

London Borough of Brent
Summary of decisions taken by the Cabinet meeting held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre at 10am
on Monday 16 October 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Tatler (Vice-Chair in the Chair) and Councillors Farah, Grahl, Knight, Nerva, Donnelly-Jackson, Krupa Sheth.

ALSO PRESENT: Conneely & Georgiou.

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence		An apology for absence was received from Councillor Muhammed Butt with Councillor Tatler (as Deputy Leader) chairing the meeting.
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 11 September 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Eligible for Call-In: No
4.	Matters Arising (if any)		None.
5.	Petitions (if any)		Cabinet NOTED the comments made by David Roche, in support of a petition containing 143 signatures seeking the urgent replacement and repair of the pavements along Lancelot Road, Crescent and Avenue. In addressing Cabinet Mr Roche, whilst welcoming the opportunity to speak on behalf of local residents expressed disappointment that despite numerous requests there had been a lack of co-ordinated action to address the urgent issues affecting the damage and dangerous state of pavements along the roads identified.

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			<p>In highlighting the safety concerns and impact that the state of the pavements was having on local residents, particularly those who were disabled or elderly, Mr Roche also spoke to detail the personal impact on his family following a fall on the pavement experienced by an elderly family member which had discouraged them from visiting his home prior to them having sadly passed away.</p> <p>Referring to recent increases in Council Tax, Mr Roche advised that the local residents who had signed the petition felt these were unjustified given the poor state of the street and the reduction in local services. Furthermore, it was felt that the cost incurred in repaving the nearby Wembley High Road had been unjustified given its ongoing poor state of cleanliness and the worsening condition of other nearby residential streets. In highlighting the works to repave and enhance other residential streets elsewhere across the borough Mr Roche reiterated the neglect felt by the residents of Lancelot Road and outlined the safety, financial and social benefits associated with the works being requested. This was particularly in relation to the impact which it was felt clean and well maintained streets provided in terms of reducing anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping and in terms of reducing the financial costs and environmental impact associated with a more reactive programme of repairs.</p> <p>Given the close proximity of Lancelot Road to Wembley High Road and Wembley Stadium, Mr Roche also emphasised what he felt to be the associated financial benefit use of the road provided in terms</p>

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			<p>of parking and access to local businesses on the High Road and in assisting to reduce congestion as an alternative route around Wembley Central and Wembley Park on event days. In contrasting the treatment of Lancelot Road to nearby Harrowdene Road, Mr Roche stated that residents and visitors had commented on the difference between the state of the footways in both streets and across the area as a whole.</p> <p>In addition to the poor state of the pavement on Lancelot Road, Mr Roche highlighted the safety issues that the double yellow lines at the junction with the High Road were also causing. In referring to a fatal accident that had occurred at the junction, Mr Roche called for the double yellow lines to be replaced with red lines.</p> <p>In concluding, Mr Roche advised that the petition was calling on the Council to commit to repaving Lancelot Road during the 2023-2026 Highways Programme and if not possible to approve at this stage, for an urgent site visit to be arranged to review the state of the pavement and consider how best residents concerns and feelings of neglect could be addressed.</p> <p>In responding, Councillor Krupa Sheth (as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action) began by thanking Mr Roche for attending the meeting in order to present the petition. In highlighting the ongoing challenge in being able to balance the number of footways and carriageways around the borough that would benefit from maintenance to improve their condition and</p>

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			<p>visual appearance against the limited level of resources available, Councillor Sheth felt it was important to recognise how this impacted on the need to ensure works were prioritised through both a planned and reactive maintenance programme.</p> <p>In terms of planned maintenance, this process was based around an asset management approach using annual condition surveys, inspection programmes and other data to produce the annual Highway and Footway Maintenance Programmes with it noted that the current footway reconstruction programme was currently in the process of being finalised to take account of local ward priorities. Local residents in support of the petition were therefore urged to contact their local ward councillor(s) in order to ensure Lancelot Road, Avenue and Crescent were included for consideration as part of the ongoing prioritisation process. In terms of more reactive maintenance, these works were initiated via scheduled highways safety inspections or as a result of a reports of a particular problem assessed against specific criteria, with work undertaken (over the previous 12 months) to repair 24 investigation level defects identified or reported along Lancelot Road and the other streets which were the subject of the petition. The programme of reactive maintenance would continue as issues were identified. In the meantime, local residents were encouraged to continue engaging with their local ward councillor(s) with Councillor Sheth advising she would also be willing to arrange a site visit, should that be required by local residents to discuss their ongoing concerns.</p>

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			<p>In addressing the issue of red line waiting restrictions Councillor Sheth ended her response by highlighting that these restrictions were the responsibility of Transport for London and not therefore a matter the Council would be able to address.</p> <p>Eligible for Call-In: No</p>
6.	Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)		There were no items referred from the Community & Wellbeing or Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committees.
7.	Highways Capital Maintenance Programme 2023-24	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve the 2023/24 Planned Carriageway Maintenance Programme as set out in Appendix B of the report.</p> <p>(2) To note the budgets allocated for asset condition surveys and analysis, improvements to highway structures & drainage, improvements to the public realm and renewal of road markings.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 23 October 23</p>
8.	Quarter 2 Financial Report 2023/24	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To note the overall financial position and the actions being taken to manage the issues arising.</p>

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			<p>(2) To note the savings delivery tracker in Appendix A of the report.</p> <p>(3) To note the Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix B of the report.</p> <p>(4) To approve the virements set out in section 3.9.10 of the report.</p> <p>(5) To agree for new loan facilities of up to £2.31m to be made available to First Wave Housing for the Refugee Housing Programme, as set out in section 4.5.2 of the report.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 23 October 23</p>
9.	Review of Adult Social Care Charging Policy	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To note the proposed changes to the Adult Social Care charging policy, as detailed within the report.</p> <p>(2) To approve the proposal to allow officers to consult on the policy changes outlined in the report.</p> <p>(3) To agree that a report is presented to Cabinet in January 2024</p>

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			<p>outlining the results of the consultation and confirming the changes to the charging policy that would be introduced from the start of 2024/25.</p> <p>(4) To approve that any changes to the policy would be implemented to start on 1st April 2024.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 23 October 23</p>
10.	School Place Planning Strategy 2024-2028	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve the new School Place Planning Strategy 2024-2028, as provided in Appendix 1 of the report.</p> <p>(2) To note the focus on planning for the sufficiency of places and the sustainability of schools, based on varying demand patterns impacting on school planning areas in Brent.</p> <p>(3) To note there continues to be increasing demand for places that meet the needs of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 and the planned strategies for addressing this need (including the SEN Capital Programme of £44m approved by Cabinet in January 2022 and the Post-16 Skills Resource Centre approved by Cabinet in May 2023).</p> <p>(4) To note the change of government funding arrangements for</p>

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			<p align="center">Early Years provision and the planned approach to implementation of the new entitlements.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 23 October 23</p>
11.	Review of Primary School Places in Primary Planning Area 4	Harlesden & Kensal Green; Stonebridge; Willesden Green	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To note that initial informal consultation will be undertaken with stakeholders that could lead to subsequent statutory consultation on a proposal to implement a phased closure of the Gwenneth Rickus site of Leopold Primary School. If a phased closure were to proceed, Leopold Primary School would continue to operate from its main site on Hawkshead Road. Ceasing provision on the Gwenneth Rickus site would involve a variation of the PAN for Leopold Primary School from 120 to 60 places for admissions in 2025 and no further admissions to the Leopold Gwenneth Rickus site from September 2025. There would be a phased closure of the Gwenneth Rickus site. The timing of the full closure of the site would be determined during consultation.</p> <p>(2) To note that a reduction in the PAN of Mitchell Brook Primary School from 90 to 60 from September 2025, would be recommended for formal consultation in a report at the November Cabinet meeting on the Admission Arrangements for 2025/26.</p>

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			<p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 23 October 23</p>
12.	Complaints Annual Report 2022-23	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To note Brent’s performance in managing and resolving complaints.</p> <p>(2) To note and endorse Brent’s self-assessment against the Housing Ombudsman’s Complaint Handling Code and Damp and Mould Spotlight Report.</p> <p>(3) To approve the report progressing to the relevant Scrutiny Committees for consideration.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 23 October 23</p>
13.	Exclusion of Press and Public		There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.
14.	Any other urgent business		None.