

London Borough of Brent
Summary of the Decisions taken by the Cabinet held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 11
December 2023 at 10am

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Georgiou.

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence		No apologies for absence were received at the meeting. In welcoming everyone to the meeting, Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) took the opportunity to formally welcome Alice Lester as newly appointed interim Corporate Director of Communities & Regeneration.
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 Thursday 16 November 2023 be approved as a correct record of the meeting. Eligible for Call-In: No
4.	Matters Arising (if any)		None
5.	Petitions (if any)		5.1 Planting of Additional Trees Along Bathurst Gardens Cabinet NOTED the comments made by Naeema Hasan in support of a petition containing 58 signatures from local residents seeking the planting of additional trees along Bathurst Gardens. In

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>addressing Cabinet, Naeema Hasan outlined what were felt to be the significant benefits provided for those living amongst trees, which included improved air quality, improved energy conservation and most importantly improving the mental health and wellbeing of local residents.</p> <p>In emphasising the disparity of tree coverage between Bathurst Gardens and neighbouring streets Naeema Hasan advised that, whilst being one of the longest street in the local area, Bathurst Gardens was an outlier in terms of the number of trees containing only 12. This number compared to the 48 trees on Clifford Gardens, 43 on Leigh Gardens, 37 on Buchanan Gardens, 51 on Palermo Road and 17 on College Road (between Mortimer Road and Purves Road). As an additional contribution in support of the comments raised, a further local resident (Arun Kumar) also spoke to highlight the number of mature trees which had been lost over the years without being replaced as a further contributory factor with the petitioners, as a result, calling on the Council to consider the planting of more trees along Bathurst Gardens.</p> <p>In responding, Councillor Krupa Sheth (as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action) began by thanking Naeema Hasan for attending the meeting in order to present the petition on behalf of local residents. In highlighting the challenging nature of the financial position faced by the Council she advised that whilst unable to commit any core budget for the provision of new trees she would be willing, in response to the petition, to facilitate a</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>meeting between local residents, ward councillors and the Council’s Principal Landscape Architect in order to explore the options available. This was in view of the need, given the resource pressures identified, for tree planting projects of the type being sought to be supported through external funding with the officer identified having already indicated he would be willing to meet with residents from Bathurst Gardens in order to consider the potential options available to seek funding for such a scheme. In concluding her response, Councillor Krupa Sheth reiterated her willingness to facilitate such a meeting in order to explore all available options.</p> <p>5.2 Special Educational Needs and Disability School Transport</p> <p>Cabinet NOTED the comments made by Zaynab Alfadhi in support of a petition containing 123 signatures regarding the arrangements for the provision of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) school transport within Brent. In addressing Cabinet, Zaynab Alfadhi began by explaining that she was a resident of Brent and the parent of a child with special educational needs attending a special school in Brent and in presenting the petition was also representing the families of other children with SEND from across the borough in order to raise concerns, which had been ongoing for a number of years, regarding the provision of SEND transport given the service was not felt to be meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND or their families.</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>In highlighting the reliance of both her and many other families on the service it was felt that the Council needed to take action in order to address the level of concern being raised, especially in relation to the impact of extended journey times, recognising the Council's duty of care and need to safeguard the wellbeing of the children currently impacted by the quality of service. In providing specific examples about the type of issues being experienced and distress being caused as a result of the current standard of service and length of journey times, concerns were also raised about the lack of special educational needs provision in the borough and extended journey times for those having to travel outside of Brent to access suitable specialist educational provision, which meant they were often outside of the recommended travel time for primary and secondary school aged children. It was pointed out that these issues had been compounded by the increased number of children included on each route as well as other external factors such as traffic delays and roadworks.</p> <p>In outlining further concerns regarding the increase in journey times being experienced by many service users, Zaynab Alfadhi also highlighted the impact from an educational and family perspective not only in terms of time being lost at school and at home, but also as a result of the associated behavioural impact on the children and young people created by the anxiety and stress due to the lack of routine and stability. In concluding, members were therefore urged to review the current level of SEND transport service provision, in light of the concerns and issues highlighted, in order to ensure that</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>sufficient and better managed routes were provided with additional transport and less children on each route that would not only assist to reduce journey times but also better reflect the level of service required by vulnerable children and young people with SEND and their families.</p> <p>In responding, Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action) thanked Zaynab Alfadhi for attending the meeting in order to highlight the issues raised and began by outlining how seriously the Council took its responsibility in safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. In highlighting the process undertaken to plan each route, which involved the use of specialist software as well as local knowledge, Councillor Krupa Sheth outlined how these measures were designed to ensure sufficient capacity that not only met the needs of the children using the service but also the necessary obligations in relation to journey times within the constraints of the resources available.</p> <p>In highlighting the range of external factors outside the direct influence of the service that also needed to be taken into account in terms of journey times, such as traffic congestion and delays in children being ready to board a vehicle on time, the number of pick-ups on any specific route was also recognised as a factor influencing total journey times with the planning and implementation of routes being monitored to ensure that, where identified as</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>necessary, adjustments could be made taking account of the need to ensure the most efficient use of resources. Whilst often a difficult balance to achieve, Councillor Krupa Sheth ended by seeking to reassure the petitioners of the Council’s commitment to continue monitoring provision of SEND school transport in order to ensure the delivery of a good quality service and journey times were kept to a minimum as a key priority for those relying on the service.</p> <p>In commenting further, Councillor Grahl (as Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools) also recognised the wider concerns raised regarding the provision of SEND places within Brent, highlighting the investment which had been provided as a result by the Council to provide over 400 new SEND school places in the borough. Whilst recognising that this would not necessarily improve the situation for all families who had supported the petition, Councillor Grahl felt that this would be an important measure to assist in extending the support available for children with SEND in accessing more local provision with both her and Councillor Krupa Sheth advising they would also be willing to meet with the petitioners separately in order to discuss any further concerns or support required.</p> <p>In concluding consideration of the petition, Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) advised that Cabinet had recognised the importance of the issues and concerns raised which would continue to be kept under review in order to identify any further actions or improvements that could be made as part of the Council’s</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			commitment to the welfare of every child in Brent. Eligible for Call-In: No
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.	Affordable Housing Supply update 2023	All Wards	Cabinet RESOLVED: (1) To agree to award the Main works contract to Wates for the delivery of Church End including 99 homes and a new market square for the value set out in Recommendation 1 of Appendix 1 of the report (which contained exempt information). (2) To note the challenges set out regarding the delivery of Morland Gardens in paragraph 5.3 – 5.10 of the report and agree for officers to develop an alternative site strategy for future consideration by Cabinet. (3) To approve, that if necessary, the Council consult on ending the South Kilburn Promise (Landlord Offer) for new temporary accommodation households and the use of voids properties identified on the South Kilburn regeneration area for temporary accommodation, noting the legal considerations around consultation set out in Section 8 of the report. (4) To note the updated programme budget for the New Council Homes Programme of £495.5m and approve the use of usable

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>Capital reserves to fund this.</p> <p>(5) To agree to wave the delegated authority limits to enable the Corporate Director of Resident Services in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources to agree the terms of the lease and thereafter enter into and complete on a 5-year leasing arrangement with the developer for the new build scheme at Manor Park Road, Harlesden NW10 4JJ for use as emergency and settled temporary accommodation, as set out in Section 6 of the report and where necessary make any further amendments as and when required.</p> <p>(6) To approve an acquisitions budget of £52.7m to address the acute housing and temporary accommodation needs and challenges. This is in addition to any acquisitions already approved by Cabinet.</p> <p>(7) To agree for a new delegation to the Corporate Director of Resident Services in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, to acquire 133 homes from the open market (including both freehold and leasehold acquisitions) such delegation to include negotiating and approving the terms of any freehold or leasehold acquisitions and thereafter entering into the relevant transactional documents to address the acute housing and temporary accommodation needs in line with approach set out in Section 11 and Appendix 1 (containing exempt information) of the</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>report, which is in addition to those acquisitions already approved by Cabinet.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 18 December 23</p>
8.	Air Quality Action Plan Adoption	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To note the Air Quality Action Plan (2023-2027) actions.</p> <p>(2) To agree the Action Plan can be published as final (as detailed within Appendix A of the report).</p> <p>(3) To approve the Air Quality Management Area Order (as detailed within Appendix E of the report).</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 18 December 23</p>
9.	Corporate Performance Q1 and Q2 2023/24 Performance Report	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To note the Borough Plan 2023/24 performance reporting for Q1-Q2 as set out in section 3.2 and Appendix A of the report.</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>(2) To note the current and future strategic risks associated with the information provided and agree the remedial actions on strategic risks identified as appropriate alongside the challenge on progress being provided with responsible officers as necessary.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 18 December 23</p>
10.	Uncollectable Debt Write-off	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To note the debt written off as listed in Appendix 1 of the report.</p> <p>(2) To note a total write of £1,266,816.53 of debt for the period April 2023 to September 2023.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 18 December 23</p>
11.	Authority to Award Contracts for the Purchase of Gas and Electricity (October 2024 to September 2028)	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To approve entry into an Access Agreement with Kent County Council trading as LASER Energy to enable participation and</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p data-bbox="1193 400 2089 467">purchase of gas and electricity from their frameworks referenced in 1.1 and 1.2 of the report.</p> <p data-bbox="1122 512 2089 727">(2) To approve the award of call-off contracts for the period of four (4) years via the two previously mentioned frameworks to Total Energies and Npower for the supply of gas and electricity to the Council, including corporate buildings, streetlights, housing estates' communal areas and gas to a heat network, and Borough schools who contract for energy through the Council.</p> <p data-bbox="1122 772 2089 911">(3) To approve the utilisation of a Purchase In Advance (PIA) energy buying strategy to be undertaken by LASER Energy on behalf of the Council and other contracting authorities who purchase energy through the frameworks.</p> <p data-bbox="1122 956 2089 1059">(4) To approve the utilisation where applicable of a 'Fully Managed service (FM)' from LASER Energy as opposed to a 'Procurement Only Service Option (POSO)'.</p> <p data-bbox="1122 1104 2089 1390">(5) To note that, as a key part of the Council's commitment to net zero by 2030, the key objective to procure green energy had been addressed in section 8 of the report, via a 'Green Tariff' (REGOs), the 'Green Basket' energy option, and/or a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), all of which were available via the LASER contract. All three options would be assessed based on the provision of 'additionality' i.e. additional renewal power generation and a viable business case.</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>(6) To note Brent’s ongoing engagement with the “Renewable Power 4 London Action Plan” work stream, which aimed to procure public sector energy for London Public Sector Bodies that was 100% renewable, through collaboration, with the ultimate aim of having a Power Purchase Agreement in place that Boroughs could procure renewable energy from, with the expectation that this option may become available during this next contracting period.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 18 December 23</p>
12.	Appointment of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd Chair	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To agree that Andrew Hudson is appointed to the position of Chair for i4B and FWH for a term of three years.</p> <p>(2) To thank Martin Smith for the contribution made as Chair of both i4B and FWH, noting his intention to stand down as of 31 December 2023.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 18 December 23</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 11 December 2023 (continued)

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
13.	Brent Infrastructure Funding Statement 2022/23	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to approve publication online of the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2022/23, set out in Appendix A of the report.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 18 December 23</p>
14.	Exclusion of Press and Public		There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.
15.	Any other urgent business		There were no items of urgent business.