

London Borough of Brent
Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 15
January 2024 at 10am

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Hirani and Maurice

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence		Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shama Tatler (Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform and Regeneration, Planning & Growth) and Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action).
2.	Declarations of Interest		No declarations of interest were made during the meeting.
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting		Cabinet RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 11 December 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)		Implementation and Operation of the Blue Bag Recycling Scheme for paper and cardboard Cabinet NOTED the comments made by Sheila Darr (as a local resident) in support of a petition containing 3,422 signatures regarding the practical implementation and operational concerns relating to the recently introduced blue bag recycling scheme across

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 15 January 2024 (continued)

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			<p>the borough. In addressing Cabinet, Sheila Darr began by calling for the scheme to be replaced as it was felt to represent an unworkable extension of the existing blue bin scheme. In seeking to highlight the views of those who had signed the petition, Cabinet was advised of the concerns raised relating to the design and quality of the blue recycling bags, which were felt to be inefficient and as a result discourage residents from recycling. Additionally, Cabinet was advised that many elderly residents had expressed concern regarding the potential consequences of putting unsuitable items in the blue bags and them not being collected as a result.</p> <p>In discussing potential GDPR and data protection implications of paper and cardboard containing personal details such as names and addresses being misplaced due to the unsecure nature of the bags, Sheila Darr also raised concern regarding the protection of residents’ personal information and queried how documents containing sensitive information could be suitably disposed of. Furthermore, in emphasising the need for resident support to improve recycling rates, a request was made for the planned review of the scheme to be brought forward and undertaken immediately in order for resident feedback to be taken into account, recognising the level of concern expressed and enabling further research on schemes that had been successful in securing support from local residents across other boroughs. As an example, the suggested use of split recycling bins with removable dividers or retention of the blue recycling bins for paper and card with the provision of smaller recycling bins for tin, plastic and glass were identified as possible</p>
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London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 15 January 2024 (continued)

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			<p>alternative solutions.</p> <p>To conclude, Sheila Darr felt it would be helpful to share examples of the type of comments being raised by other residents across the borough which had been posted on the Nextdoor App in relation to the blue bag scheme. These included concerns regarding stolen bags, the space available in the bags, difficulties for disabled residents and recycling bags not being collected or left and a lack of assisted support for those residents with specific needs who required assistance.</p> <p>In response, Councillor Muhammed Butt (responding as Leader of the Council on behalf of Councillor Krupa Sheth - Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action), firstly thanked Sheila Darr for attending Cabinet and all those residents who had signed the petition for taking the time to ensure their views were represented. In reiterating the Council’s commitment to tackling the climate emergency and work towards the achievement of net zero by 2030, Councillor Butt explained that the changes introduced as part of the blue bag scheme had been designed to increase recycling rates in order to bring the borough closer to its environmental and climate related goals.</p> <p>Regarding the specific issues raised as part of the presentation of the petition, the Leader reassured residents that the concerns relating to the design and quality of the recycling bags were being addressed with the supplier and confirmed that replacement bags</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 15 January 2024 (continued)

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			<p>were also available for those reported as damaged along with additional bags for residents requiring increased recycling capacity. In terms of contamination, the Leader advised that the concerns raised relating to the impact of adverse weather conditions on the paper and card being placed in the blue bags when left out for collection was also being monitored with the Council’s contractor so that any issues identified could be addressed.</p> <p>To demonstrate the positive impact that the blue bag scheme was having on recycling rates, Councillor Butt advised that since introduction of the scheme in October 2023 there had been a 264% increase in the recycling rate of paper and cardboard, with this enabling the Council to also explore opportunities to generate additional income through recycling to mitigate against the recent budget cuts and continued financial pressures being faced by the Council. Regarding the planned review of the scheme, the Leader advised that this had been scheduled to provide an opportunity to fully consider its impact utilising all available evidence in order to consider any changes that may be required as part of the transition process with it pointed out, in terms of research, that a number of other councils had or were also considering the introduction of similar types of recycling schemes in an attempt to increase their recycling rates.</p> <p>In concluding Councillor Butt, in once again highlighting the Council’s climate and environmental commitments, emphasised the importance of waste and recycling as a priority and whilst welcoming</p>

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			<p>the increased levels of recycling being achieved as a result of the scheme advised that he would be willing to continue discussions with local residents in relation to any ongoing concerns.</p> <p>Eligible for Call-In: No</p>
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.	Quarter 3 Financial Report 2023/24	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To note the overall financial position as detailed within the report and actions being taken to manage the issues arising.</p> <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 3.9.11 of the report.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 22 January 24</p>
8.	Treasury Management mid-year	All Wards	Cabinet RESOLVED

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 15 January 2024 (continued)

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	report 2023/24		<p>(1) To note the 2023-24 Mid-Year Treasury report and approve its referral on to Full Council.</p> <p>(2) To note that the Council had been fully compliant with the prudential indicators set as part of the annual strategy.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: No – referred to Full Council</p>
9.	Acquisition of a property in Wembley for the Brent Childrens Care Home Project	Barnhill	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To approve the acquisition of the property (address detailed in the exempt appendix of the report) in Wembley HA9 with vacant possession to meet the needs of young people as outlined in the Brent Residential Home Business Case approved by Cabinet in May 2023.</p> <p>(2) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Children and Young People, to agree the terms of the purchase and acquire the property subject to financial and legal due diligence, vacant possession and contract.</p> <p>(3) To note that the completion of the property needs to take place by the end of January 2024 in order to allow sufficient time to renovate the property within the timescales permitted in the grant agreement with the Department for Education (DfE).</p>

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			<p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 22 January 24</p>
10.	Northwick Park Public Mortuary Expansion Business Case	Northwick Park	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To note the need for additional mortuary capacity to meet the standards laid out in the Human Tissue Act 2004. (2) To support the proposals contained in Option 2 of the options appraisal at paragraph 3.4 of the report as the means of best meeting the requirement for additional mortuary capacity. (3) Subject to Barnet Council’s and Harrow Council’s capital contribution confirmation, approve the business case to carry out capital works to expand the public mortuary capacity for a cost of £2.63m. (4) Subject to Barnet Council’s and Harrow Council’s capital contribution confirmation, note Brent Council’s contribution towards the total project budget is £900,621. (5) Subject to Barnet Council’s and Harrow Council’s capital contribution confirmation, approve the use of Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy to fund Brent Council’s contribution as detailed in (4) above.

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			<p>(6) To approve the delegation of authority to the Corporate Director, Resident Services, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Finance and Resources to amend the project business case should either Barnet Council and/or Harrow Council not receive their respective approvals to contribute towards the cost of the project as set out in this report.</p> <p>(7) To approve the delegation of authority to enter into the new lease with the NHS to the Corporate Director, Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Resident Services and Lead Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action should the new lease exceed the Corporate Director’s current approval levels as set out in Part 3 of the Council’s Constitution, paragraph 11.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 22 January 24</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		There were no items of urgent business.