

London Borough of Brent
Summary of decisions taken by the Cabinet held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre at 10am on
Monday 17 July 2023

PRESENT: Councillors M.Butt (Chair) and Councillors Donnelly-Jackson, Farah, Grahl, Knight, Nerva, Krupa Sheth and Tatler.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Chohan and Georgiou.

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence		Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mili Patel (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform).
2.	Declarations of Interest		No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting		Cabinet RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 19 June 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
4.	Matters Arising (if any)		None.
5.	Petitions (if any)		There were no petitions submitted for consideration at the meeting.
6.	Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)		There were no references from the Community & Wellbeing or Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committees submitted for consideration at the meeting.
7.	Financial Outturn Report 2022 - 23	All Wards	Cabinet RESOLVED to note the overall financial outturn position for 2022/23, as detailed in the report.
8.	Medium Term Financial Outlook	All Wards	Cabinet RESOLVED

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 17 July 2023 (continued)

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To note the contents of the report and the potential financial impact on the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy. (2) To agree the budget setting process for 2024/25, including the approach to consultation and scrutiny, as set out in section eight of the report. (3) To note and agree the proposed 2022/23 capital budget carry forwards and capital virements for 2023/24 as set out in section nine of the report. (4) To note the financial position with regards to the Housing Revenue Account, as set out in section ten of the report. (5) To note the financial position with regards to Schools and the Dedicated Schools Grant, as set out in section eleven of the report.
9.	Financial Forecast Report Quarter 1 2023/24	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To note the new grant funding received in year, the overall financial position and the actions being taken to manage the issues arising as detailed within the report. (2) To note the savings delivery tracker as detailed in Appendix A of the report.

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 17 July 2023 (continued)

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			<p>(3) To approve the virements as set out in section 3.7.7 of the report.</p> <p>(4) To note that for the 2023/24 Q1 monitoring period the Council had complied with its Prudential Indicators which had been approved by Full Council as part of the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Capital Strategy Statement, as set out in Appendix B of the report.</p>
10.	Brent Local Implementation Plan (LIP) Two-Year Delivery Plan: 2023/24 - 2024/25	All Wards	<p>Cabinet NOTED the following comments made by Councillor Georgiou who had requested to speak at the meeting on the report. In addressing Cabinet, Councillor Georgiou highlighted what he felt was the need for a full review of the achievements delivered through the previous programme of works and expressed concern that a decision on the 2023-2025 delivery plan was being considered in advance of any such process having been undertaken.</p> <p>Having noted the comments received Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To note the LIP funding position for the two-year period 2023/24 – 2024/25, as detailed within the report.</p> <p>(2) To approve the LIP Two-Year Delivery Plan for 2023/24 – 2024/25 and programme delivery arrangements as detailed within the report, and:</p> <p>(a) To give approval to the Head of Healthy Streets & Parking to</p>

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			<p>deliver the programme of schemes and initiatives using the allocated budgets and resources available.</p> <p>(b) To authorise the Head of Healthy Streets & Parking to undertake any necessary statutory and non-statutory consultations in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, and to consider any objections or representations regarding the proposed schemes.</p> <p>(c) To delegate authority to the Head of Healthy Streets & Parking in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, as appropriate, to make the decision on whether to deliver the proposed schemes following consideration of the objections and representations in the consultation process. If, in the opinion of the Head of Healthy Streets & Parking that significant objections are raised, he be authorised to refer such objections to Cabinet for further consideration and make a decision on whether to deliver the proposed schemes.</p> <p>(d) To authorise the Head of Healthy Streets & Parking, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, to vire scheme allocations where necessary (e.g. pending the outcome of detailed design and consultation) within the overall LIP budget, and in accordance with the Council’s financial regulations.</p>

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Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			(e) To authorise the Head of Healthy Streets & Parking to deliver schemes that receive any additional in-year grant funding as approved by Transport for London, or another funding body, subject to the outcome of consultation, and to brief the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, as appropriate.
11.	Brent / Harrow Inter Authority Agreement for the Special Needs Transport Shared Service	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To note the contents of the report in relation to the Brent / Harrow Inter-Authority Agreement for the provision of a Special Needs Transport shared service.</p> <p>(2) To note that entry into the Brent/Harrow Inter Authority Agreement was required to ensure continuity of service and a means for delivery of the transport operation whilst a wider transformation of the overall service was undertaken.</p> <p>(3) To approve Brent Council entering a shared service arrangement with the London Borough of Harrow for the provision of special needs transport as set out in paragraph 3.1.7 of the report, effective from 1st August 2023 for a period of three years with an option to extend by a further period or periods of up to three years.</p>
12.	Selective Licensing in the Private	Alperton;	Cabinet RESOLVED

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	Rented Sector in Brent 2023 - Phase 2	Barnhill; Brondesbury Park; Cricklewood & Mapesbury; Kenton; Kilburn; Kingsbury; Northwick Park; Preston; Queens Park; Queensbury; Roundwood; Stonebridge; Sudbury; Tokyngton; Welsh Harp; Wembley Central; Wembley Hill	<p>(1) To note the outcome of the consultation process detailed in the Consultation Findings Report of February 2023 and the Report Appendices (as detailed in Appendix 1 & Appendices 1(A) of the report), the representations received and the Council's consideration thereof, and response to these representations (as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report).</p> <p>(2) To note the consultation evidence (as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report) relating to the problems being caused by poorly managed privately rented properties, and that the report has considered that selective licensing will assist the Council in achieving its wider objectives, as well as having considered the alternatives to licensing.</p> <p>(3) To note the content of the Equality Impact Assessment as set out in Appendix 9 of the report.</p> <p>(4) To note the legal implications as set out in paragraph 11 of the report, which detail the legislative requirements for selective licensing.</p> <p>(5) To note that after Cabinet approval, if confirmed by the Secretary of State (DLUHC), the scheme shall be publicised via an agreed communications plan, and in accordance with the regulations before the scheme comes into force.</p>

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			<p>(6) To agree that the evidence report (as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report) highlights that the legal requirements as set out in paragraphs 11.1 to 11.16 of the report for introducing Selective Licensing on the grounds of poor property conditions have been met regarding the proposed selective licensing designation.</p> <p>(7) To note that this designation falls within the description of designations which need confirmation by the Secretary of State under section 82 of the Housing Act 2004 and The Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2015 as both the size of the private rented stock and the geographical area of the designation cover more than 20% of their geographical area or would affect more than 20% of privately rented homes in the local authority area.</p> <p>(8) To agree, subject to (1) and (2) above, to authorise the designation of 18 wards for selective licensing to last for five years from the date of designations coming into force, and which cover the following Council wards as delineated and edged red on the map in Appendix 5 of the report:</p> <p>Designation 2/2023: A selective licensing scheme designation in the 18 wards of Alperton, Barnhill, Brondesbury Park, Cricklewood & Mapesbury, Kenton, Kilburn, Kingsbury,</p>

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			<p>Northwick Park, Preston, Queens Park, Queensbury, Roundwood, Stonebridge, Sudbury, Tokyngton, Welsh Harp, Wembley Central, and Wembley Hill under Part 3, s.80 Housing Act 2004 on the grounds of poor housing (property) conditions with effect from April 2024 (in accordance with the criteria set out in the Housing Act 2004 and Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (England) Order 2015 , or at a later date in accordance with the statutory time required for the scheme to come into force.</p> <p>(9) To agree that the selective scheme described in (8) above shall be cited as the London Borough of Brent Designation No 2/2023.</p> <p>(10) To agree the authority to issue the required statutory notification in relation to the Selective Licensing Scheme Designation 2/2023 be delegated to the Corporate Director of Residents Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness, and Renters' Security.</p> <p>(11) To agree that, subject to the issue of statutory notifications, the Corporate Director of Residents Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security be authorised to decide the date from which the council will begin to accept applications for selective licensing.</p>

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			<p>(12) To agree that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Residents Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security to agree the basis for, and level of any changes including discounts which may be applied to the licensing application fees.</p> <p>(13) To note the standard licensing conditions for licences granted in the proposed designation areas for selective licensing as set out in Appendix 8 of the report, which were approved by Cabinet on 17 April 2023, and to authorise the Corporate Director for Residents Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security, to make any minor variations to such licensing conditions.</p> <p>(14) To note that the Selective Licensing scheme will be kept under review at least annually and that any significant changes, including the withdrawal of a licensing designation or a proposal to introduce any new designation(s), will be subject to further decision by Cabinet.</p> <p>(15) To note the letters of support for the licensing proposals as attached in Appendices 10 a & b of the report.</p>
13.	Release of 23 shared ownership homes	Alperton	Cabinet NOTED the following comments made by Councillor Georgiou who had requested to speak at the meeting on the report.

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			<p>In addressing Cabinet, Councillor Georgiou began by advising that whilst the properties being considered were located within his ward (Alperton) it was felt the issues raised had borough-wide implications. On this basis, Councillor Georgiou advised he was seeking further clarification, following the response provided by Councillor Knight (as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security) to a question he had raised at the Full Council meeting on 10 July 2023, on the reference made to repurposing as opposed to disposal of the homes. In addition, details were sought on the original classification of the 23 homes and how this applied to their status and inclusion as part of the New Council Homes Programme, with Councillor Georgiou advising that in his view shared ownership did not represent an affordable housing model.</p> <p>In reiterating the need to understand the process in terms of delivery of the New Council Homes Programme, Councillor Georgiou advised he was also seeking confirmation that any release of the units to an alternative provider would be at London Living Rent and, should that not be the case, for further clarity to be provided on the new model of ownership which had been referred to in the report. Councillor Georgiou also felt there was a need to be clear on the length of lease being offered in relation to the release of the properties, the potential financial impact arising from the disposal and any requirement for Secretary of State approval. Concerns were also highlighted regarding the timescale for the decision and impact on the availability of the properties since October 2022 along with the cost of financing any associated debt during this period in</p>

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			<p>relation to the Housing Revenue Account. In concluding, Councillor Georgiou advised that as a result of the issues raised and what he felt was further uncertainty around the Council’s plans for the ongoing delivery of affordable housing across the borough, he was calling for an Independent Scrutiny Task Group to be established to undertake a further detailed review of the approach, chaired by a member of the Opposition Group.</p> <p>In responding to the comments raised, Councillor Butt (as Leader of the Council) advised that given the wide ranging nature of the issues raised he would arrange for a full response to be provided outside of the Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>Having noted the comments received and content of the report Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To authorises the proposed disposal of the 23 shared ownership homes at Block D, Grand Union (the Property) in accordance with the Council’s Constitution. (2) To recognise that in order to proceed with the proposed disposal of the Property reliance may be placed on the Secretary of State’s general housing consent. (3) To recognise that Heads of Terms will need to be agreed with relevant third parties in respect of the proposed disposal of the Property and authorise officers to negotiate and agree

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			<p>such Heads of Terms as may be necessary with the relevant thirds parties in relation to the same (which may include agreeing terms in respect of any variation which may need to be negotiated and agreed with regard to existing deeds).</p> <p>(4) To support the recommendation to proceed with the preferred option, offer 3 (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report containing exempt information).</p>
14.	Uncollectible Debt Write-Offs: 1 September 2022 to 31 March 2023	All Wards	Cabinet RESOLVED to note the debt written off as detailed within the report.
15.	Exclusion of Press and Public		There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.
16.	Any other urgent business		None.