

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

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

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence		None received.
2.	Declarations of Interest		<p>The following personal interests were declared in respect of Agenda Item 7 – Draft Budget 2024/25 and 2025/26 (with regard to the budget saving proposals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Nerva – as one of the Council’s appointed representatives on the North West London Integrated Care Partnership and Integrated Care Board. • Councillor Donnelly-Jackson – as Chair of the Brent Disability Forum <p>No other interests were declared at the meeting.</p>
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting		<p>Cabinet RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 16 October 2023 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.</p> <p>Eligible for Call-In: No</p>
4.	Matters Arising (if any)		None
5.	Petitions (if any)		There were no petitions submitted for presentation at the meeting.

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6.	Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)		There were no items referred from either the Community Wellbeing or Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committees.
7.	Draft Budget 2024/25 and 2025/26	All Wards	<p>Cabinet NOTED the following comments made by Rajas Falker, as a local resident, who had requested to speak at the meeting on the report. In addressing Cabinet, Mrs Falker advised she was attending the meeting in order to express concerns about the budget saving proposal identified for 2025-26 relating to the potential closure of the New Millennium Day Centre, given the impact it was felt this would have on service users and carers using the Centre. In outlining the detrimental impact it was felt the proposal would have on the health and wellbeing of existing service users and their carers, the opportunity was also taken to advise members of the much valued level of care and social interaction being provided for vulnerable adults through the Centre which it was felt had enabled them to thrive and flourish in a safe and supportive environment. Referring to the closure of other surrounding day care centres, Mrs Falker felt it was also important to recognise the importance locally of the service being provided by the New Millennium Day Centre. Whilst aware of the financial pressures faced by the Council, Mrs Falker ended by urging members to reconsider the saving proposal and to keep the New Millennium Day Centre open to ensure those vulnerable adults and their carers who relied on the service being provided were not adversely impacted and could continue to benefit from the support available through the Centre.</p> <p>In response, Councillor Nerva (as Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care) whilst recognising the concerns highlighted felt</p>

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			<p>it important to begin by outlining the challenging context in which the budget proposals presented for consideration had needed to be developed. This had included the impact arising from austerity and the cumulative funding cuts which had been imposed on local authorities by the current Conservative Government along with their failure to deliver reform of the social care system. These challenges had been compounded, particularly in relation to adult social care providers across all sectors, by the wider economic and inflationary cost pressures currently being experienced alongside an increase in demand for services. Faced with the pressures identified the Council had needed to consider ways in which Adult Social Care services could continue to be delivered as effectively and sustainably as possible working in partnership across a range of sectors whilst also seeking to support and maximise, as part of a wider transformation process, the independence of service users.</p> <p>In terms of the specific proposal identified, Mrs Falker and Cabinet were assured that the decision due to be taken at this stage was to commence a wider community and service user consultation and engagement process on the budget proposals identified. As part of the consultation process outlined, Councillor Nerva and Councillor Tatler (as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform) confirmed that this would include users of the New Millennium Day Centre and would involve a full assessment of options and alternative provision prior to any final decision being made on whether to proceed with the proposal. In concluding, Councillor Nerva again assured local residents and care users of the</p>

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			<p>efforts that would be made to genuinely engage and seek views on the budget proposals without any form of predetermination but felt it important to stress the difficult nature of decisions needing to be considered and that would need to be taken by the Council in seeking to balance the budget and ensure the sustainability of services which protected and supported the most vulnerable in the borough.</p> <p>Having noted the comments received, Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To note the overall financial position, as detailed within the report. (2) To agree to consult on the new budget proposals, as set out in Appendices A and B of the report. (3) To agree to consult on a Council Tax increase of 4.99% (consisting of a 2.99% general increase plus 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept) in 2024/25. (4) To endorse the approach to the statutory process of consultation, scrutiny and equalities between November 2023 and February 2024, as set out in section eleven of the report. (5) To endorse the changes to the technical budget assumptions underpinning the budget, as set out in section seven of the report.

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			<p>(6) To note the position with regard to the funding for Schools and the Dedicated Schools Grant, as set out in section twelve of the report.</p> <p>(7) To note the lack of certainty over the level of the rent increase for the Housing Revenue Account in 2024/25 since the government had yet to publish the new regulations. In the absence of guidance, the draft budget had assumed an increase of CPI+1% (7.7%), as set out in section thirteen of the report.</p> <p>(8) To note the position with regard to the Capital programme, as set out in section fourteen of the report</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Thursday 23 November 23</p>
8.	Sudbury Town Residents' Association Application for Neighbourhood Forum Status	Northwick Park; Sudbury; Wembley Central	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED, having considered the representations received following consultation on Sudbury Town Residents' Association's (STRA) application to be the Neighbourhood Forum for the Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Area, as set out in Appendix F of the report:</p> <p>(1) To confirm that the Council refused STRA's application to be the Neighbourhood Forum for the Sudbury Town</p>

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			<p align="center">Neighbourhood Area as set out in the refusal statement in Appendix G of the report.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Thursday 23 November 23</p>
9.	Statement of Gambling Principles 2024-2027	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to note and approve (without any amendment) the draft revised Statement of Gambling Principles (31 January 2022 – 31 January 2025) at set out within Appendix 1 of the report, for recommendation to Full Council on 20 November 2023 in order to confirm its formal adoption and fulfill the necessary legal requirements.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: No (Recommendation to Full Council)</p>
10.	Consultation on Brent Council's School Admission Arrangements for Community Primary Schools in 2025/26		<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to approve consultation being undertaken on the following amendments to existing admission arrangements (having noted that the proposals were not inter-dependent and could be agreed individually):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The reduction of the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Mitchell Brook Primary School from 90 to 60. (2) The reduction of the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Fryent Primary School from 120 to 90.

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			<p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Thursday 23 November 23</p>
11.	Exclusion of Press and Public		There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.
12.	Any other urgent business		<p>There were no items of urgent business.</p> <p>In closing the meeting Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of Council) took the opportunity to formally thank Zahur Khan for his support to the Cabinet and in the delivery of services to residents across the borough during his time at Brent. Noting this would be his final Cabinet meeting in advance of leaving the Council to return to a new role at Lewisham, Members took the opportunity to wish him well.</p>