes. The programme initially aimed to engage a minimum of 45 clients over a 16-month period (1st March 2020 to 30th June 2021). The contract was subsequently extended and as of 19 January 2022 had supported 76 young women.

During the period (Apr 21 – March 22):

48 referrals received for young women and girls

93 professionals, parents and young people have accessed Global Thinking training since July 2020. This training covers issues related to gender based violence and exploitation among young women and girls.

3.24 In addition, during this period Plias Resettlement secured funding from the London VAWG Consortium to deliver the Phoenix (P&Act) Project, providing a free confidential service to help end violence and other harmful practices against Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) women and girls in North and West London. The project was set up in March 2020, they have received 41 Brent referrals since the project was set up.

3.25 **Diverted and engaged perpetrators of Domestic Abuse to reduce risk and to move on:**

3.26 RISE Mutual deliver out local **Perpetrator Intervention Programme** with integrated victim support. The programme aids an increase in motivation for change, supporting the service user to reduce and eliminate repeat abuse, supporting healthier relationships through intervention based group and 1-1 work. The continuation of this offer has provided many perpetrators with a greater understanding of the harm they have caused.

3.27 The **CIFA (Culturally Integrated Family Approach)** delivered by Rise Mutual, Brent Council partnered with Barnet and Enfield Council's the delivery of the perpetrator programme. The CIFA scheme provides tailored services for minority communities through a focused, coordinated family and culturally sensitive, community approach. During 2021 36 clients received support alongside the perpetrator intervention programme.

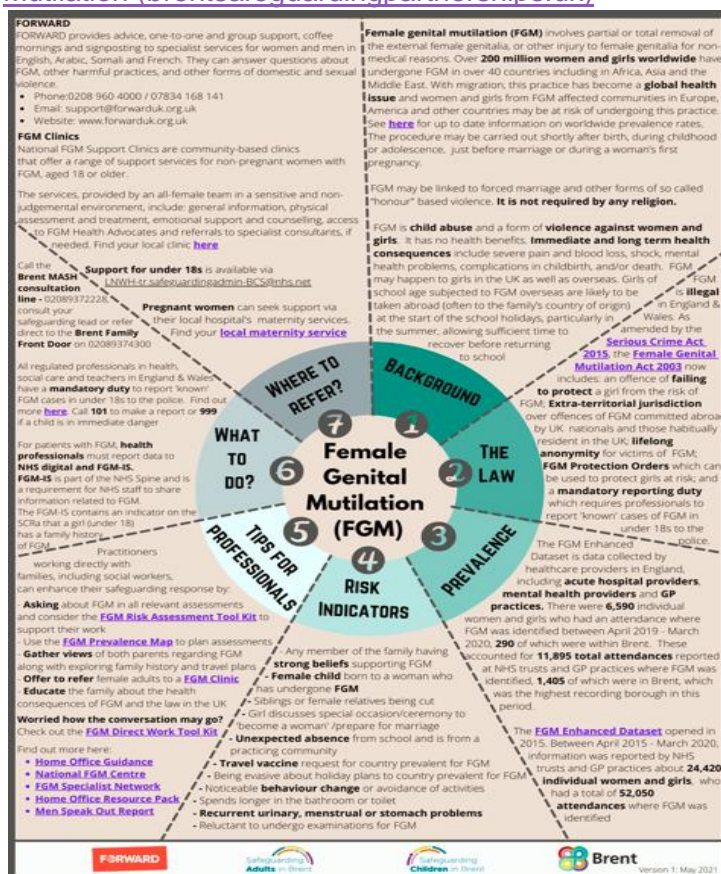
3.28 Community Safety continue to engage perpetrators through the **Exploitation, Violence & Vulnerability Programme (EVVP)** utilising the commissioned providers. A panel sits every 2 weeks to review cases and identify the most appropriate diversionary support through these providers. Further work in relation to healthy relationships and emotional wellbeing have been highlighted over the course of this reporting period with additional support in this area offered to clients.

3.29 Increased awareness of FGM and strengthened pathways for support:

3.30 Brent continues to operate the Hibiscus Clinic at Wembley Centre for Health, a FGM clinic for non-pregnant women over the age of 18. The service, provided by an all-female team in a sensitive and non-judgemental environment, include: general information, physical assessment and treatment, emotional support and counselling, access to FGM Health Advocates and referrals to specialist consultants, if needed.

3.31 During 2020/21 a multi-agency working group produced a 7-minute briefing on Female Genital Mutilation for Brent professionals. The group was coordinated by Brent Community Safety and had representatives from Brent Council, Public Health, North West London CCG, Brent Safeguarding Children and Adults partnerships, VAWG specialist agencies and local voluntary sector partners. The tool is intended to be used as a refresher for all professionals who have already had some formal training on FGM.

3.32 The training has been delivered across Health Partnerships and has been incorporated in to the Public Health 'Make Every Contact Count' safety messages and training programmes, **7 sessions reaching 96 individuals in 2021/22** were delivered with more agencies directly accessing the briefing. To download this briefing [click here](#) for more information view [Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board - Female Genital Mutilation \(brentsafeguardingpartnerships.uk\)](#)



3.33 Helping those to exit from sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and prostitution:

3.34 **The Nia Project** throughout this period continues to deliver non-judgemental support and advocacy to people involved in prostitution. As of March 2022, the Nia Project was supporting 38 service users. Their weekly outreach night-time van has also proven to be a valuable resource. Many women who are unable to engage with the service during the day, approach the van when it is operating at night, as this is when they are on the streets.

3.35 **West London Rape Crisis via the Women and Girls Network** continue to provide Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) provision for victims of sexual abuse in Brent. Brent is seeking to commission our own ISVA service once allocation of the grant funding is confirmed

3.36 Brent Council have built links with other providers of sexual abuse services including The Survivor's Trust which is the largest network of organisations delivering rape, sexual violence and sexual abuse counselling and support services within the UK.

3.37 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)

3.38 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 (3) of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). The Act states that a DHR should be conducted in accordance with Home Office guidance, and a review should be conducted of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by-

(a) A person to whom she/he was related or with whom she/he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship; or

(b) A member of the same household as her/himself; with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.

3.39 The Safer Brent (SBP) Partnership has the statutory responsibility to conduct the DHR process for any Domestic Homicide. Local areas are expected to assist all those involved in the review process in identifying the lessons that can be learned with a view to preventing future homicides and violence. The SBP is proactively involved in ensuring partners deliver against recommendations identified by the review panel. The Chairperson with the panel sets the parameters of the investigation and identifies with those agencies and individuals they wish to question. The SBP monitor the process and sign off the final report

3.40 Learning from fatalities

3.41 Brent Council continues to use Domestic Homicide Reviews as an opportunity to improve local service delivery. The essence of the reviews is to establish how well the agencies worked both independently and together and to examine what lessons can be learnt for the future. Therefore, we work together collating common themes such as risk management, information sharing, and multi-agency working to improve and where possible, prevent future incidents.

To date, Brent has initiated two further reviews of fatalities that took place in the borough. These began during 2021-22, one has since been published on the Brent Council website. All published DHR's can be found [here](#)

- 3.42 Key lessons learned- "**Elena**, a Brent resident". The most significant learning relates to the ability of professionals to identify indicators of domestic violence and abuse and take appropriate action; particularly in a Health and Children's Social Care setting. This should include making attempts to speak to an individual, alone, if possible. This is not 'new' learning, rather, it repeats a consistent message from previous reviews: that staff need to be trained and existing policies and procedures followed.
- 3.43 Further learning relates to multi-agency working and case closure. The Review panel identified examples where agencies did not communicate clearly or did not keep adequate records. The Review Panel, in this particular review identified potential barriers to her seeking help. Locally and nationally, the Review Panel has therefore recommended that further work is undertaken to meet the needs of EEA nationals subject to domestic violence and abuse.
- 3.44 While this review identified extensive learning, it is also important to note there were multiple examples of good practice. This included a number of professionals making safeguarding referrals, Brent CYP also responded promptly to safeguarding concerns. Some agencies also asked about translation services, and when requested were provided translation.
- 3.45 Increasing our support and reach into frontline community services has been strengthened throughout the year. Community Safety have worked closely in partnership with Victim Support, Asian Women's Resource Centre, Eastern European Advocacy Service run by Refuge, Women and Girl's Network and Galop, to provide coordinated support to survivors of domestic abuse.
- 3.46 The Brent **Domestic Abuse - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (DA MARAC)**
- 3.47 The DA MARAC continues to be chaired by the Metropolitan Police and coordinated by ADVANCE. The DA MARAC steering group meets quarterly to allow for monitoring and evaluation of the DA MARAC process and outcomes. Following independent specialist review undertaken by SafeLives, in November 2021. The recommendations to enhance the DA MARAC delivery was incorporated into the local Action Plan aligned with SafeLives 10 Principles to run an effective DA MARAC. This covers principles such as; identification, information sharing, equality and governance.
- 3.48 The Domestic Abuse MARAC continues to experience increasing case numbers the Brent DA MARAC has discussed an average of 25-28 high risk cases of domestic abuse, our virtual meetings - every fortnight, have ensured a high attendance of partners with clear contributions to reduced risk. The number of cases listed is still above recommended levels
- 3.49 The Community Safety team continue to deliver several strategic partnership groups to ensure continued improvements to the operational management of the provision of VAWG services across the borough. This is provided through a coordinated, multi-agency and intelligence led, evidenced based approach. This includes the VAWG Forum, VAWG Delivery Group, DA MARAC Steering Group, and London VAWG Coordinators Meeting.

3.50 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

3.51 The Domestic Abuse Act places an additional duty upon the local authority to which we created a Domestic Abuse Act Officer post to support with the implementation and requirements of the act. Following a period of recruitment, the officer now in post has been actively supporting departments. Meetings have been held with Children's Services operational management & the Domestic Abuse Housing Manager regarding compliance in relation to their respective departments. Reports for Children's Services, Adult Social Care, Community Safety and Housing have been compiled with key information from the Act to be observed and/or implemented.

3.52 Community Safety and VAWG partners are implementing numerous changes to service provision in response to the ascension of the Domestic Abuse Act. The Act became law in April 2021, [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

3.53 Refuge contracts were revised in 2021 and new services were commissioned.

The Impact

3.54 Domestic Abuse Offences

Brent has seen an increase in domestic abuse offences in 2021/22, but a decrease in domestic abuse offences with injury to the victim. This may highlight that victim survivors are reporting earlier.

Brent	2021/22	2020/21	% Change
Domestic Abuse Offences	3581	3551	0.01%
Domestic Abuse With Injury Offences	859	868	-1.0%

All London	2021/22	2020/21	% Change
Domestic Abuse Offences	97423	94524	3.01%
Domestic Abuse With Injury Offences	23104	23311	-0.89%

3.55 Domestic Abuse offences have increased across London when comparing 2021/22 with 2020/21. However, offences have decreased by slightly more in Brent.

3.56 Offences where the victim has sustained an injury have decreased both in Brent and London but by slightly more in Brent.

3.57 Sexual Offence

Brent	2021/22	2020/21	% Change
Sexual Offences	719	601	19.8 %

Rape Offences	273	245	11.4%
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All London	2021/22	2020/21	% Change
Sexual Offences	25125	18655	34.7 %
Rape Offences	9295	7494	24.0%

3.58 We have seen an increase in sexual offences & rape reported in Brent as well as London as a whole. The increase is twofold- firstly as the restrictions lifted - people returned back to normal social activities – in which contributed to a rise in all types of crime including sexual offences. Secondly, improvements in reporting channels such as via third parties (GP's, Health & Schools) have been the basis of the increases. Our police partners envisage that any rises over the next few years will be within 5-10% increase.

3.59 Just prior to the reporting period, we know that the tragic incidents involving the sexual assaults and tragic deaths of Nicole Henry, Bibaa Smallman and Sarah Everard, increased awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls, and may have encouraged people to report. In addition, people may have been encouraged to report offences that had taken place in previous years. And Police record the incident in the year it was reported to them, which could also have an impact on recorded figures.

3.60 **Advance IDVA and Family Support Services**

- 1104 referrals to ADVANCE IDVA and Family Support services from April 2021- March 2022.95% of survivors who feel safer after using the service compared with intake
- 95% of survivors reported an improved quality of life after using the services
- 94% of service users whose risk reduced during and after using the services.
- 91% reported enhanced sense of control/agency around sex and relationships at exit
- 93% of survivors reporting positive health outcomes (improved physical, mental & emotional health, improved sexual health) at exit
- 91% reported positive outcomes in criminal and civil justice after accessing services

3.55 **Chrysalis advice centre and one stop shop**

- 256 individuals have been supported by the Chrysalis Advice Centre
- 330 sessions with professionals have been delivered
- 66 clients reported English as their first language, 78 clients reported requiring an interpreter.
- 77.5% of survivors who report that if they were aware a service like the One-Stop-Shop existed sooner, it would have encouraged them to seek support earlier
- An average of 75% of survivors reported satisfaction with the service they received (note: 25% (10 clients did not answer).
- 70% of clients are reporting that the location is accessible for them (virtual/remote appointments) (30% (12 clients) did not answer)

3.56 IRIS - Specialist Health based IDVAs

- As of December 2021 all 54 GP Practices in Brent have been contacted and offered intervention. Overall, 12 fully trained practices and 8 partially trained practices, 80% of the VRU (Violence Reduction Unit) target for fully trained practices achieved
- Decrease in GP consultations due to potential confidence in referring as referrals are higher. In the evaluation questionnaires, all participants indicated an increased knowledge in all aspects of domestic violence and abuse.
- Trends identified: Ongoing multiple types of abuse being experienced by patients referred, Identified women with physical illnesses, PTSD, anxiety depression, Bipolar, panic attacks, Majority referral identified as BME.

3.57 Domestic Abuse MARAC (DA MARAC)

- 772 Domestic Abuse MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) referrals where service users are heard where they are at risk of serious harm and/or homicide.
- 17% of cases were repeat referrals for cases which had been discussed within the last 12 months.
- 79% of survivors who engaged with ADVANCE reported feeling safer as a result of being subject to a DA MARAC process.

3.58 RISE Mutual - DA Perpetrator program

Delivering the domestic abuse perpetrator intervention programme. The programme supports perpetrators to change their behaviour and prevent repeat incidents through Intervention based group work and 1-1 support.

- 227 referrals for perpetrators were received in since the beginning of the project until March 2022
- Of those contacted 84% attended assessments with 74% assessed as suitable.

As part of the integrated safety support service, RISE have a dedicated DASA (Domestic Abuse Support Advisor) to work parallel to perpetrator support work carried out to ensure a wrap around, coordinated family approach.

4. Priority: Reducing the Impact of Gangs and Knives in our Community

Why it remains a priority?

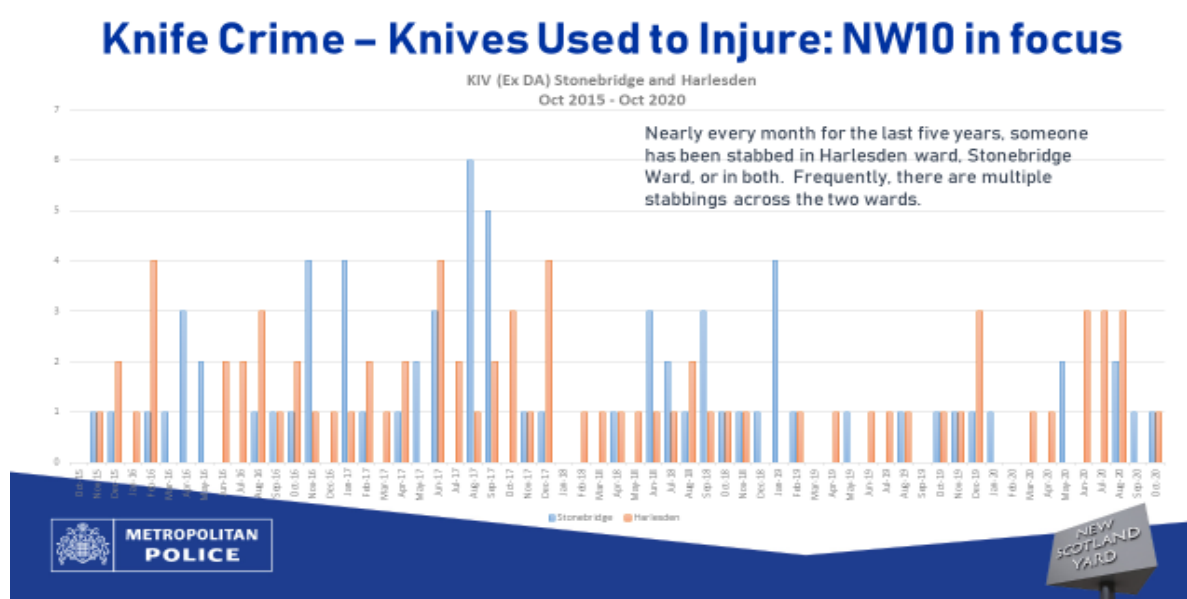
- 4.1 This priority area is cross cutting and integrated across several strategic boards. With the Violence Reduction Action Plan outlining our aims to prevent serious violence and knife crime.
- 4.2 The vision remains to;
 - Identifying those affected by gangs and encouraging exit through diversion or enforcement
 - Prevention and awareness raising with young people at risk of carrying /using knives/ joining gangs
 - Disrupting and dismantling criminal networks
 - Identifying, targeting and tackling violent crime linked to knives and gangs
 - Reducing Serious Youth Violence
 - County Lines - understanding and responding
- 4.3 The risk of gangs, violent crime and exploitation remain a live risk across the borough. With further intelligence, we have identified particular hotspot locations and groups of people at risk. Predominately gang related offending and exploitation has been linked to drug markets and other serious / violent offences. However following

the pandemic this model of crime has changed and with support agencies we have continued to monitor and safeguard.

- 4.4 Brent has many well established and entrenched gangs, who have individuals linked to the Gang matrix (although the matrix can be a useful tool, it is acknowledged that there are racial biases and assumptions involved that result in young black males being unfairly stigmatised as gang members) the Safer Brent, Community Safety strategy provides further details of these groups. It is also noticeable that individuals linked to these gangs (or on the matrix) are predominately black males over 25.

Key Headlines for 2021/22

- 4.5 The Violence reduction action plan (VRAP) was reviewed 6 monthly and many items progressed with 13 actions moving from Amber to Green. Although the impact of Covid and the pandemic delayed many work streams, there has been a renewed effort to focus on violence reduction.
- 4.6 The Virtual Reality program is focusing on the impact of knife crime, not only from the perspective of the perpetrator, also from those affected. We are now in a position to launch the first pilot within our Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).. The findings are also being academically evaluated.
- 4.7 The introduction of the daily **North West Borough Command Unit - Partnership Call** with NWBCU partners has provided an opportunity to share information , support to aid with making informed decision and risk management of crime and serious violence across the borough.
- 4.8 Alongside our Police partners, we have supported in the development of **Project Horizon** and implementation. Targeting serious violence in the NW10 area taking a public health approach to violent crime, seeking to identify the root cause of crime and supporting those most at risk with targeted interventions to influence change and reduce crime.



- 4.9 The project continues to focus on diversion and engagement of young people in the hotspots of Harlesden and Stonebridge.
The projects strategic intentions are:
- Dismantling the gang culture within the wards
 - Reducing the level of violence within the wards to below median for London
 - Harlesden and Stonebridge wards to become desirable destinations
- 4.10 Those engaged will be referred into Violence and Vulnerability Programme and supported via a multi-agency approach. Horizons is also working closely with the YBF to deliver new community oversight by setting up listening circles in Harlesden and Stonebridge. These listening circles will be truly representative of the community that reside in the area
- 4.11 Campaigns**
- 4.12 There have been a number of focused campaigns and programmes to raise awareness of the impact of knife crime. Young people from the Youth Justice Service attended the 'No Knives, better lives' program held at the Old Bailey supported with the MET police. In addition through social media and other networks Community Safety supported the national campaign by Crime Stoppers ' **Hard Calls, Saves Lives**' in which the story of Lillian whose son Quamari died in Brent, was shared [Read our stories \(hardcallssavelives.co.uk\)](https://hardcallssavelives.co.uk)
- 4.13 Youth Justice Board funded Children and Young People Services to deliver a BAME COVID-19 Pathfinder preventative programme has supported young BAME people who have had adverse childhood experiences and are at risk of entering the youth justice system or other higher level services due to the impact of the pandemic. The programme supports BAME young people to re-engage or engage with education, empowering young people to offer feedback on the services they have used and providing young people with access to a range of positive activities. Trauma training has been offered to schools and voluntary and community sector organisations as part of the BAME COVID-19 Pathfinder
- 4.14 Rescue and Response - County Lines Project**
- 4.15 The project supports young people from London under 25 who are suspected or linked of being involved in county lines or are at risk due to association with individuals involved. Continuing to operate across London providing intervention, data and intelligence products in the context of county lines.
- 4.16 The project has been commissioned for another year and has benefited from a restructure and introduction of three new roles for 2022. The project has reduced the analytical function from four analysts to two and area based partnership coordinators from four to three. The new roles introduced are a young adult partnership coordinator for young people aged 18-25, an education partnership coordinator, and an emotional wellbeing support worker (within Safer London).
- 4.17 There is regular attendance from Rescue and Response at the Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel, and support continues to be given to partners and professionals to ensure safety plans reflect an understanding of the risk of County Lines.
- 4.18 **Rescue and Response received 339 referrals** within this reporting period, with Brent receiving the fifth highest across London with 20 referrals.

- 4.19 Brent remains in the top four boroughs for individuals linked to county lines, as it has done every year since the project started in September 2018. This year, **66 individuals residing in Brent were reported to have a confirmed link to county lines**. Brent individuals have been linked to eighteen county force areas with the most prevalent being Hampshire, Dorset, Suffolk.

4.20 Violence and Vulnerability Program

- 4.21 A fortnightly meeting – the Exploitation, Violence & Vulnerability Panel is held to discuss those of most concern. This is held alongside Child and Young People colleagues. Partners utilise the 'VOLT' approach (Victim, Offender, Location, Trends) to address wider contextual safeguarding concerns, utilising a trauma informed approach to apply interventions. Alongside this, a fortnightly IOM meeting is held with MPS, Probation partners, to action plan and dedicate resources to offenders of concern.

- 4.22 The resilience of our partnership has maintained the **Violence and Vulnerability Programme (VVP)** which continues to focus on reducing re-offending and serious youth violence through a coordinated, multi-agency and intelligence led approach. Support is offered to, gang nominals, habitual weapons carriers, prolific domestic abuse perpetrators and prolific repeat offenders (Integrated Offender Management - IOM) and an early intervention cohort to those on the periphery of crime and offending to prevent escalation. which presently consists of 216 individuals (up to March 2022).

4.23 Intervention support programs for EVVP

4.24 St Giles – Gangs intervention Programme

- 4.25 **St Giles Trust** are commissioned to provide a **Gangs Intervention Programme**, working with those involved in, or just on the periphery of gangs activity. Interventions aim to challenge and shape behaviours, enabling individuals to take responsibility for their actions. This project falls within the Violence and Vulnerability Programme, through this referral pathway a total of **37 referrals were specifically for those who were known to be gang affiliated**. Within the reporting period 70% of those service users that engaged became significantly less gang affected and 87.5% showed improved understanding and awareness of the impact of gangs and gang offending. St Giles continue to provide a **dedicated Gangs Mentor based within the Youth Justice Service (YJS)** to provide tailored support and interventions to young people within YJS, wider Early Help Service and Social Care.

- 4.26 Brent has commissioned two further violence and vulnerability projects through additional funding from the Violence Reduction Unit. These projects include mental health outreach workers (Westminster Drug Project) running until March 2023 (with continued funding from Public Health).

- 4.27 Within the reporting period, St Giles Trust deliver the **Embedded Youth Violence Hospital Project**. A service to improve the identification of young people who present at Northwick Park Hospital as a victim of serious youth violence. Training and professional development programmes are also delivered to those professionals who have contact with young people. **137 referrals** were made into the service and 78% have reported an increased motivation to change, alongside improved mental health or well-being. In terms of improving identification of young victims of violence, the

provider has engaged 89% of young people with additional support needs in this period.

- 4.28 For engagement with the service, consent is required and this is not always gained by the medical professionals, particularly in the absence of the mentors. **43 training programmes** have been delivered to medical staff and **95%** have reported increased knowledge and awareness of vulnerability within the Accident and Emergency department and have supported increased referral and access to individuals at risk.
- 4.29 **Westminster Drugs Project (WDP) - Youth mental health outreach**
- 4.30 The **Westminster Drugs Project (WDP)** have delivered the **Mental Health Outreach Project**. The project addresses issues and initiates help for those with either diagnosed and non-diagnosed mental health conditions; reduce re-offending, increasing earlier intervention and identification. Within the reporting period the project received referrals for **108 young people** via on and off street outreach. Out of the young people engaged, **80.5%** have reported improved understanding of mental health and improved family functioning and **87.5%** have improved health and well-being following their intervention. **50** engaged were not yet known to statutory services.
- 4.31 **Global Thinking – Young women's diversionary project**
- 4.32 The **Young Brent Foundation through a consortium bid** have been delivering a **Young Women's Diversionary Project called Global Thinking**. The project has been delivering a bespoke service for young women affected by gangs, criminal exploitation and county lines. The aim of the project is to ensure that young women feel safe to access help, are no longer a hidden group in our communities and are free from harm, abuse and exploitation. See section 3.23 for further details
- 4.33 The project also delivers training days for professionals to help increase awareness of how young women can be affected by threats and to help professionals better identify risk indicators to intervene earlier in the future. Within the reporting period the project has engaged with **48 girls and young women, 93 professionals, parents and young people** have been reached with training exploring gender equality and addressing gender-based violence affecting young women and girls.

The Impact

- 4.34 Brent has seen an increase in violent crime in 2021/22 when compared to 2020/21.

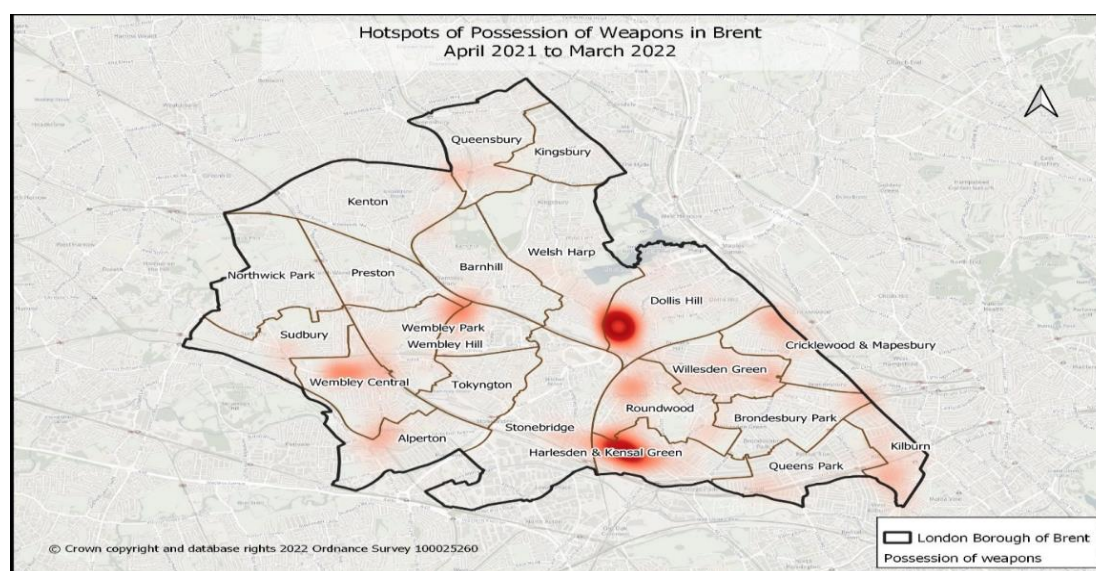
Brent	2021/22	2020/21	% Change
Violence With Injury Offences	2990	2758	8.4%
Knife Crime Offences	372	415	-10.4%
Gun Crime Offences	70	76	-7.9%

- 4.35 Violence with Injury, and Knife Crime incidents: the top 3 wards were Harlesden, Stonebridge and Tokynton, with Dudden Hill (Neasden area) following. Additional interventions, focussing on these areas will be sought.

4.36 Brent has seen a reduction in the number of knife crime with injury victims aged under 25.

Brent	2021/22	2020/21	% Change
Knife Crime Victims With Injury Under 25	35	51	-31.4%
Knife Crime Victims	123	151	-18.5%

4.37 The map below shows the hotspots for possession of weapons in 2021/22. Despite the significant reduction in knife crime offences (4.34 above), the main hotspots for offences are largely unchanged with Harlesden and Wembley being key locations of concern. However, Neasden has emerged as a hotspot in 2021/22. We understand this may be as a result of increased Police activity, such as stop and searches undertaken in the area.



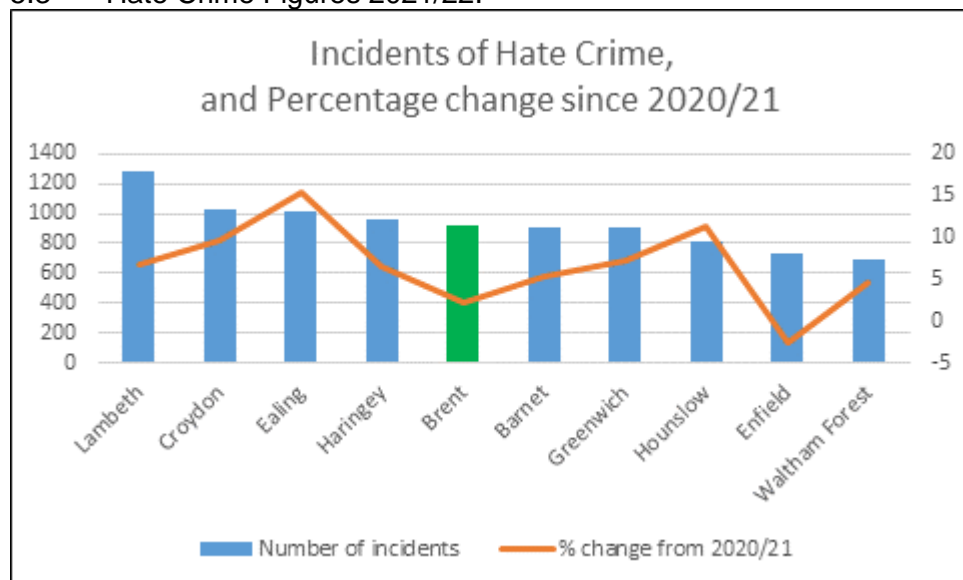
5. Priority : Reducing Vulnerability and Increasing Safeguarding

Why it remains a priority?

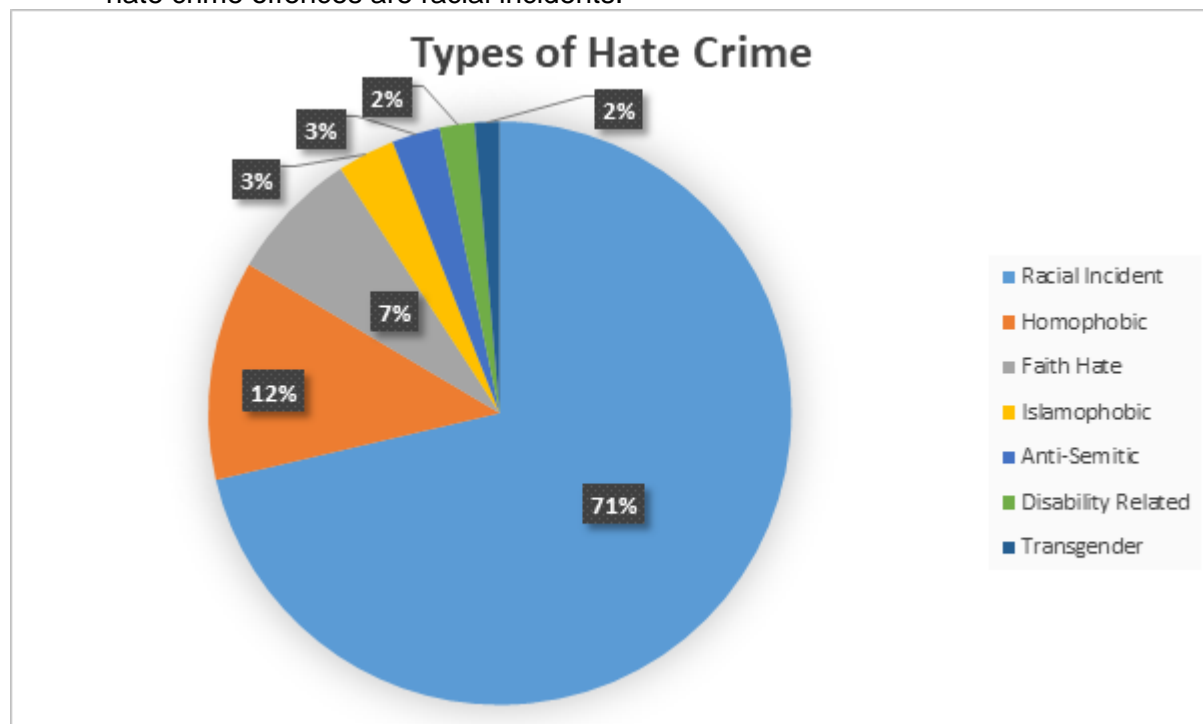
5.1 Hate Crime

5.2 Brent saw the third biggest increase in hate crime offences when compared the most Similar Boroughs. All boroughs recorded an increase in hate crime offences with the exception of Enfield.

5.3 Hate Crime Figures 2021/22.



5.4 The chart below shows the types of hate crime recorded in Brent. Almost 80% of hate crime offences are racial incidents.



Updates to the Victims Code – more rights for victims.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936239/victims-code-2020.pdf

5.5 Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC)

- 5.6 The Brent Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a process where professionals from agencies share information on cases of very vulnerable and high risk individuals whose personal safety is a concern. The meeting creates a risk management plan to offer immediate support. The aim of the process is to address the safety and protection of the individual, to review and coordinate the case and case management plan.
- 5.7 Supporting vulnerable individuals living in Brent continues to be a priority. The most common vulnerabilities for which individuals are referred to Community MARAC are mental health, Antisocial Behaviour, Substance Misuse and Exploitation including Cuckooing.

Key Headlines for 2021/22

5.8 Safeguarding Boards and Forum

5.9 Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership

- 5.10 The Brent safeguarding partnership arrangements began to operate in September 2019 following the introduction of the Children and Social Work Act in 2017 and the publication of the revised statutory guidance Working Together 2018; both of which set out what is expected of organisations, individually and jointly, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 5.11 The Brent Safeguarding Children Forum is a wider partnership forum accountable to the Executive Group. The Forum co-ordinates and monitors multi-agency safeguarding oversight arrangements as set out in Working Together 2018 and is led by an Independent Convenor.
- 5.12 Serious Child safeguarding incidents - Working Together (2018) sets out the arrangements for handling serious child safeguarding cases. The purpose of these arrangements is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children both at a local and national level. It has been recognised that whilst local learning is relevant, it also has a wider importance for all practitioners working with children and families and for the government and policy-makers.
- 5.13 A key case which was published in April 2021 was **Child K** in which a serious Case review was undertaken. Child K was murdered in 2019 in an attack, which is believed to have been part of a series of connected violent assaults and deaths involving young people associated with rival criminal groups across more than one London borough. Child K moved to Brent with his family from another area in the months before his death. The review highlights 15 recommendations for practice improvement.
- 5.14 Following the publication of Brent's Child K SCR and other similar SCRs relating to Serious Youth Violence, the London LSCP Chairs Network organised two webinars in April and July 2021 to share the learning points common to these reviews. Over 70 LSCP Chairs, Business Managers and other interested persons attended the webinars and work is being progressed through the LSCP Chairs Network.

- 5.15 In response to the recommendations from the Child K SCR, alongside learning from a recently published Islington Serious Case Review, Brent Council Children and Young People department implemented a six-month Serious Youth Violence Action Plan to improve practice in supporting young people at risk of serious youth violence.
- 5.16 A copy of the full Child K SCR can be downloaded from the Brent Safeguarding Partnerships website. [Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board - Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews \(brentsafeguardingpartnerships.uk\)](https://brentsafeguardingpartnerships.uk/)
- 5.17 Adult Safeguarding Board**
- 5.18 The Community Safety Partnership has links with other strategic partnerships to avoid duplication and where there is scope to do so, work on shared aims and objectives.
- 5.19 Brent Safeguarding Adults Board is a multi-agency strategic partnership board with an independent chair. It has a statutory duty to commission a Safeguarding Adults Review where the criteria laid out in the Care Act 2014 are met. The purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Review is to explore how agencies worked together to protect a person with care and support needs from abuse or neglect and identify the lessons to be learned. Safeguarding Adults Reviews are not about blame. They are reviews completed by a person independent of agencies involved and of the local area. Safeguarding Adult Reviews are normally published on completion. Published reviews are available on the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board website. <https://brentsafeguardingpartnerships.uk/>
- 5.20 In the reporting year 2021-2022, Brent Safeguarding Adults Board had two Safeguarding Adults Reviews that had been formally commissioned in the previous reporting period. However, neither of these reviews had specific overlaps with Community Safety.
- 5.21 **Community MARAC** - The Community MARAC has delivered coordinated partnership support to some of the most vulnerable residents in the borough with the complexity of referrals increasing. All cases referred have remained open until there is a reduction in risk.
- 5.22 The current management information system ECINS has provided us with an electronic referral form which populates new cases into the shared partner system. Further steps to increase user access is underway. The CMARAC Coordinator actively uses the database to manage case review.
- 5.23 Expanding the attendance of agencies to include multiple housing associations and multiple teams within the council including the Adult Social Care Mental Health Team and SMART. Agency attendance has improved drastically over the last 12 months and partners continue to work well to complete actions to support vulnerable individuals referred into Community MARAC.
- 5.24 **Channel Panel is a multi-agency Prevent case conference.**
- 5.25 The Panel meets monthly to discuss those considered most at risk of being drawn into terrorism and supporting terrorist groups.
- The Chanel Panel is tabled monthly and sat 12 times across the Financial Year.

- Referrals predominantly contained concerns around online radicalisation and the accessing of extreme content.
 - Cases continue to be complex in nature, having overlapping vulnerabilities with individuals known to existing support services such as mental health.
 - Channel works best at early intervention stages, in particular, within teenage year groups. However, during this reporting period the majority of referrals were adults, with complex needs and more cemented ideologies. Interventions were lengthy and complex and at case closure points, often required continuing support from partners.
 - Individuals requiring longer-term support through Channel are predominantly those with history of chaotic family backgrounds, domestic abuse or trauma.
 - Social and political issues, taking place in the U.K or abroad, also feature as a point of grievance for individuals. It is often these grievances extremist groups seek to exploit.
 - Through the Channel Programme, expert mentors are able to challenge these ideologies and unpick some of the drivers that underpin violent extremism and offer alternative paths.
 - Whilst the local authority has a duty to offer support to 'at risk' individuals through the Channel Panel, participation remains voluntary. Brent's Channel Panel discussed and provides interventions for those with Extreme Far Right and Islamist inspired ideologies.
 - The majority of cases referred and discussed this Financial Year were those with Islamist ideologies. Cases with mixed, or unclear ideologies are also on the rise. Mixed and unclear ideologies involves a combination of elements from multiple ideologies (mixed), shifts between different ideologies (unstable), or where the individual does not present a coherent ideology. This includes individuals that may be vulnerable out of a sense of duty, or a desire for belonging and those obsessed with massacre or extreme/mass violence without targeting a particular group.
- 5.26 The Prevent Oversight Board and Prevent Delivery Group oversee Prevent Duty Requirements. Progress is monitored against a live risk assessment and action plan. This includes reviewing policy and practice in light of the Prevent duty, identifying training needs, emerging risks and strengthening Brent's partnership approach to Prevent.
- 5.27 **Child Sexual Exploitation – (CSE)**
- 5.28 CYP considered by practitioners to be at risk of CSE based on Child Referrals, where either a Child and Family Assessments, and Child Protection enquiry (Section 47 Enquiries) completed in the period. There has been an increase since last year (120 in 2020/21 compared with 143 in 2021/22, though the proportion of males has decreased (35% compared with 40% in the last period). It should be noted however that when CSE as a factor is identified, data systems do not specify whether the young person in question is considered a victim or suspected perpetrator of the exploitation.

	April 2020 – March 2021	Apr 2021 – March 2022
Number of Brent children identified as at risk of CSE	120	143

- 5.29 In 17% of cases where CSE was identified as a factor, concerns around substance misuse (both alcohol and drugs) were also flagged. This figure has been consistent across previous periods (both previous reports reported 17% substance misuse concern across the CSE cohort).
- 5.30 Gang concerns were identified along with CSE in 22% of cases, which shows an increase from the previous year where Gangs was identified in 17% of cases where CSE was also a concern.
- 5.31 Mental health concerns amongst those at risk of CSE have increased since the previous year – 23% of the cohort were flagged with mental health concerns in this period, compared with 18% last year.
- 5.32 In the cases identified in the period April 21 – March 22, 24% of young people identified as at risk of CSE had at least one missing or absent episode in the same period, an increase from the previous report (18%).

Ethnicity	Female	Male	Total	Apr 20 - Mar 21	Apr 21 - Mar 22
Black or Black British	22	20	42	28%	29%
White	32	9	41	27%	29%
Other Ethnic Groups	13	9	22	16%	15%
Mixed / Multiple	14	4	18	13%	13%
Asian or Asian British	10	7	17	15%	12%
Not Stated / Undeclared	2	1	3	1%	2%
Grand Total	93	50	143	100%	100%

- 5.33 Previous reports have shown that the largest proportion of young people identified at risk of CSE was those of Black or Black British ethnicity. The figures from this period are consistent with the previous period and there has been no significant change in the proportion of young people of any ethnicity.

5.34 Data Analysis - Vulnerable Adolescents – multiple vulnerabilities

5.35 Children and young Peoples Service

- 5.36 Young people experiencing multiple vulnerabilities are being tracked within Brent to identify themes and trends. The 'vulnerability tracker' uses data from the CYP open caseload data and cohort data from YOS, School Exclusions, Missing/Absent

reports, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), County Lines, young people with an EHCP and young people presented to the EVVP.

- 5.37 The way in which data about young people with multiple vulnerabilities in Brent are being collated has changed since the last report. Previously the cohort of young people only reflected young people whose case was open and allocated to a Brent CYP practitioner. This has now been expanded to include a base cohort of all young people allocated to a Brent CYP practitioner or education service
- 5.38 The number of vulnerable cohorts has also expanded, and now includes:
- Missing/Absent Episodes
 - Exclusions
 - Case discussion at EVVP
 - Children who are Electively Home Educated
 - Children Missing Education
 - County Lines
 - Children with an EHCP
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Looked After Children
 - Children subject of a child protection plan
 - Children with an open YOS intervention
- 5.39 This information helps to identify young people with multiple vulnerabilities and to quality assure interventions in place. For example, children with the highest number of vulnerabilities are being reviewed monthly to determine if a Vulnerable Adolescents Risk Assessment has been completed and whether a referral to the Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel is warranted. Managers in CYP have access to the 'vulnerability tracker' so that they can provide management oversight of the young people with multiple vulnerabilities.
- 5.40 As at 31/08/2021 the tracker includes data on 18074 young people – the majority are those who have been matched across Mosaic (CYP) and Synergy (education) systems, as mentioned above. The cohort also includes other unmatched cases who are allocated within CYP, have an EHCP, or have had an exclusion since the start of the academic year 2021/22. Of the entire cohort, 6818 young people fall into at least one of the vulnerability cohorts.

Number of vulnerable cohorts	Total YP	Percentage
1	5144	75.4%
2	1362	20.0%
3	210	3.1%
4	62	0.9%
5	27	0.4%
6	8	0.1%
7	4	0.1%
8	1	0.0%

- 5.41 The above table shows the number of vulnerability cohorts young people are in, as a proportion of the 6818 who fall within at least one cohort.

- 5.42 Of the total cohort, 102 young people fall into 4 or more of the vulnerable cohorts and are explored further in the data below. Whilst there is not a standard 'risk level' used for young people appearing on the tracker, those with 4 or more of the listed vulnerabilities could be considered at higher risk.

Cohort	Total	Proportion of YP within 4+ cohorts
CYP Allocations	101	99%
Missing	78	76%
EVVP	54	53%
CSE	50	49%
LAC	50	49%
Exclusions	38	37%
Child Protection	30	29%
YOS	24	24%
EHCP	20	20%
County Lines	19	19%
Home Educated	2	2%
Child Missing Education (CME)	0	0%

- 5.43 The above table shows the full list of individual cohorts included in the tracker, and the proportion of high-risk young people (4+ vulnerabilities) who sit within them.
- 5.44 Some trends have emerged from the vulnerability tracker in relation to those young people with multiple vulnerabilities, and the overlapping of cohorts. 80% of young people identified as being at risk of CSE also have a missing episode within the last year, and the overlap of these cohorts together represent 40% of all young people with 4 or more vulnerabilities. CSE risk is also significantly represented in the LAC cohort, with 40% of young people at risk of CSE being Looked After.
- 5.45 Children Missing Education refers to young people who have been referred to the service mainly through the Education Welfare Service as they are not on roll at any school or education provision, for example due to permanent exclusion or school leavers with no specified destination. Referrals are also accepted directly from schools themselves where it is felt that their attendance is so low that they are not considered to be 'in education'. The CME's main purpose is to ascertain the whereabouts of young people not in education and support a route back in.
- 5.46 It should be noted that data matching across CYP and Education data systems is not fully accurate at this time, so the figures referenced above represent those YP where matching has been possible. This means, for example, that there are a number of young people who are not in education who are not known to Brent CYP and so are not included in the above figures. The table in 5.34 only includes young people who appear in 4 or more of the vulnerable cohorts and as of the current data, none of those 102 YP have CME referrals.
- 5.47 Within the YOS cohort represented by these 102 young people, 70% have had a missing episode in the last year, and a third are known or suspected to be involved in

county lines. Within the county lines cohort, 79% have a missing episode, and 69% are LAC

5.48 The matrix table below shows a breakdown of the overlap of these vulnerability cohorts.

	CSE	Allocations	Missing Education	EHCP	Home Educated	Exclusions	County Lines	Missing	YOS	LAC	CP	EVVP
CSE	50	49	0	6	1	16	4	40	6	19	16	27
Allocations	49	101	0	20	2	37	19	77	23	50	30	53
CME	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EHCP	6	20	0	20	1	10	1	12	4	10	6	5
EHE	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
Exclusions	16	37	0	10	0	38	2	22	7	7	17	18
County Lines	4	19	0	1	0	2	19	15	8	13	3	14
Missing	40	77	0	12	1	22	15	78	17	44	18	43
YOS	6	23	0	4	0	7	8	17	24	14	4	14
LAC	19	50	0	10	0	7	13	44	14	50	1	25
CP	16	30	0	6	2	17	3	18	4	1	30	17
EVVP	27	53	0	5	1	18	14	43	14	25	17	54

5.49 The below chart shows the ethnicities of those young people with four or more vulnerabilities

Ethnicity	Total	Percentage	Percentage from previous report
Black or Black British	49	48%	41%
White	18	18%	14%
Mixed / Multiple	15	15%	18%
Other Ethnic Groups	14	14%	13%
Asian or Asian British	5	5%	14%
Not Stated / Undeclared	1	1%	0%
Grand Total	102	100%	100%

5.50 Young people of Black or Black British ethnicity are proportionately over-represented in the cohort, and this proportion has risen in the current period. There is a significantly lower proportion of Asian or Asian British young people in the current cohort.

[The Impact](#)

5.51 Community MARAC

5.52 The Community MARAC continues to receive a number of referrals each month to aid in the supporting of vulnerable individuals living in Brent. Referral into the Community MARAC has allowed vulnerable individuals access to support and services they were not otherwise aware of and allowed an opportunity for agencies to expand their understanding of the support services available across Brent. Success

is measured in terms of the reduction of risk which is measured through regular risk assessments completed as part of the initial referral, as required whilst a case is open and again at the end prior to closure.

6 Priority : Reducing Offenders and Perpetrators from Reoffending

Why it remains a priority?

- 6.1 The number of people reoffending within London continues to increase and remains a concern. The offenders linked to these crimes cause significant harm to our communities resulting in increased fear and victimisation. The offenders who are arrested or caught by police are usually identified as prolific offenders (due to committing multiple offences) and can cost the London taxpayers the equivalent of £2.2 billion a year in criminal justice costs alone. Therefore it requires intensive, targeted and specific support to assist them with breaking the cycle of their reoffending behaviour.

Key Headlines for 2021/22

- 6.2 London **Integrated Offender Management (IOM)** scheme has rolled out the delivery of a managing persistent and violent offender's framework which came into effect in February 2021 and the MOPAC guidance around the selection criteria of the IOM is focused on three main crime areas: burglary, robbery and violence. Brent's IOM is mirroring this guidance and is targeting this core group of offenders with an average of 110 individuals open to Brent IOM over the course of 2021/22, with approximately 20 of these individuals be on the Youth IOM, and the remainder making up the adult IOM cohort.
- 6.3 In addition the MPS have devised a High Harm Index which has introduced 25 of the most High Harm offenders in the NW BCU. From the nominals that have been identified in Brent all have been taken onto the Violence and Vulnerability Programme under the IOM cohort with intervention put in place to divert and deter from re-offending violent behaviour.
- 6.4 In April 2021 the **IOM Police Team** were involved in Operation INGEMAR. The aim of this operation was to visit the most violent IOM subjects as Covid-19 restrictions were loosened. These were individuals who had an Offender Violence Predictor (OVP) score of 30 or above with the aim of trying to divert these individuals away from crime and to ensure relevant support from external agencies was in place. Across North West London 81 visits were attempted, across Brent this consisted of 36 visits. Five of these victims led to positive engagement and referrals to partner agencies for ongoing support.
- 6.5 The **IOM multiagency panel** have continued to work together to deliver support to IOM subjects. AIR Network have continued to deliver a Mentoring, Sports and Well Being Programme which has helped to support offenders in accessing not only mentors for education, training and employment, but aided in accessing housing support as well. St Giles continue to deliver their mentoring service aimed a current and former gang nominals, support individuals with education, training and employment and any further support they may require.
- 6.6 **Air Network – Sport mentoring**
- 6.7 **AIR Network** have delivered a **Mentoring, Sports, and Well-being programme** across the borough to support individuals known to our Violence and Vulnerability

Programme. To engage and divert those referred from crime and reoffending, whilst offering, support around the nine pathways of reoffending, housing, education, training, employment, mental health or drug and alcohol needs.

6.8 From April 2021 – March 2022, **52 new referrals** were made into the service with 58% of the *targeted cohort achieving positive ETE outcomes and 87% of supported offenders showing increased motivation for change.

6.9 The **Ex-Offenders Accommodation Team** has been added to the panel, a team within housing at Brent Council specifically focusing on aiding ex-offenders with accommodation and this has proven to be an invaluable addition to the IOM panel as lack of housing can have a significant detrimental effect on individuals who are trying not to reoffend. The Ex-Offenders Accommodation Team have been working closely with the probation colleagues and commissioned providers to ensure assessments are completed and suitable accommodation sought for IOM subjects.

6.10 Triage Program

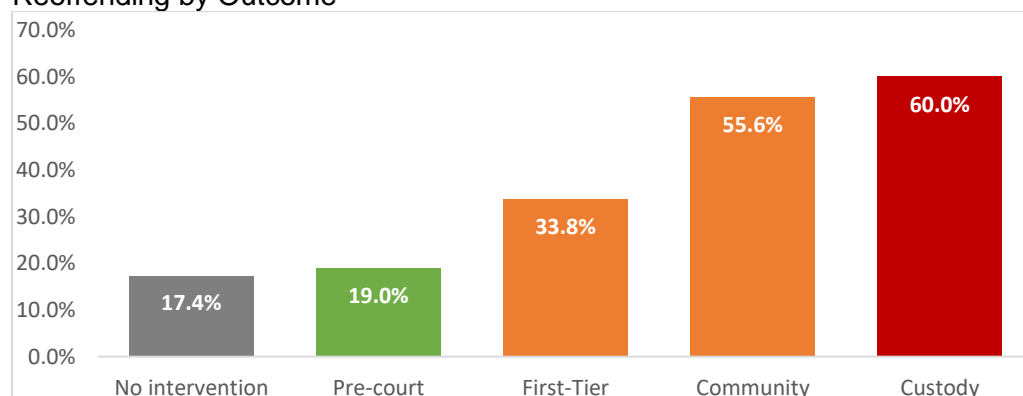
6.11 The continuation of the **Enhanced Youth Justice Service (YJS) Triage Programme** which offers assessment and a preventative provision to young people who would otherwise be likely to receive a criminal justice disposal To date, **92** young people who have accessed the programme have increased their safety and awareness, **50** have increased their victim awareness and **29** families were offered access to family support provided by the Family Solutions support workers.

6.12 Youth Justice Service

6.13 Further analysis and an in-depth review was undertaken into how disproportionality impacts marginalised groups in the service, an analysis of the ethnic groups within the service was highlighted;

- The cohort of young people (YP) from a Black background is almost 2.5 times as large as the cohort of YP from a White background
- Significant differences in the proportions of YP subject to triage or out of court disposals
- Marked difference in the proportion of custodial sentences
- The difference in the proportions decrease marginally with the additional ethnic groups added to the Black cohort

Reoffending by Outcome



6.14 The data above shows a correlation between more serious sanctions by way of a disposal which involve greater restrictions on liberty and increased rates of reoffending. This data is echoed nationally;

- Children subject to community sentences (YRO's) and imprisonment are likely to imposed upon those whose offending is more serious or persistent
- It has been argued that custody is reserved as a last resort for those who commit serious Youth Violence, to serve as both a Punishment and Public Protection.
- Between 2021-22 the majority of children who were incarcerated, due to meeting the Youth Justice Sentencing Guideline threshold, whereby they have been sentenced for offences such as Kidnap, Murder and ABH, which if they had committed these offences as adults, they would have received a custodial sentence of 10 years.

6.15 Similarly, children subject to community disposals tend to reoffend at considerably higher levels than those subject to first-tier (Referral Orders), may reflect, in part, the potentially negative impact of higher levels of formal criminal justice intervention associated with the former. The above is to be attributed to the publication produced by the National Association for Youth Justice – 'The state of youth justice' (2020) written by Dr Tim Bateman.

Note: the Pre-court category includes Triage interventions.

- 6.16 The **MPS-led 'Turning Point' pilot** programme started in Brent in January 2021. It is a deferred prosecution scheme with the intention of reducing disproportionality in youth justice outcomes. The project allows out of court disposals to be available to young people who do not admit guilt or provide 'no comment' interviews. This reduces the risk of young people entering the Youth Justice System for minor offences when they do not appreciate the consequences of no comment interviews, which then often lead to an automatic charge. Young people who successfully complete Turning Point do not receive a criminal record for the offence they have committed. Initially low numbers were involved in the programme due to the random sampling criteria. Throughout the year this increased.
- 6.17 The **Advance Minerva Wrap Around service** which assists with reducing reoffending behaviour amongst female offenders with vulnerabilities continues to be delivered across the borough with a Young Person's Worker who supports young women between the ages of 15-24 years.

The Impact

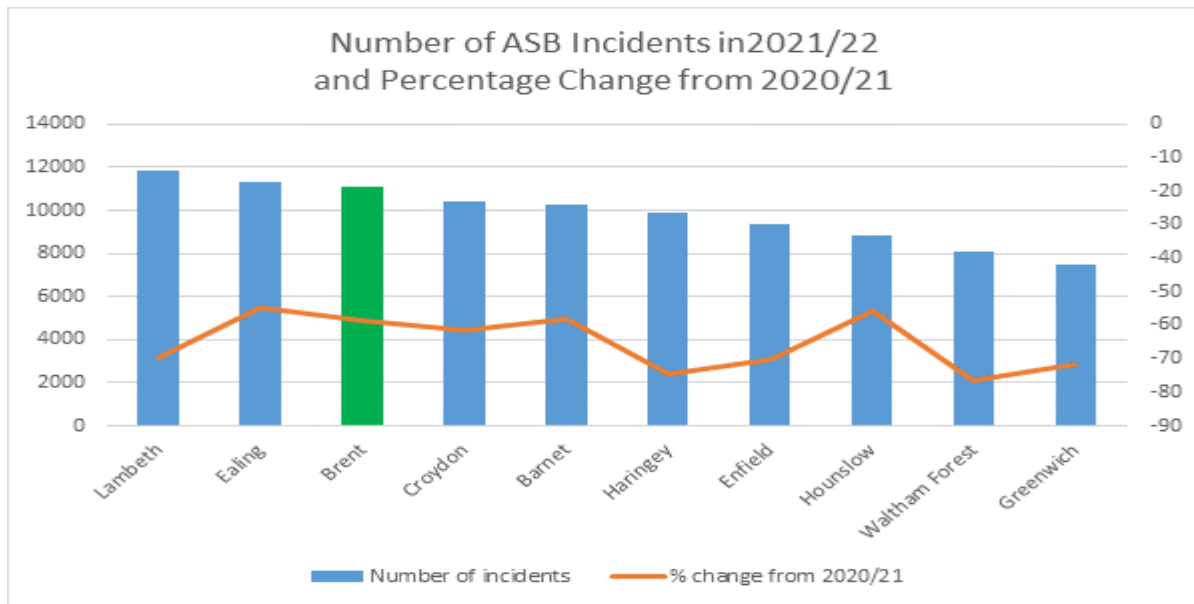
- 6.18 Throughout the course of delivery with the programme there have been over **300 service users** on the Violence and Vulnerability Programme. This changes regularly since implementation with new referrals being monitored and offenders being removed due to successfully not offending.
- 6.19 Reoffending is measured on the overall reoffending rate (measured as the percentage of offenders who reoffend) and broken down into cohort types. These are the standard performance measures used across the UK and recommended by the Ministry of Justice.
- 6.20 During the 2021/22 period a total of 18 CBO applications were granted for individuals on the Brent cohort. CBOs were obtained for the most chaotic and prolific offenders, with most CBOs being issues for several years, usually in excess of five years. As a result there have been numerous success stories.
- 6.21 For example, one IOM subject, who was a prolific burglar, was issued with a CBO which was used a springboard to support this individual. This individual went straight

into a rehab facility on release from custody to help take control of their drug use. Whilst in rehab they have gone from strength to strength and now work five days a week in a local gym. Similarly, another IOM subject who was a prolific thief who had committed numerous burglaries as well as theft from motor vehicles followed a similar path whereby they were issued with a CBO and, following a custodial sentence, were released from prison and went straight into rehab. Again they have successfully completed their time in the rehab facility and they are now mentoring other drug users who attend the facility. Both of these IOM subjects have stated that the CBO helped to really make them realise that they had to change and to help them make positive steps in their recovery journeys.

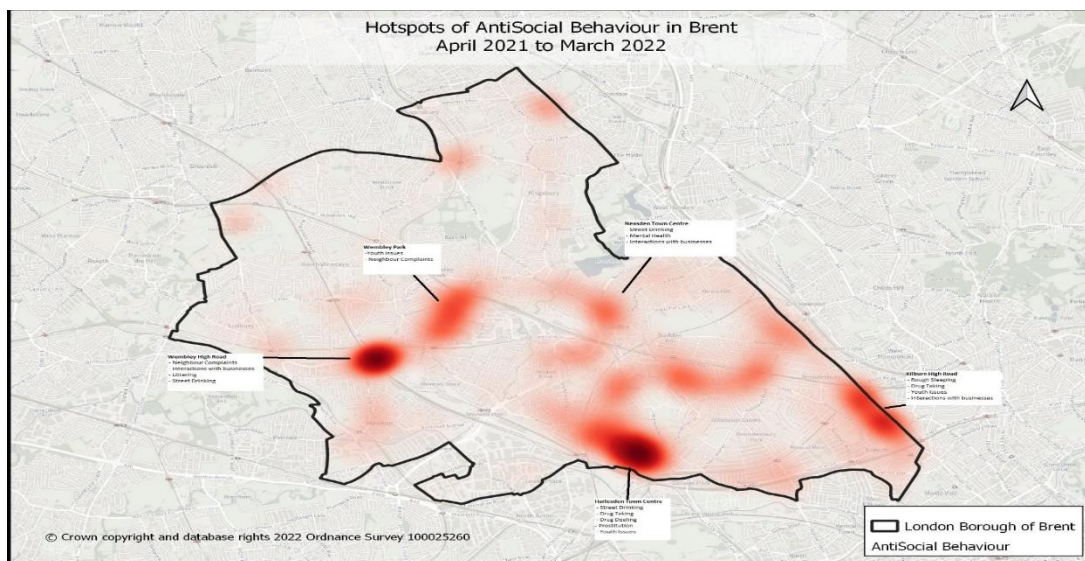
7 Priority 5: Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

[Why it remains a priority?](#)

- 7.1 Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person. There are three main categories for antisocial behaviour, depending on how many people are affected:
- Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
 - Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
 - Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.
- 7.2 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is highlighted as a key concern for residents of Brent and has increased across the Borough, locally and nationally. Visible evidence of disorder which goes unchallenged leads to less secure communities, and can impact negatively on feelings of safety and mental health. Environmental ASB is expensive to react to and leads communities to consider their neighbourhoods negatively, which in turn leads to social disorganisation.
- 7.3 Brent has the third highest number of ASB calls, in comparison to the most similar London boroughs, in the last 12 months.
- 7.4 Several boroughs in the group recorded increases in anti-social behaviour. Brent's increase in incidents was the third highest in the Most Similar Group.



7.5 The map shows the relationship between levels of ASB and town centres in Brent. All the hotspots of ASB are in or adjacent to town centres. For each hotspot, the main ASB concerns are highlighted. Despite non-essential retail being closed, town centre areas continued to be affected by abusive or difficult customers with mental health or substance misuse issues in the shops and businesses that have remained open.



Key Headlines for 2021/22

7.6 The **Brent Joint Action Groups (BJAG)** which deal with locality-based problems through a multi-agency, evidence-led problem oriented approach and individuals who cause the most alarm, harassment and distress to residents in Brent. This includes prevention through diversion and support, and utilising enforcement options where necessary. These are co-terminus with police cluster boundaries and cover Kilburn, Harlesden and Wembley. The BJAG has the ability to direct mobile CCTV resources. The Brent Joint Action Group (BJAG) is Co-chaired by ASB Nuisance and Crime Manager and the Safer Neighbourhood Inspector for Brent.

- 7.7 Monthly hotspot maps provided by the Community Safety Analyst are used routinely to prioritise multi-agency enforcement and engagement in the appropriate areas. High priority cases were referred in 21/22 and managed through the BJAG. Drug dealing and drug use where the predominant categories often on estates. Design out crime project on estates such as Joules house, targeted multi agency operations and use of ASB tools and powers such as Closure Orders to deal with nuisance premises have been delivered through the BJAG in 21/22.

7.8 **BJAG cases in 21/22 as follows:**

Kilburn Locality / Case Name	Issue	Ward:
Joules House	Rough sleepers / drug dealing, making noise, and intimidating residents	Brondesbury Park
Harlesden Locality / Case Name:		Ward:
Craven Park (inc Fortunegate Road)	On street prostitution, drug use and dealing	Harlesden
Church Road (bottom end)	Drug use, dealing and street drinking.	Harlesden
Neasden Town	Street drinking	Dudden Hill
Wood Court, Harlesden Road	Resident intimidation, smoking, drinking and urinating in the communal hallways	Kensal Green
Mitchellbrook Way	Individuals Loitering, smoking drugs, smashing windows and doors to gain entry to blocks, parking which blocks emergency vehicles.	Stonebridge
Wembley Locality / Case Name:		Ward:
Alexandra Court	Drug dealing and suspect cuckooing.	Tokington
Barley Close	Reports of alleged criminal and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Barley Close, HA0 2LN spanning approx. 6-8 months	Sudbury

7.9 Multi Agency Operations

- 7.10 The Anti-Social Behaviour team conducted frequent multi agency operations over the calendar year with the Police, Council enforcement teams and 3rd sector agencies such as Westminster Drug Project(WDP), St Mungos, NIA to tackle street drinking, drug markets, prostitution and substance misuse issues. There was more emphasis on officers having a regular on-street presence to address anti-social behaviour trends and emerging hotspots as opposed to a reactionary approach of responding to complaints which are reported to the team. In 21/22, **38 multiagency operations were conducted** by the Antisocial Behaviour Team. A breakdown of the areas covered are as follows:

Row Labels	Count of Area/Ward
Alperton	2
Church Road	1
Church Road	1
Harlesden DoA	3
Hassop Road	2
Kensal Green	1
Kensal Green / Harlesden	1
Kingbury Road & Queensbury Parade	1
Kingsbury Road	1
Kingsbury Road & Queensbury Parade	1
Neasden Town Centre	5
Neasden/Church End	1
Park Parade Walkabout	1
Positive Action Initiatives - DoA Chalkhill Estate	1
Positive Action Initiatives - DoA Kingbury Road & Queensbury Parade	1
Preston Road	1
Preston Ward	1
Queensbury	1
Sudbury	1
Sudbury Ward	2
Tokington	1
Tokington	1
Wembley / Ealing Road	1
Wembley Central	2
Wembley Central	1
Willesden Green	3
Grand Total	38

- 7.11 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs):

- 7.12 **Proposed PSPO:**

- 7.13 **Boroughwide PSPO Nuisance Vehicles:** Over the years the Council have received numerous complaints regarding street racing, driving in a dangerous way, causing excessive noise for people living and working in the London Borough of Brent. This has resulted in a number of accidents and fatalities in the last few years. Data gathered between the months of June 2020-June 2021 has a total of 798 calls linked to vehicle nuisance reported to the Police. Reports range from racing, driving in a

convoy, performing donuts, wheel spins and anti-social driving which was prevalent in every Ward in Brent. Similarly, complaints regarding vehicles driving over footways, footpaths and verges throughout the Borough, with limited action viable by the Council. The detrimental impact of this activity is damage to the verges and open spaces, which not only spoils the appearance of the street, but involves the Council in unnecessary additional expense in making good the damage.

7.14 A six-week consultation took place between 8 November and 20 December 2021. Over 85 % of all responses strongly agreed or agreed with all prohibitions consulted on while under 5% of all responses strongly disagreed or disagreed with the proposals for nuisance vehicles.

7.15 The Council will make a decision on the implementation of the order after the local elections in 2022.

Prohibitions:

- A) Revving of Engine(s) or use of horns as to cause a public nuisance,
- (B) Repeated Sudden and rapid acceleration (as a public nuisance),
- (C) Racing
- (D) Performing stunts (as to cause a public nuisance)
- (E) Without lawful authority or reasonable excuse wilfully causing obstruction on a public highway, whether moving or stationary, including driving in a convoy
- (F) Vehicles driving over Footways, Footpaths and Verges without reasonable or lawful excuse (Illegal Crossovers)
- (G) Unauthorised use of a privately owned Electric scooter (e-scooter) on the public highway within the London Borough of Brent.

7.16 Current PSPOs

7.17 **Wembley Park Public Spaces Protection Order:** A Public Spaces Protection Order was implemented on 1 January up until 31 December 2022 prohibiting: illegal street trading, consumption of alcohol, distribution of free literature without authorisation, littering, flying drone(s) without authorisation, fly-posting, letting off fireworks, including flares and smoke emitters, playing games or competitions which may cause an obstruction or nuisance to members of the public, busking and use of loud speakers, causing a nuisance without authorisation and vehicle idling without reasonable excuse. The PSPO which is in the Wembley stadium footprint and surrounding area will give the Council greater capacity to address behaviours throughout sporting and other events.

7.18 **Borough wide street drinking:** The Borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order to prohibit street drinking was extended in 20 October 2020 up until 19 October 2023 as a result of a favourable consultation and evidenced nuisance threshold. The enforcement programme is conducted predominantly by the Neighbourhood Patrol Team with the assistance of Local Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Anti-Social Behaviour Officers work closely with the patrol team to identify persistent individuals for prosecution, any vulnerabilities which need signposting to support services and consideration of other enforcement tools and powers such as Community Protection warnings and notices, banning individual from public areas where they are breaching the order.

- 7.19 Parks, open spaces, graveyards and cemeteries:** Public Spaces Protection Order implemented on 17 September 2019 expires in 16 September 2022. The order supersedes some of the Council's byelaws prohibiting activities around drug use, dog control, alcohol consumption, drones, fires and barbecues etc. There was an increase in unlicensed music events as a result of the COVID pandemic and restrictions on entertainment.
- 7.20** Brent's Anti-Social Behaviour Team entered into a service level agreement in July 2018 with Brent Housing Management to manage all medium to high risk anti-social behaviour cases. In 201/20, 27 high and medium risk cases have been referred and managed. All cases have been managed satisfactorily with the performance measures. Design out crime recommendations have also been developed by the Police and Anti-Social Behaviour team, for Mapes House, St Laurence Close, Rosedene Alan Preece Court, Joules House and Landau House which will be taken forward under BHM's estate improvement project.

The Impact

- 7.21** The Brent Anti-social Behaviour Team, Community Protection have seen 26.7% decrease anti-social behaviour cases recorded and managed from the previous financial year.
- 7.22** Neighbour disputes, drugs and intimidation/ harassment made up the highest proportion of anti-social behaviour reported cases. There was some evidence of gang associations and links in the open drug markets.
- 7.23 *Brent ASB Team Top 3 reported Categories 21/22:***

ASB Category	
Neighbour Disputes/ Noise nuisance	1
Drug dealing/ Drug Use	2
Intimidation/ Harassment	3

- 7.24** Year 21/22 has seen an increase in fixed penalty notices (FPN) issued under the PSPOs in Brent, led by the Neighbourhood Patrol Team enforcement team. The Anti-Social Behaviour team also increased use of Council led Closure Orders under the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014. A few of these orders were obtained at Council homes under Brent Housing Management with greater outcomes achieved with housing to tackle nuisance premises under the service level agreement. Use of Community Protection Warnings and Notices have reduced since the pandemic as local police resources have been stretched. There are plans to increase use of this in the next financial year.
- 7.25** **13 Community Trigger applications were received** with none meeting the qualifying threshold to investigate due to satisfactory responses by the relevant agencies. Prosecutions for persistent offenders increased from the previous year as Court backlogs have been cleared following the COVID restrictions.

7.26 Enforcement Outcomes 21/22:

PSPO Fixed Penalty Notices	985
PSPO Court Prosecutions	59
Closure Notices	8
Closure Orders	8
Breach of Closure Orders	1
Community Protection Warnings	2
Community Protection Notice	2
Community Triggers	13
Injunctions	1

7.27 Nuisance Control Team

7.28 The Nuisance Control Team is a high-demand service responsible for investigating and resolving complaints of statutory nuisance and ASB where noise, smoke, smell or dust is evidenced or demonstrated to be so unreasonable as to demand advisory or statutory intervention – including instigating prosecution proceedings against persistent offenders.

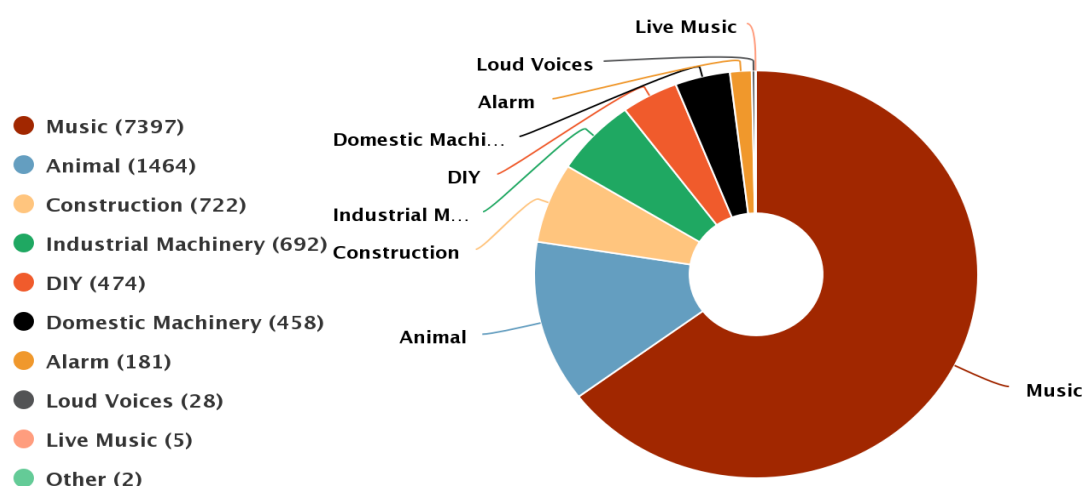
7.29 In order to manage demand with available resource the team introduced a qualifying threshold for nuisance investigations: three or four separate nuisance-level incidents within a 4-week period are usually required, unless matters are demonstrably so significant as to warrant investigation before the qualifying period is met. One-off or infrequent incidents are logged for monitoring but no further action is taken.

7.30 The team work closely with housing providers in order to ensure they meet their legal responsibly managing unreasonable tenancy behaviours. Through our noise and nuisances webpages, they promote the popular **Brent Noise App** and make decisions Under the Licensing Act 2003, they are a Responsible Authority, ensuring licensed premises, premises licence or temporary event notice applications meet the licensing objective to prevent public nuisance. Nuisance Control Team work closely with the Police on any intelligence or occurrence of Unlicensed Music Events within the borough.

7.31 They are consulted on all planning applications where: technical advice/expertise on environmental issues is required; to provide a defence for planning decisions taken, should a challenge or appeal take place at later date; ensure proposals granted do not result in statutory nuisance or persistent adverse impact upon quality of life.

7.32 A breakdown of Brent Noise App and service demand data 01 April 2021 – 01 April 2022 is provided:

Reports Per Noise Source



thenoiseapp.com

7.33 NB Reports per Noise Source represents the number of individual noise recordings made against a particular case. Residents can submit a maximum of five (30-second) recordings per day.

7.34 Table (insert ref) documents service demands logged by Nuisance Control Team:

Service demand (Apr 2021 – 2022)	Number
Music Noise	829
Animal Noise	89
Construction Noise	267
DIY Noise	60
Building Alarm	36
Vehicle Alarm	19
Commercial Noise	52
Prior Consent application for Noisy Works	44
Glare from Artificial Light	51
Low Frequency Noise	21
Dust Nuisance	55
Smell Nuisance	2
Smoke Nuisance	159
Planning Applications	333
Temporary Event Notice application	203
Premises Licence application	137
Premises Licence Review	3
Premises Licence Minor Variation	12
TOTAL	2372

8 Other Developments

[CCTV](#)

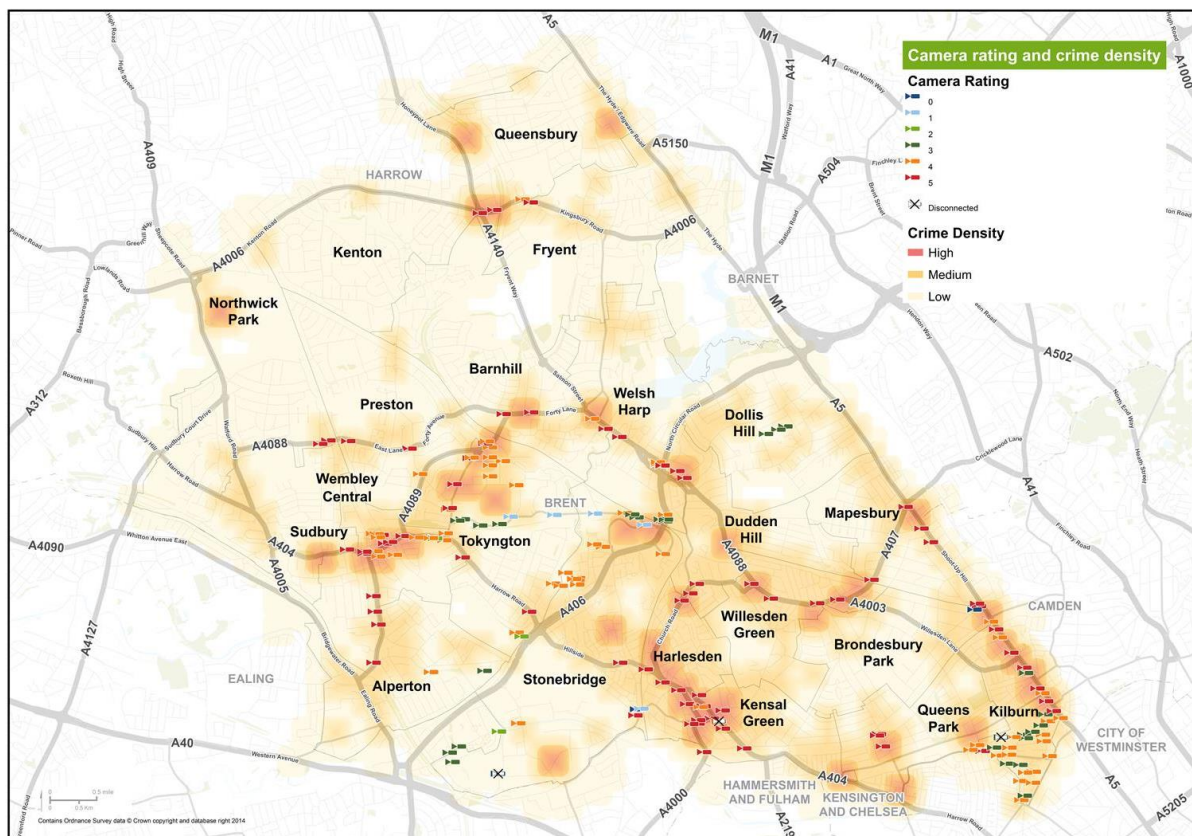
- 8.1 The CCTV control room is staffed by five control room officers, one senior control room officer, and one control room manager. Control room officers are currently assigned one of four shifts:
- Early (8:00–16:00 Sunday–Thursday; 10:00–18:00 Friday–Saturday)
 - Cover (10:00–18:00 Sunday–Thursday; 12:00–20:00 Friday–Saturday)
 - Late (15:45–23:45 Sunday–Thursday; 17:45–1:45 Friday–Saturday)
 - Night (20:00–4:00 Sunday–Thursday; 22:00–6:00 Friday–Saturday)
- 8.2 The London Borough of Brent operates nearly 183 active CCTV cameras from its control room in the Brent Civic Centre. These cameras are used primarily for community safety, but are also used for the purposes of traffic and parking enforcement, housing estate monitoring, and environmental/fly tipping monitoring, among others. Brent also shares video feeds with external stakeholders such as Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police, and the borough of Camden to assist with their respective operations.
- 8.3 The Council has 41 deployable cameras and the locations and movement of the cameras is coordinated through a monthly CCTV Working Group to ensure they are deployed to the locations in most pressing need. In 2021, 10 Mobile CCTV cameras were purchased with ANPR capability to give the Council greater flexibility in deploying rapid CCTV to deal with emerging problems or areas with no fixed coverage. Strategic oversight of the service coming under the ASB Nuisance and Crime Manager.
- 8.4 Partnership working is at the core of ensuring that the provision of CCTV within Brent is effective. The CCTV control room has a direct link with the Police control room and can respond and communicate with police on the ground. The system is regularly accessed by police for investigations. Internally the CCTV is used to monitor staff when working in volatile situations to provide some support and safeguard them.
- 8.5 Quintin and Wembley Stadium have linked systems which are primarily used during event days in Wembley Park. On event days the CCTV Control room provides a central point of coordination.
- 8.6 Request for mobile CCTV cameras in hot spot areas are decided monthly by the CCTV committee. 2 moves a month are absorbed within the existing CCTV contract at no extra cost with mobile cameras typically kept in the area for a minimum of 6 months.
- 8.7 The CCTV operatives primary function is to monitor all cameras in Brent areas with CCTV, and in constant dialogue with the police control room to identify, report and monitor crime in real time throughout Borough.
- 8.8 **Projects:**
- 8.9 The Council does not have responsibility for Brent Housing Management CCTV service or other Registered Providers in Brent. The Council own 11465 homes including leaseholders and these camera systems are located on the Council managed housing estates.
- 8.10 These cameras are a separate network and not monitored by the borough's public space CCTV control room. They have their own independent data storage and management arrangements at each of the sites. A key objective for the Brent CCTV

team is explore partnership opportunities to integrate CCTV systems with external stakeholders such as Registered Housing Providers particularly where crime and antisocial behaviour is prevalent on their housing estates. Stakeholder meetings were held in August 2021 with Brent Housing Management and large Housing providers in Brent, to review their current CCTV systems and consider opportunities to integrate cameras on existing or new blocks into the CCTV control room. Whist their current systems are largely incompatible with the Borough's CCTV network, Housing Providers have shown a commitment to look at more opportunities to integrate CCTV systems, once they renew their maintenance contracts, subject to consultation with residents.

8.11 There a currently four Housing projects to integrate their CCTV systems into Brent's CCTV control. These are scheduled for completion by March 2023.

8.12 The Information Commissioners Office (ICO) conducted an audit of the CCTV Team on 17 February 2022. The audit was successfully passed with all policy, procedures and officer working protocols deemed to compliant with the ICO.

8.13 A map of all fixed cameras in the borough is as follows:



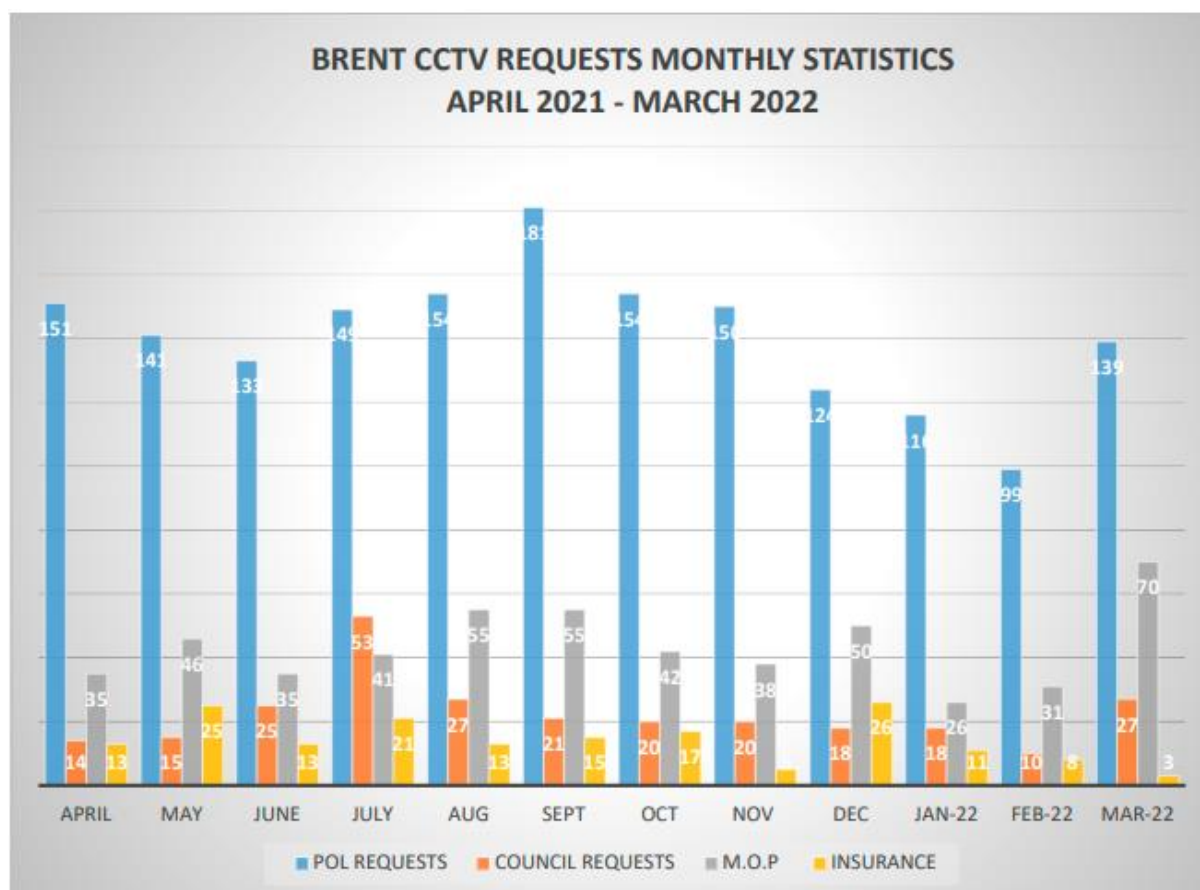
8.14 Below highlights, the list of deployable cameras moved in 21/22 to emerging anti-social behaviour and crime hotspots.

Camera No	Reference	Location
800	Brnt00001	London Road, Alley at end

801	Brnt00002	Fortunegate Rd
802	Brnt00003	Hassop Rd
803	Brnt00004	Chippenham Gardens
804	Brnt00005	Kilburn Park Road
805	Brnt00006	Conley Passage
807	Brnt00008	Kingswood Rd
808	Brnt00009	Stafford Rd / Camb Ave
809	Brnt00010	Ace Café-at junction
811	Brnt00012	Yates Close
812	Brnt00013	Brondesbury Park Open Space
813	Brnt00014	Perkin Close
814	Brnt00015	Queensbury Stn Parade - near Train Station
815	Brnt00016	Mitchellbrook Way
816	Brnt00017	O/s Gorfield House Ent
817	Brnt00018	Challenge Close
818	Brnt00019	Canturbury Rd - Opp Cam 109
819	Brnt00020	Brondesbury Villas
820	Brnt00021	Skate Park, Roundwood Park annex
850 & 851	UK PSD046	Springfield Mount - (anpr Cam851)
852 & 853	UK PSD060	Strode Rd - (anpr Cam853)
854 & 866	UK PSD042	Kilburn High Rd / Christchurch Rd - (anpr 866)
855	UK PSD043	Harrow Rd O/S 763 - 765
856	UK PSD047	Apsley Way (anpr Cam 869)
857	UK PSD048	Harrow Rd / Victor Rd (anpr Cam 867)
858	UK PSD044	Cambridge Ave - Opp Kilburn Park Station
859	UK PSD041	Sellons Avenue jct. Park Parade
860	UK PSD045	Preston Gardens
861	UK PSD049	Grange Road - Willesden
865	UKPSD 270	St Michaels Ave
870	UK PSD 400	Cambridge Ave / Camb Gdns
874	UKPSD 718	Olympic Way south
875	UKPSD 993	Church rd / Eric Rd
876	UKPSD 594	Wakemans Hill Ave
877	UKPSD 604	O/s Ace Café
878	UKPSD 614	O/s Queen's Park Station
879	UKPSD 640	Kilburn High Rd - Near C303
880	UKPSD 617	Kilburn High Rd - Market Place
881	UKPSD 038	Beverley Gdns
882	UKPSD 038	Beverley Gdns Anpr Cam
883	UKPSD 040	Chamberlayne Rd / Mostyn Gdns
884	VK2 IR UKPSD 037	Bryan Rd - O/s Gorillas
885	VK2 IR UKPSD 041	Mount Pleasant Alley
886	VK2 IR UKPSD 041	Anpr - Mount Pleasant Alley

8.15 The chart below shows number and type of queries that came in to the CCTV inbox from April 2021 to March 2022 and how they vary from month to month in relation to the following categories:

- Police
- Council Requests
- Member of Public (MOP)
- Insurance and Solicitors requests



Appendix 1: Case Studies

Reducing Domestic and Sexual Abuse :

Case Study - Advance

Referral in from Community Living Well Counselling.

Case referred to Advance based on recent disclosure of increasing frequency of physical abuse, verbal abuse, name-calling, strangulation, psychological abuse, controlling behaviour and excessive jealousy.

Brief background/history:

Victim had known alleged perpetrator (Mr A) for 4 years. They had been seeing each other on and off for about 4 years casually, then more seriously in the last 6 months. The more serious the relationship became, the victim noticed an escalation in abusive behaviour. Mr A had become more argumentative, more jealous and controlling and he pinned her up against the wall last argument and used his hand to hold her by the throat. Victim had tried repeatedly to break up with Mr A but each time Mr A became emotionally manipulative to the point that the victim felt guilty for leaving him and took him back. Mr A and victim did not live together and did not know his family or friends. Mr A had disclosed to the victim that he may be bi-polar but the victim never saw him take any medication. Mr A also spat at her in the face once and threatened to throw the victim down the stairs. Victim had a daughter who was 9 years old at the time. Mr A was not the father of the child. The father of the child shared custody with victim and saw their daughter every other weekend.

Current situation and risk factor identified:

At the time of referral, the victim had stopped picking up Mr A's calls and refused to let him in when he knocked at her door. She said she felt bad for him because he had left voice messages saying he was sorry for his actions. Also she felt that being bipolar was a contributory factor in his abusive behaviour.

Risk factors identified include: Repeated victimisation, Stalking, Harassment, Strangulation, Bipolar (Mental Health Issue) on Mr A's part, Victim being depressed, Excessive jealousy.

Safeguarding concerns: The victim's daughter was at risk of harm from the domestic abuse being perpetuated toward her mother

Intervention and support provided by Advance:

- Referral to a family law solicitor to discuss civil remedies
- Referral to Domestic Abuse Housing Team to discuss housing options
- Discussed Sanctuary Scheme referral (declined)
- Referral to Counselling

- Referral to the Freedom Programme
- Liaison with Social Care Social Worker
- Discussions with IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) re Cycle of Abuse
- Safety Planning Discussions
- Offered victim a personal panic alarm

Multiagency work completed:

- IDVA liaised with Social Worker
- IDVA prepared case for MARAC, provided MARAC feedback to victim and completed MARAC actions with victim and informed MARAC.

Any challenges?

Victim disclosed she was still in love with Mr A and did not feel like she could live without him. Other times, victim would state she wanted him out of her life but did not feel strong enough to fully commit to leaving him. Victim declined changing her phone number. Victim wasn't ready to be rehoused. Victim eventually changed her mind about a Sanctuary Scheme work and extra measures have been put in place. Victim is now reconsidering getting a non-molestation order as the victim has continued to be in touch with her.

Outcome(s):

At the time of reporting (Q4 2021- 22) case is still open to Advance. Victim is thinking about proceeding with a non-molestation order and potentially being rehoused.

Reducing the impact of gangs and knives in our community

Case Study – Air Sports Network

The subject of this case study is a 19-year-old British young man, his parents are from Uganda, but his father left the family from an early age to live in Germany. He was referred to AIR after being transferred to Brent due to his home borough of Croydon no longer being safe for him and his family (Mother and two sisters). He was referred to AIR in September 2021 to give him a positive male influence / mentor, as well as provide some support with education training and employment.

He came to police attention early 2021. He has previously been arrested for various offences, however on this occasion he was picked up by the Hampshire gang's policing unit because of concerns around serious grooming and exploitation by a Croydon gang. They convinced him that he would be able to safely make money and live a better life if he worked for them. As time went on, he spent less and less time at home, often being away for weeks and months on end.

After a while he began realising that the lavish lifestyle and money that was promised to him was sadly a brutal and terrible lie. He found himself working in and out of drug dens / houses under horrific conditions and the gang members he had to answer to barely gave him enough money to feed himself at times. If he would come back with some unsold drugs or an inaccurate amount of money, they would brutally beat him and leave him battered and bruised. They would then send him back out to make the money back before he could eat or

sleep. According to his Mother when he did come back home he would do so looking very unhealthy, slim and malnourished. There would be times where he came back home and would say nothing before leaving again. There would be other times where he would come home crying to his mother about what he was going through. However, he would always leave to go back to the gang members out of fear that they would come and harm him or his family.

After spending long periods of time in these drug houses across county lines, he found himself in serious trouble as he built up a lot of drug debt with the gang members that recruited him. Unfortunately for the young person and his family it got so bad that they found out where they lived and threatened his sisters and mother. They would stand outside threatening to set their home on fire whilst they're inside. At this point the intervention of the police was absolutely crucial. A couple of very supportive officers from the Croydon Gangs police intervened and were able to support the relocation of him and his family which is how they found their way to a hotel in Wembley.

Following the initial meeting in September 2021 the engagement was very positive. He was happy to meet at the civic centre for an introduction. He was slim in size and short in height, very well spoken and an articulate young man. He spoke about wanting to get into an apprenticeship in some sort of trade. With regards to health and wellbeing he did not have anything in mind. After attempting to engage him in some intense wellbeing activities like badminton and training in the gym, we very quickly realised that neither were for him. By chance after stumbling across a pool table during a mentoring session we discovered that he has a soft spot and a passion for pool. This became a focal point for the majority of the sessions and a platform to build from. From there work began on applications for warehouse roles, different apprenticeships, and securing interviews. We worked towards getting a CSCS card as well as a forklift licence. The young person was referred to further ETE providers who would be able to support with further opportunities. He was successful in one of the warehouse interviews but they were asking him to travel too far for work. The young person found himself working very hard to get into full time training /work.

There were ups and downs in his consistency of engagement, however whenever he would have these absences, his mother was always happy to lend her support in reconnecting as she really appreciated the support provided. Additionally, she proved to be very valuable in updating me on how his behaviour was at home.

There was an occasion where the young person was missing from home for over two weeks, which left both Air and his mother concerned he was falling back into the company of the old gangs. After advising to report him missing, mum discovered he was staying at her old friend's house. The concern was that he was at their place for over two weeks and didn't let his mother know. Further concern was brought to light when his mother mentioned that the friend was a drug user which brought further alarms about influence and the intentions of him being there. After hearing this from mum it led to questions about parenting, friendship groups that her children have access to, lack of urgency of wanting to know where he was as soon as she couldn't reach him.

After getting him home and having some firm conversations about risky behaviours and how unsafe the situation could have been, the young person was reflective and seemed as though he took a very hard look at the direction he saw his life going. Not long after he was contacted by a company who offered him an apprenticeship.

This was a major turning point for the young person as it seemed that all of our previous hard work was finally paying off. He immediately accepted the offer and it was like all of his

immaturities began to disappear. He became extremely organised, adding his appointments to the calendar in his phone. He also communicated very well with the employers whenever he had other appointments to attend. Furthermore his relationship with his mother and sisters at home greatly improved and his future prospects are looking bright.

Reducing vulnerability and increasing safeguarding case study –

Community MARAC / Contextual safeguarding and multiple vulnerabilities –

Case Study: Community MARAC

The housing officer referred Mr J to Community MARAC after they received complaints from neighbours of individuals forcing entry into the flats to access his property. Following a home visit it was believed that Mr J was being exploited, suffering from self-neglect and there were concerns for his mental health. The Housing officer reported there were issues with his engagement, as he feared repercussions from those targeting him and some nuisance behaviour on his part to his neighbours, because of his money being taken from him, which led to him asking neighbours for money and food.

The Met Police and Anti-Social Behaviour officers worked together to address a wider community and neighbourhood problem, where the individuals were identified and were dealt with using policing power and tools for other drug related offences, which meant that the alleged exploitation ceased.

Following further assessments with Adult Social Care and through discussions at the Community MARAC, It was established that Mr J also had a diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia and was unable to care for himself, living with his property in a very poor state. There were also significant concerns around his hygiene and vulnerability. Partners did not want to remove Mr J from his property into supported accommodation, as he had lived at the property for a number of years and he wanted to remain with help, therefore partners wanted to do what they could to ensure he could remain at that property.

It was not possible to start a care plan within the property in the state it was in, therefore working together partners arranged for all damage to the property (some broken windows) to be repaired, and for Mr J to be moved to temporary accommodation whilst a deep clean of the property also took place. The care plan was then started, and continued with him when he returned to his property. His mental health was addressed and carers were identified to give ongoing support and to report any safeguarding concerns and any individuals they came across who they did not believe should be in the property and may be taking advantage of Mr J, so that these concerns could be promptly addressed.

It was agreed that partners would continue to work together to monitor and review the situation. If it became clear that he needed to be moved to supported accommodation in the future, they would work together with him to explore all the options available.

Reducing Offenders and perpetrators from reoffending

Case Study – IOM

Provided within report

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

Case Study - ASB

- **Preston Road, HA3** – Case brought to the attention of Community Protection Team (CPT) July 2021.

Complaints received from neighbouring properties & businesses of ASB from address, concerns raised property may be used as a brothel.

Investigation conducted and confirmation by the police that premises is indeed used as a brothel.

Contact made with property owner to obtain information and decision made to seek a **closure order** on property. Closure Order successfully obtained **5th November 2021**.

- **Barn Way, HA9** – Case brought to the attention of Community Protection Team (CPT) in June 2021.

Complaints received from neighbouring properties that the property was advertised on sites such as Airbnb and therefore parties were being held at the property causing widespread ASB affecting local residents, neighbours & the wider community. Nuisance such as large gatherings, loud music, drug use and fighting. Contact established with property owner and managing agent.

Exploration on closure order considered, however decided to issue warning letter to managing agent and persuaded property owner to terminate contract with managing agent and removing listing from Airbnb.

Warning issued **5th August 2021**

Contract Terminated **13th August 2021**

- **Kilburn Lane, W10** - Case brought to the attention of Community Protection Team (CPT) in **February 2022**.

Large amount of complaints from neighbouring residents concerned with ASB from property, which included domestic violence, drug abuse, solicitation and harassment.

Investigation conducted which established property is owner occupier, however due to large scale nuisance, CPT pursued a partial closure order.

Partial Closure order obtained **14th April 2022**

Extended Partial order obtained **13th July 2022** due to continuation of nuisance and breach of partial closure order.

Hearing for prosecution of breach of closure order due to be heard at court on **27th October 2022**.

Appendix 2 – Commissioned Services

Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) Priorities,

- Priority 1: Reducing Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- Priority 2: Reducing the Impact of Gangs and Knives in our Community
- Priority 3: Reducing Vulnerability and Increasing Safeguarding
- Priority 4: Reducing Offenders and Perpetrators from Reoffending
- Priority 5: Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

Community Safety Commissioned services list

Provider	Services offered	Aligned to SBP priorities	Annual Grant £000
St Giles Trust	Gangs Intervention Programme This programme works with those involved in gangs, to exit gang lifestyle and to provide early intervention to people identified as being on the periphery of gang offending.	2 4	143,645.12 Grant funded
St Giles Trust	Embedded Youth Violence Hospital Project To deliver a service to improve the identification and engagement of young people who present at Northwick Park Hospital as a victim of serious youth violence	2 3	£90,000. Grant £52,500. Council £142,500.00 total contract
Air Network	Mentoring, Sports, and Well-being programme We target our intervention towards those offenders who require the most intensive mentoring and support to help them achieve positive lifestyle changes and stop re-offending. This is built on the IOM model, includes a pre-release prison programme for a smoother transition and increased community support to aid reduced offending and integration.	2 4 5	103,160.00 Grant funded
Westminster Drug Project (WDP) / ELEV8	Mental Health Outreach Project The project will address issues and initiate help for those with either diagnosed and non-diagnosed mental health conditions and reduce re-offending.	3 5	£45,000 Grant £90,000 Council £135,000.00 Total contract
Young Brent Foundation Consortium – Global Thinking	Young Women's Diversionary Project A bespoke service for young women affected by gangs, criminal exploitation and county lines. The aim of the project is to ensure that young	2 3 4	£40,625. Grant £56,875. Council £97,500.00

	women feel safe to access help, are no longer a hidden group in our communities and are free from harm, abuse and exploitation.		
RISE Mutual	Perpetrator Intervention program , deliver a domestic abuse perpetrator intervention programme with an integrated victim support service. The programme will aid an increase in motivation for change, supporting the service user to reduce and eliminate repeat abuse	1 4	£97,552.00 Grant funded
Nia	Exit Sex Working , Specialist outreach worker to support women engaged in on and off street level sex work to exit. Completed by a co-ordinated care planning approach to address the barriers to exiting sex work and support the women to access appropriate services.	1 3 4 5	£52,280.00 Council funded
Advance	Domestic Abuse Support service , delivers front line domestic abuse support to both male and female victims/survivors of domestic abuse aged 4 and over. They provide support and advice around crisis intervention, risk management, safety planning...	1	£456,450.00 Council funded
Advance – Chrysalis	One stop shop , offers a safe drop-in service, providing support and information in one place, for women, men and children experiencing domestic abuse and related issues such as harassment, stalking, forced marriage, 'honour' based violence.	1	Included in the above
Youth Justice Service	Triage Worker role , Early Interventions Officers within YOS to offer assessment and preventative provision to young people who would otherwise be likely to receive a criminal justice disposal.	3 4	£58231.81. Grant funded

Appendix 3: Abbreviations

EVVP	Exploitation Violence and Vulnerability Panel
MOPAC	Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
SBP	Safer Brent Partnership
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
DA	Domestic Abuse
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FM	Forced Marriage
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
YJS	Youth Justice Service
WDP	Westminster Drug Project
CMARAC	Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CP	Child Protection
LAC	Looked After Child
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
DA Offence VWI	Domestic Abuse Offence violence with injury

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Welcome

(Insert Photo)

Chief Executive Brent Council and Chair of the Safer Brent Partnership Board

It is my pleasure to introduce the Safer Brent - Community Safety Strategy for 2023 – 2025. This Strategy gives an overview of our key priorities as a partnership for the borough. We aim to draw on our shared commitment to keeping residents safe and where we can, understand and improve safety in Brent.

This strategy, sets out our priorities for the next 3 years, with a dedicated focus on results, we will shape action plans to monitor and accomplish this work. We will adopt a 'Public Health' approach to crime reduction and whilst reducing crime remains the focus of all our activities, we will work hard to understand and address the root causes of crime impacting communities, with a focus on early intervention and prevention.

Over the next 3 years we recognise we may face significant and complex pressures that are likely to have an impact on our residents and services. We are mindful of ongoing health inequalities, issues of disproportionality and access to support. In addition, we know that national pressures such as “the cost of living crisis”, are likely to increase poverty and deprivation in the borough. As a Partnership, we are concerned about how all of these issues affect crime and our communities, in particular those who are most vulnerable.

Through this strategy we aim to honestly address issues by targeting, preventing and mitigating against all forms of crime and exploitation. Whilst we know a large proportion of our residents' feel safe, including when travelling throughout the borough, we will continue to identify ways to improve our neighbourhoods and design out crime.

I am proud that Brent is a borough rich in culture and diversity, with a wealth of experience to help shape our approach. As one of 32 London boroughs, we are very aware of the challenging, city issues, faced by residents. To ensure the future of Brent is one that is safer we will target resources towards the greatest need, pushing Partners to prioritise preventative, as well as responsive measures, to reduce criminal activity. We remain committed to doing all we can to find creative solutions to prevent crime and exploitation in Brent.

Carolyn Down
Chief Executive

Foreword

(Insert photo)

Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection

As Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection, I am passionate that Brent should be a place where residents and visitors can feel safe. I am proud of our achievements so far, but recognise there is always more we can do. I am absolutely resolute that Brent should be ambitious, tackling community safety issues with innovation and pushing hard to stay ahead of the curve.

Over the next 3 years I am committed to ensuring that our ‘Public Health’ preventative approach, is embedded across every strand of our work. We need to act earlier, smarter and more proactively to tackle crime and disorder, as well as protecting the most vulnerable. This means we will seek prevention at all costs, intervene earlier, interrupt negative cycles and disrupt escalating activity. We will continue to work collaboratively, at all levels, with our partners in Police, Health, Probation, London Fire Brigade and the voluntary sector to achieve these aims.

We want to listen to the voices of survivors to help refine and shape our approach; and do more to protect our young people from a life of crime and exploitation. Our cohesive community is a reflection of our great strength. We possess a resilience against adversity that I am extremely proud of and collectively I am certain we can make Brent a safer place for all.

Lead Member

Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection

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Key data of the borough	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities, to work together with Partners to develop and implement localised crime reduction strategies for their areas. In Brent, this activity is overseen by the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP). The SBP works together to prevent and reduce crime and disorder and improve cohesion and safety within neighbourhoods.

In 2022, the SBP undertook a strategic threat assessment which informed the Partnership about the types of crime and antisocial behaviour we need to focus on in Brent. The findings of that assessment has informed this strategy by outlining local challenges and the areas of work we need to prioritise for the next 3 years.

We will continue to assess threat in Brent on an annual basis, improving and developing our response. We will also obtain insight from key stakeholders, such as the Mayor's Office for Crime and Policing (MOPAC) and align any shared priorities.

Mayor's Office of Police and Crime (MOPAC)

The Mayor of London has published his plan for policing and crime to keep Londoners safe and also ensure they feel safer. [London's Police and Crime Plan 2022-25 | London City Hall](#)

The four key themes are;

- Reducing and preventing violence
- Increasing trust and confidence
- Better supporting for victims
- Protecting people from being exploited or harmed

Violence Reduction Unit

MOPAC also hosts London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). This is a team of specialists leading and advising on crime reduction for London. The team have specialisms in various areas, including local government, health, policing, education, communities and youth services. The VRU fund local authorities and key partners to support violence reduction activities in targeted areas. Brent is a beneficiary of this funding.

Working with Communities

We recognise the most important voices are those of the Brent community. Central to our approach is listening to communities with lived experience, taking on board recommendations and being responsive to concerns. It is the diverse communities of Brent that will help shape our 'Public Health', early intervention approach. Identifying the underlying causes of crime, in particular those that are impacting 'some' young people. We will also work with communities to protect the most vulnerable, especially those who are being physically or financially abused and those being coerced into a life of crime and exploitation. We will continue to use a variety of methods to involve our communities in the planning and delivery of our work.

Safer Brent Priorities 2023-2025

When developing our priorities, we consulted with stakeholders, including members of the community, to provide solutions to reduce crime and make Brent a safe place to live, work and visit. Participants were also asked **how communities can work together** to tackle safety concerns, with some of the most popular suggestions below;

(Use Word Cloud Imagery – design team)

“You told Us”

Neighbourhood watch schemes
Increased CCTV
More street lighting installed in dark public areas and brighter street lighting.
Increased visible police presence
Intergenerational mentoring
Ward panel app
Community strategy meetings
Increase reporting of criminal activity
Youth counselling training
Increased interaction from local authorities and police
Increased visibility of police
Workshops for youth
Youth clubs
Increased Victim Support
Increased enforcement of SPOs
Increased publicity of enforcement activities in the local area

Our Priorities

After listening to the community and analysing our most pressing needs, the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) agreed that Safer Brent Strategy will focus on four priority areas;

1. **Tackling Violent Crime**
2. **Challenging Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls**
3. **Focus on Incidents Impacting Our Community**
4. **Protecting Those Most Vulnerable**

(Use image to demonstrate priorities – rather than table – Design Team)

PRIORITY	WE NEED TO	FOCUS ON
1. Tackling violent crime	Keeping our streets safe, reducing risks and threats to our community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on Serious Violence• Preventing reoffending• Challenging Prolific Offenders
2. Challenging Domestic, Sexual Abuse and	Prioritize Safety and Protection for victims / survivors of abuse, to be	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic Abuse• Sexual Abuse• Violence Against Women and Girls

preventing Violence Against Women and Girls	safe at home and in our streets	
3. Focus on incidents impacting our community	Empower communities, building strength and resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antisocial Behavior • Serious Incidents, Criminal exploitation (Gang) exit and support • Hate Crime
4. Protecting those most vulnerable	Support those at risk and vulnerable to exploitation. Protect victims of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims of Crime (including exploitation and county lines) • Prevent (Radicalisation and extremism) • Safeguarding (Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Our Priorities will be supported by action plans to track how issues will be addressed. Work will be co-ordinated and overseen by multi - agency sub-groups who will identify responses to address each priority.

Our Public Health Approach to Community Safety

Our ‘public health approach’ is all about intervening earlier, by identifying wider support needs as soon as possible to prevent escalation into violent crime. Research suggests that a person’s exposure to poverty, domestic violence, a lack of parental support, lack of education, or significantly disrupted education, can indicate a greater likelihood of individuals becoming entrenched in criminal activity.

In Brent, we are concerned about all of these issues and aim to tackle concerns earlier and in a holistic, inter – agency way. We will work with partners to identify more opportunities to intervene earlier and extend support; building protective factors such as, mentoring, counselling, substance misuse outreach services and employment opportunities.

It’s all about agencies working together to support a shared vision. Much of this work already exists in Brent through the multi-agency offer we provide through our ‘Exploitation Violence and Vulnerability Panel’ and ‘Integrated Offender Management’ scheme, but there is always more we can do to deliver on our ‘Public Health’ commitment and improve the lives of those who have had a difficult start.

(Use image “Iceberg image” to demonstrate – Design Team)



“You Said - Early Intervention and Prevention Is..”

Consultation findings

Following a period of engagement through focus groups with service users, surveys and reviews. The headline concerns and suggestions for early intervention and prevention were:

(Use image to demonstrate priorities – rather than table – Design Team)

What are your current concerns?	What can be done, to help?
Violence against women and girls.	More access to mentor programmes for young people.
Gang violence.	More education for young boys in relation to Violence against women and girls.
Increase in use of social media negatively influencing young people.	More information provided to parents and carers to identify new and emerging trends that affect young people.
Lack of safe spaces for women and young people.	Increased visibility of Police and council enforcement agencies.
Knife Crime.	More severe consequences for those convicted of anti-social behaviour and environmental issues.

Anti-social behaviour including Street drinking and illicit drug taking in public areas.	Anti-social behaviour including Street drinking and illicit drug taking in public areas.
Street robberies.	Increased CCTV.
Lack of police presence on the streets.	More street lighting.
Illegal businesses acting as “fronts” for organised gangs.	Better response time from enforcement agencies including the Police and Local Authority.
Increase in Mental Health crisis amongst young people.	Diversionary programmes where young people can better understand the criminal justice system.
Impact the Covid 19 legacy has had on everyday life.	Better access to local Community Mental Health services.
Unsafe walking areas for young people.	Increased public consultation events where Local Authority/Police can introduce themselves to the community.
Support packages and resources for parents on how to educate and safeguard children e.g. family/ parent champions to circulate info within community.	Leading more victimless prosecution.

Tackling Our Priorities

Much of the activity identified in our priorities will have overlaps. We will take every opportunity to understand these concerns and work to raise awareness of harms in schools and community settings, intervening earlier.

Priority 1 - Tackling violent crime

- Focus on Serious Violence
- Preventing reoffending
- Challenging Prolific Offenders

Serious Violence

In recent years, gang and serious offending has been primarily linked to drug markets, distribution through county lines, violent incidents and exploitation of vulnerable people. High harm gang offending is dynamic and activity quickly diversifies, so it's important that we continue to monitor crime trends, particularly for sudden spikes. We will monitor crimes committed by multiple offenders, also crimes committed by those who we would consider vulnerable to exploitation.

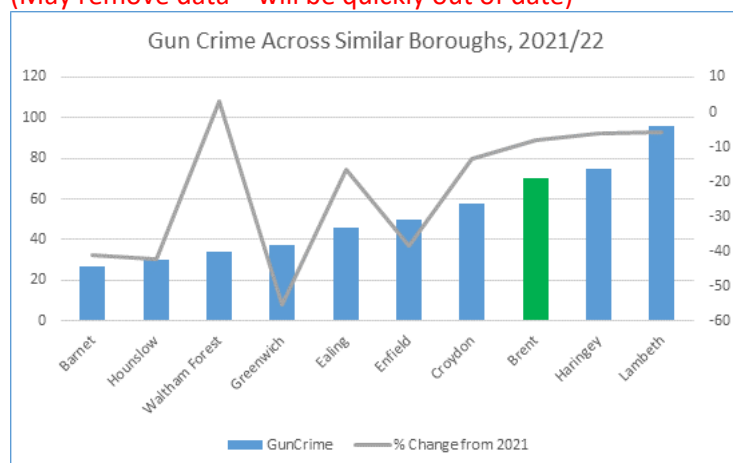
We are concerned by the supply of drugs being a major activity for criminal groups and gangs in Brent. Open drugs markets are high risk and often lead to an increase in violence, mainly due to transaction disputes and drug patch competition. We recognise that this activity not only impacts

those directly involved, but also increases the fear of crime and associated anti-social behaviour within communities.

Although, we are pleased to have seen an overall reduction in gang related offending, when incidents occur, these offenses cause some of the highest harm to our communities. We aim to be ahead of the curve by, engaging with communities on this issue, being open about our concerns, encourage early reporting, promote diversionary activities and opportunities. And where activity is dangerous and persistent, use all of our powers to disrupt activity and bring prolific offenders to justice.

Proxy Gang indicator: Gun Crime (RECENT INSERTS –Remove for a 2023 – 25 Strategy)

(May remove data – will be quickly out of date)



(May remove data – will be out quickly of date)



The peak age range for knife crime victims is between 20 and 29 years old. Victims are over-represented between the ages of 10 and 49 compared to the borough population.

Preventing Reoffending

Integrated Offender Management

London Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme has introduced a managing persistent and violent offender's framework that came into effect in February 2021. These prolific offenders cause harm to communities and individuals, and cost London taxpayers the equivalent of £2.2 billion a year in criminal justice costs alone. We know that it takes targeted and specific support for individuals to break the cycle of reoffending. Many prolific offenders are over 25 years of age and are stuck in a cycle, requiring intensive intervention to bring about a change in behaviour.

We will continue to use a trauma informed approach to the delivery of our support, this enables professionals to consider wider risks and historic personal trauma. In addition, we recognise there may be multiple barriers to engagement, including wider vulnerabilities such as substance misuse and homelessness which we will attempt to address.

Priority 2 - Challenging Domestic, Sexual Abuse and preventing Violence Against Women and Girls

- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Violence Against Women and Girls

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse continues to be a significant concern in Brent and a crime which we believe is under reported. This pattern of behaviour seeks to deliberately create fear and control and can have long lasting impacts, in particular for children who witness abuse in the home.

As a borough we have learnt lessons from the tragic deaths of victims of domestic abuse, by undertaking comprehensive Domestic Homicide Reviews ([published insert link](#)) and learning lessons from their findings.

We will continue to commission specialist support to victims/survivors of domestic abuse to access the services needed to rebuild their lives. We will also commission services to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse to help deconstruct negative and violent patterns of behaviour.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual assault, rape and abuse can happen suddenly and requires specialist support to be offered to the victim. In the first instance that may be physical or medical support, but we know that practical and emotional support is of equal importance. We will continue to work with Partners and commissioned services to be responsive to the needs of victims.

Violence Against Women and Girls

Recent and tragic fatal attacks that have gained national attention, have rightly raised the profile of violence against women and girls and there is a clear need to raise awareness in this area.

Unacceptable behaviours such as stalking, harassment, whether in person or online, cat-calling and unwanted attention have no place in our society. We will do more to campaign against such

behaviours and raise awareness in schools, colleges, the business sector and community settings. We want to empower allies to intervene and disrupt these behaviours at an earlier stage, promoting a zero tolerance approach to all violence against women and girls.

Priority 2 – Focusing on Incidents Impacting our Community

- Antisocial Behavior
- Serious Incidents, Criminal exploitation (Gang) exit and support
- Hate Crime

Anti-Social Behaviour

Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person. There are three main categories for antisocial behaviour, depending on how many people are affected:

- Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

Brent had the third highest number of ASB calls, in comparison to the most similar London boroughs, in the last 2 years. All the hotspots of ASB are in or adjacent to town centres. Despite non-essential retail being closed, town centre areas continue to be affected by abusive or difficult customers with mental health or substance misuse issues in the shops and businesses that have remained open.

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

To provide the Council with the appropriate measures to tackle visual anti-social behaviour Brent implemented the Borough wide Street Dinking Public Spaces Protection Order 20 October 2020 up until 19 October 2023, Wembley Park Public Spaces Protection Order 1 January 2020 up until 31 December 2022 and the Parks and Open Spaces Public Protection Order 17 September 2019 up until 16 September 2022. Brent held a public consultation in 2022 to amalgamate 3 Public Spaces Protection Orders into one. Following a favourable consultation there are plans to implement the **PSPO in early 2023 up until 2026**, which will bring greater consistency in enforcement and clarity to residents on the prohibitions.

To deal with the cycle of reoffending we are committed to identifying persistent individuals for prosecution, ensuring any vulnerabilities such as mental health or substance misuse are signposted to support services or our Community MARAC before enforcement is considered. We are also applying other enforcement tools and powers such as Closure Orders or Community Protection warnings, notices, banning individual from public areas.

PSPO Enforcement Outcomes 21/22:

PSPO Fixed Penalty Notices	985
PSPO Court Prosecutions	59

Brent will also be implementing a PSPO to deal with Nuisance Vehicles in early 2023 to increase our menu of options with the Police in tackling dangerous use of vehicles in the borough and damage to our pavements and highways infrastructure.

Neighbour disputes, drugs use/dealing, street drinking and harassment have been the highest reported category to the Council in the last 3 years. Complaints around neighbour noise and disputes were over represented in social housing estates, private rented accommodation and houses with multiple occupancy. The COVID pandemic has resulted in lifestyle changes with more people working from or residing longer at home.

The Council created a joint Anti-Social Behaviour Policy in 2022 Team with Brent Housing Management who manage approximately 8000 Council Homes and 4000 leaseholds to ensure a uniform service is provided to our residents within the private and social housing sector. The Council over the years has taken the lead role in investigating cases relating to anti-social behaviour in properties not owned or managed by the Council. Whilst the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 empowers residents to request a community trigger on cases which they feel have been inadequately managed, this looks back retrospectively. As a result, we created a service level expectation protocol with Registered Providers with large housing stocks in the borough outlining best practice on anti-social behaviour case management and a greater focus on tenancy management under the Housing Act to deal with anti-social tenants.

We are committed over the next few years to expanding the service expectation with more social and private landlords in Brent and also working with housing providers to design out anti-social behaviour and crime on estates.

We will continue to invest in more additional mobile CCTV cameras to support our fixed CCTV infrastructure, deploying rapid CCTV to monitor emerging problems. We will use an intelligence led approach to map hotspots, based on complaint and reports to the Council and Police. This will inform our on-street multi agency operations and one of our key aims over the next few years will be to provide a greater on street presence in anti-social behaviour hotspots with the Police, commissioned Services our local councillors.

Brent launched an Online Watch Link Scheme (OWL) with the Police. This provides an online platform for residents who sign up, to be provided with localised information on our outcomes in tackling anti-social behaviour. It also gives residents and businesses the platform to build watch schemes in their localities. We are committed to supporting the development of resident and business led watch schemes and also increasing resident sign up over the next few years.

Serious Incidents, Criminal exploitation (Gang) exit and support

Much of this work has overlaps with Priority 1 - “Tackling Serious Violence”. However, we know that when we don’t understand or address tensions within our community, serious incidents can occur.

When a serious incident takes place, much of the activity is led by our Policing Partners to apprehend perpetrators and bring them swiftly to justice. However, we are aware that the impact of a serious incident can leave a ripple effect within communities, causing fear for their ongoing safety.

After a serious incident has taken place, we will work swiftly with Partners to understand the impact on communities. Working with key stakeholders, such as Housing, Youth based organisations and

Safer Neighbourhood Teams to draw up localised action plans to mitigate tensions and suppress violence. Where appropriate, will extend interventions and diversionary support to individuals.

Hate Crime

Brent is a diverse borough that welcomes people from all over the world and one value that unites us is that we do not tolerate any division in our communities, our disruptive activity that would seek to divide us. Brent is unique in terms of its community cohesion and this something we will aim to prioritise and protect.

Hate incidents happen because of hostility or prejudice based on the Equality Act's - '9 protected characteristics'. These are: Age, Disability, Gender Re-assignment, Marriage of Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.

We encourage all hate crime to be reported and where people are identified as victims, we will extend a multi – agency response to support these individuals.

Protecting Those Most Vulnerable

- Victims of Crime (including exploitation and county lines)
- Prevent (Radicalisation and extremism)
- Safeguarding (Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Victims of Crime (including exploitation and county lines)

We are committed to supporting victims of crime and in particular, those who are being routinely targeted by criminals. We are concerned for the most vulnerable in our community, including the elderly who are being financial abused and threatened. And those whose homes are being taken over to host criminal activity, known as “cuckooing”. We are also concerned for our young people, coerced and exploited into criminal activity, hiding weapons or couriating drugs. We understand that when individuals are being exploited it is difficult to ask for help. We will work with multi-agency partners to offer training and host awareness raising activity, so that professionals and the community can identify different forms of exploitation. We will also strengthen our reporting and referrals pathways so that individuals can be supported earlier.

Prevent (Radicalisation and extremism)

Prevent aims to stop people from engaging in terrorist activity or supporting terrorism. It's about early intervention to protect and divert people away from activity before serious illegality occurs.

Local Authorities have a duty to safeguard young people and adults at risk of radicalisation and recruitment into terrorism. Work undertaken is extended to individuals predominantly through the Channel Programme. This programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect, divert and support those at risk. In Brent, delivery of Prevent is locally led and driven by analysis of the threat. We will continue to work closely with communities to understand their concerns about radicalisation and all forms of extremism. Extending support, advice and training according to need.

Safeguarding (Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Community Safety works closely with Adult and Children's Safeguarding leads to address shared concerns, particularly for those more vulnerable individuals known to our services.

Our Brent Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) reviews cases of extremely vulnerable and high risk individuals, whose personal safety has become a concern. An individualized risk management plan is put in place to reduce immediate concerns, including repeat victimization. The process also improves inter – agency accountability for professionals supporting an individual.

(Use image to demonstrate priorities – Design Team)

Examples of individuals that are supported by the MARAC are:

- Victims or perpetrators of antisocial behaviour
- Victims of hate crime
- At risk of fire related incidents
- At risk of financial abuse or fraud
- At risk of homelessness or difficulties maintaining their property

Measuring Impact

(Use image to demonstrate priorities – rather than table – Design Team)

Priority	Measure	Reduction and Collection method
Tackling violent crime reducing recorded crime	We will aim to be below the London borough average for the overall crime rate	Total Notifiable Offences per 1000 population, as per Home Office approved statistics
Focus on Incidents impacting our community	Reduce the number of lethal-barrelled gun discharges	All recorded lethal barrel gun discharges in the borough reported to Brent Police
Focus on Incidents impacting our community	Reduce the number of victims of knife related injuries (non-domestic)	All recorded victims of knife related injuries by Brent police
Focus on Incidents impacting our community	Reduce the number of calls to the police for ASB	All calls to Brent Police which have been flagged as ASB related (personal, nuisance and environmental)
Challenging DA	Reduce the number of Violence with Injury Domestic abuse offences	All Brent Police recorded violent offences where the victim and suspects are intimate partners or are family members reported to

		the police and flagged as a domestic incident
Tacking violent crime	Reduce the number of personal robberies	All Brent Police recorded personal robbery offences
Tackling violent crime	Reduce the number of robberies where a weapon is used	All Brent Police recorded personal robbery offences with a knife crime flag

Each of these priorities will be monitored by their own supporting actions plans, incorporating and early intervention, Public Health approach. We will undertake ongoing analysis of each priority and create separate priority plans which track how we intend to;

(Use image to demonstrate priorities – rather than table – Design Team)

- Identify
- Disrupt
- Prevent and Reduce
- Protect and Support

We hope that you find the plan informative and that it offers a snap shot into the wider work we are undertaking as a borough to reduce crime and drive change.

We are always happy to hear your thoughts on how we could improve things. Our communities remain a key partner and are important to us.

Please contact us on Community.safety@brent.gov.uk

Key data of the borough

The London Borough of Brent has a population of 339,800 (ONS) (the 5th largest population among London boroughs)¹ this is expected to rise 25% by 2041 and the borough's population has grown by 28,600 since the last census in 2011, a rise of 9%. About 53% of Brent residents were born outside of the UK and over 149 languages are spoken locally. Around 65% of residents are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds and Brent is home to over 66,000 EU citizens. We are very much a borough rich in diversity and cultures.

The health, education and wellbeing of young people in the borough is aligned to our statutory duty and our aim to reduce poverty, inequality and social exclusion. In Brent there are around 28,400 young people 13-19 (8% of the Brent population). Around 22% of children live in Poverty (rising to 43% where housing costs are also considered). On average Brent pupils attain grade C in each of their three A Level Subjects (equal to London and National averages). 38/10,000 children in Brent are in Care, for England the average is 67/10,000 children are in care.

The borough recognises the climate and ecological emergency we are facing and is actively working to achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2030. The steps we plan to take are outlined within our local strategy and annual delivery plan.

Brent is proud of its diverse and inclusive workforce and also our unique multicultural community. We continue to progress actions against our Brent Black Community Action plan <https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/black-community-action-plan/brent-black-community-action-plan/> And will strive to ensure that our workforce is culturally competent, aware of any unconscious bias.

¹ [2021 Census first release - Brent summary - Final AV.pdf](#)

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	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 8 November 2022
	Report from the Director of Engagement, Strategy & Communications
Updates to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme 2022-23	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix A – Scrutiny Work Plan 2022-23 Table
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Jason Sigba, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy and Partnerships Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk Tom Pickup, Policy Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Partnerships Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk Lorna Hughes, Director of Engagement, Strategy & Communications Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

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

2.0 Recommendation(s)

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

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The work programme sets out the items which the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee will consider during the municipal year.
- 3.2 The work programme of a scrutiny committee is intended to be a flexible, living document that can adapt and change according to the needs of a committee. The changes set out are reflective of this.
- 3.3 The agenda of the 8 November 2022 meeting has been updated to include an additional item on the Draft Borough Plan 2023-27, with the removal of the 'Q2 Financial Report' item. Additionally, the wording of the agenda item, 'Police Liaison' has been updated to 'Police Engagement in Brent'.
- 3.4 An additional meeting has been added to the work plan for 13 December 2022. This is a special meeting convened to focus on 'Redefining Local Services' in Brent.
- 3.5 For the 24 January 2023 committee meeting, the wording of the agenda item relating to Budget Scrutiny has been updated to 'Budget Scrutiny Task Group Findings' on the work programme.
- 3.6 The updated work programme also contains amendments to the job title of Lorna Hughes, now the Council's Director of Communities.

4.0 Financial Implications

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

5.0 Legal Implications

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

6.0 Equality Implications

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

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 Ward members are regularly informed about the Committee's work plan in the Chair's report to Full Council. There is ongoing consultation with other relevant stakeholders.

Report sign off:

Lorna Hughes

Director of Engagement, Strategy &
Communications

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Appendix A

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2022-2023

19 July 2022

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

6 September 2022

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

8 November 2022

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Corporate Directors/Operational Directors	External Organisations
An update on Brent Council grants programmes	Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Culture	Lorna Hughes, Director of Communities	
Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2021/22	Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection	Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive	Metropolitan Police
Police Engagement in Brent	Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection	Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive	Metropolitan Police
Draft Borough Plan 2023-27	Cllr Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council	Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive	

13 December 2022

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

24 January 2023


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

22 February 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive/Corporate Directors	External Organisations
Multi-Agency Flood Planning	Cllr Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action	tbc	Thames Water Environment Agency
Migration Scheme	tbc	tbc	tbc
Annual Complaints and Members' Inquiries Report	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	tbc	

25 April 2023

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

	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 8 November 2022
	Report from the Director of Engagement, Strategy & Communications
Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
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 A- Recommendations Scrutiny Tracker
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Jason Sigba, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy and Partnerships Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk Tom Pickup, Policy Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Partnerships Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk Lorna Hughes, Director of Engagement, Strategy & Communications Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

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

2.0 Recommendation

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

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Recommendations Tracker tabled at the 8 November meeting relates to the forthcoming 2022 – 2023 municipal year. It contains one update from the previous municipal year from the 9 February 2022 meeting on the item relating to flooding.
- 3.2 In accordance with Part 4 of the Brent Council Constitution (Standing Orders of Committees), Brent Council scrutiny committees may make recommendations to the Full Council or the Cabinet with respect to any functions which are the responsibility of the Executive, or of any functions which are not the responsibility of the Executive, or on matters which affect the borough or its inhabitants.
- 3.3 The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee may not make executive decisions. Scrutiny recommendations therefore require consideration and decision by the appropriate decision maker; the Cabinet or Full Council for policy and budgetary decisions.
- 3.4 The Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker (attached in Appendix A) provides a summary of scrutiny recommendations made during the municipal year, in order to track executive decisions and any implementation progress. It also includes suggestions of improvement and information requests, as captured in the minutes of the committee meetings.
- 3.5 Recommendations are removed from the tracker when they have been rejected or when implemented successfully and the review date has passed. This is the same for suggestions of improvement and information requests.

4.0 Procedure for Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees

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

implementation of the Executive's decisions after such a period as these may reasonably be implemented (review date).

5.0 Financial Implications

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

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 Section 9F, Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000, *Overview and scrutiny committees: functions*, requires that Executive arrangements by a local authority must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committees have the power to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are or are not the responsibility of the executive, or on matters which affect the Authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.

6.2 Section 9FE, *Duty of authority or executive to respond to overview and scrutiny committee*, requires that the authority or executive;-
(a) consider the report or recommendations,
(b) respond to the overview and scrutiny committee indicating what (if any) action the authority, or the executive, proposes to take,
(c) if the overview and scrutiny committee has published the report or recommendations, publish the response, within two months beginning with the date on which the authority or executive received the report or recommendations.

7.0 Equality Implications

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

8.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

8.1 None for the purposes of this report.

Report sign off:

Lorna Hughes

Director of Engagement, Strategy &
Coimunications

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Appendix A

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (RPRSC) Scrutiny Tracker 2022-23

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

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

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

Key:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recorded Recommendations to Cabinet from RPRSC

Subject	Scrutiny Recommendation	Decision Maker & Executive Response	Cabinet Member, Lead Officer, and Department	Implementation Status	Review date
6 Sept 2022 - Cost of Living crisis	Lobby central government for increase to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates to help alleviate the burden of the cost of living crisis on residents	To follow.	Cllr Ellie Southwood, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services	To follow.	6 Jan 2023
	Use Council's role and relationship with the NHS to lobby for more support for our residents to strengthen our efforts in helping them through the cost of living crisis.	To follow.	Cllr Neil Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care Phil Porter, Corporate Director, ASC & Health	To follow.	2 Dec 2022

Recorded suggestions for improvement from RPRSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Suggestions for improvement	Council Department/External Partner	Responses / Status
19 July 2022 - Wembley Events Management	Review the abuse/use of parking permits on event days at Wembley Park.	Sandor Fazekas, Resident Services	<p>We are aware of the fraudulent use of event day parking permits, particularly in area in the close vicinity of Wembley Stadium. Officers have been working to tackle the issue and there have been operations over the summer to take action against permits abuse. The following provides details of the action we are taking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to work closely with partners including; Wembley Stadium LTD, the Football Association, Quintain Estates and Development and the Metropolitan Police Service on event planning. The Parking Client team in Healthy Streets and Parking develop detailed plans for parking enforcement for Wembley Stadium events, focussing on

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

			<p>Furthermore we advertise widely NHS online support and promote the Samaritans:</p> <p>https://www.brent.gov.uk/costofliving</p> <p>https://www.brent.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing</p>
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Information requests from RPRSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Information requests	Council Department/External Partner	Responses / Status
9 February 2022 – Flooding	To receive a copy of the independent review into the events of and response to the floods experienced across London in July when published and Thames Water's response to the review	Thames Water	<p>Information has been requested and will be provided later in the calendar year. Ahead of the publication of the full report a series of interim reports will be published covering aspects of the flooding and the first one is due imminently. More details about the review can be found here.</p> <p>Stage 1 report can be found here: https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-1-report/</p> <p>Stage 2 report can be found here: https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-2-report/</p> <p>Stage 3 report can be found here: https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-3-report/</p>
6 Sept 2022 – Cost of Living Crisis	Provide breakdown of different sources of funding for the Cost of Living initiatives (i.e. funding received from central government, including any new monies, as well as the funding coming from the Council's own income).	Ravinder Jassar, Finance & Resources	<p><u>Grant Funding from the Central Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household Support Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ COVID Winter Support Fund and COVID Local Support Fund, which commenced in December 2020. c. £5.5m has been distributed between Dec 20 and Mar 22 ✓ 2022/23 £2.7m grant to support Residents' going through financial difficulties (from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022)

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

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

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