



# Brent

## SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday 10 July 2023 at 6.00 pm**

Conference Hall - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,  
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Please note that this meeting will be held as a physical meeting with all members of the Council required to attend in person.

To the Mayor and Councillors of the London Borough of Brent and to each and every one of them.

I hereby summon you to attend the MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of this Borough.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Wright'.

KIM WRIGHT  
Chief Executive

Dated: 30 June 2023 (republished on 5 July 2023 and 10 July 2023)

**For further information contact:** James Kinsella, Governance Manager  
Tel: 020 8937 2063; Email: james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk

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[Council meetings and decision making | Brent Council](#)

**Limited space will be available at the meeting for the press and public to attend or alternatively it will be possible to follow the meeting via the live webcast. The link to follow proceedings via the live webcast is available [here](#)**

## **Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:**

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest\*\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest (i.e. it affects a financial position or relates to determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission, or registration) then (unless an exception at 14(2) of the Members Code applies), after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

### **\*Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

### **\*\*Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:
  - To which you are appointed by the council;
  - which exercises functions of a public nature;
  - which is directed is to charitable purposes;
  - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).
- (b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward affected by the decision, the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who employs or has appointed any of these or in whom they have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000, or any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are a director
- any body of a type described in (a) above

# Agenda

## 1 Apologies for Absence

## 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 1 - 14

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 17 May 2023.

## 3 Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary or personal interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.

## 4 Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)

To receive any announcements from the Mayor.

## 5 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs (if any) 15 - 16

To agree any appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies in accordance with Standing Order 30(g).

## 6 Deputations (if any)

To hear any deputations requested by members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 32.

## 7 Questions from Members of the Public & Brent Youth Parliament

### 7.1 To receive questions submitted by the public to Cabinet Members, in accordance with Standing Order 33. 17 - 21

Members are asked to note that three public questions have been received, which have been attached along with their written response.

### 7.2 To receive questions submitted by the Brent Youth Parliament to Cabinet Members, in accordance with Standing Order 33(c). 22 - 26

Members are asked to note that three questions have been received, which have been attached along with their written response.

## **8 Petitions (if any)**

For Members to consider any petitions with more than 200 signatures on which a debate has been requested, in accordance with the Council's Petition Rules and Standing Order 66.

## **9 Reports from the Leader and Cabinet** 27 - 48

To receive a report from the Leader of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 31 providing an update on any key or significant issues arising from any matter within the responsibility of the Cabinet.

## **10 Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members** 49 - 58

For questions to be put to members of the Cabinet by Opposition and Non-Cabinet Members in accordance with Standing Order 35.

Four advance notice questions have been received under this item, which have been attached along with the written responses provided.

Members are asked to note that this session will also include an opportunity (within the time available) for other Non-Cabinet members and the Opposition to ask questions of Cabinet Members.

## **11 Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees**

To receive reports from the Chairs of the Council's Scrutiny Committees in accordance with Standing Order 36. The reports have been attached as follows:

11.1 Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 59 - 70

11.2 Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 71 - 80

Members are asked to note that this session will include an opportunity (within the time available) for Non-Cabinet Members to ask questions of relevant Scrutiny Chair's in relation to the remit of their Committees

## **12 Annual Report from the Chairs' of the Audit & Standards Advisory and Audit & Standards Committees** 81 - 86

To receive the first Annual Report jointly produced by the Chairs' of the Audit and Standards Committee and Audit and Standards Advisory Committee updating on the work of both Committees in accordance with

Standing Order 37.

### **13 Non-Cabinet Members' Debate**

87 - 90

To enable Non-Cabinet Members to raise an issue of relevance to Brent for debate on which notice has been provided in accordance with Standing Order 34 and to receive reports from Cabinet members, as required, on any issues previously raised.

Members are asked to note that the subject identified for debate at this meeting is as follows:

#### **Casey Review of the Metropolitan Police**

Please note: The motion submitted as the basis for this debate has been attached.

### **14 Changes to Terms of Reference (ToR) for the North West London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Appointment to Committee**

91 - 98

To receive a report from the Corporate Director of Governance seeking agreement for changes to the Terms of Reference of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee ("NWL JHOSC").

**Ward Affected:**  
All Wards

**Contact Officer:** Debra Norman, Corporate  
Director Governance  
Tel: 020 8937 1578  
[Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk)

### **15 Motions**

To debate the motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 41. 99 - 118

Members are asked to note:

- The motions submitted for debate along with subsequent amendments received have been attached.
- Where a motion concerns an executive function, nothing passed can be actioned until approved by the Executive or an officer with the relevant delegated power

Agenda republished to include the motions submitted for debate on 5 July 2023 and amendments submitted in respect of the Conservative and Liberal Democrats motions on 10 July 2023.

### **16 Urgent Business**

At the discretion of the Mayor to consider any urgent business, in accordance with Standing Order 37(r).



Please remember to switch your mobile phone to silent during the meeting.

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public. Alternatively, it will be possible to follow proceedings via the live webcast [here](#)



## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
held in the Grand Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 6.00 pm

### PRESENT:

**The Worshipful the Mayor**  
Councillor Orleen Hylton

**The Deputy Mayor**  
Councillor Tariq Dar MBE

### COUNCILLORS:

Aden	Afzal
Agha	Ahmadi Moghaddam
Ahmed	Akram
Bajwa	Begum
Benea	M Butt
S Butt	Chan
Chappell	Chohan
Choudry	Collymore
Conneely	Crabb
Dixon	Donnelly-Jackson
Ethapemi	Farah
Fraser	Gbajumo
Georgiou	Grahl
Hack	Hirani
Johnson	Kabir
Kansagra	Kelcher
Kennelly	Knight
Long	Lorber
Mahmood	Matin
Maurice	Miller
Mistry	Moeen
Molloy	Nerva
M Patel	Rajan-Seelan
Rubin	Ketan Sheth
Krupa Sheth	Smith
Tatler	

#### 1. **Welcoming Statement**

Prior to formally opening the meeting, the outgoing Mayor Councillor Aden took the opportunity to welcome all councillors and guests along with Kim Wright, as the

Council's newly appointed Chief Executive, to the Annual Council meeting. He then invited Kim Wright to provide a brief outline of the arrangements for the conduct of the meeting and Mayor Making ceremony. Having noted the outline provided, the Mayor then moved on to formally open the meeting.

## 2. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor advised that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors, Mitchell, Jayanti Patel, Shah and Southwood.

## 3. **To elect the Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2023 - 2024**

Prior to handing over to the Chief Executive for the conduct of the election process, Councillor Aden began by asking members for nominations to the office of Mayor of the London of Borough of Brent for the 2023 - 2024 Municipal Year.

Councillor Muhammed Butt proceeded to nominate Councillor Orleen Hylton. In moving the nomination, he also began by welcoming Kim Wright to her first Council meeting as newly appointed Chief Executive before taking the opportunity to thank Councillor Aden for his hard work and dedication whilst serving as Mayor. In recognising the important role undertaken by the Mayor in representing the borough the Leader advised how pleased he was to be able to nominate Councillor Hylton for this position given her commitment and dedication to representing local community groups and organisations and way this would assist her as Mayor in being able to provide strong civic leadership for the borough.

Councillor Mili Patel seconded Councillor Muhammed Butt's nomination of Councillor Hylton for the office of Mayor of the London of Borough of Brent for the 2023 - 2024 Municipal Year.

There were no other nominations and it was therefore **RESOLVED** that Councillor Orleen Hylton be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Brent for the 2023 - 2024 Municipal Year.

*Councillor Hylton then proceeded to sign the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor.*

## 4. **To appoint a Councillor of the Borough to be Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Hylton, as newly appointed Mayor, thanked members for her nomination and appointment as Mayor. She then announced the appointment of Councillor Tariq Dar to serve as Deputy Mayor for the 2023 - 2024 Municipal Year.

*At this stage in proceedings the Mayors Chain of Office and robes were exchanged between the outgoing and newly appointed Mayor.*

Councillor Hylton then formally returned thanks for the appointment and began by welcoming all guests and commenting on her pride and honour in being nominated as Mayor and thanking all members for their trust, confidence and faith in appointing her to take on the role as first citizen of the borough.



Highlighting the privilege and personal honour she felt in being appointed as Mayor, Councillor Hylton advised this reflected the fact she had been educated, lived and worked in the borough all her life. Starting her primary education at Pound Lane School in Willesden before moving on to attend Willesden High School (now Capital City Academy) Councillor Hylton advised she had also been employed by Brent (prior to being made redundant) from 1985 – 2007. It was during this time that she had begun volunteering with the local Resident Association, as well as taking up the role as Chair of a Police Working Group and serving on various other committees and groups, including Fareshare. Having been a local councillor since 2014, Councillor Hylton advised she was honoured to currently serve as a representative of Preston ward as well as to have served as Deputy Mayor during 2022-23 for which she thanked all her family and fellow councillors for their support.

Having advised how delighted she was to have been joined by so many guests, Councillor Hylton then moved on to express her gratitude to Councillor Aden for his success as Mayor and congratulated him on the hard work undertaken to support local communities across the borough and to continue promoting Brent so diligently at so many events and functions.

The Mayor then moved on to congratulate Councillor Dar on his appointment as Deputy Mayor and advised how much she was looking forward to working with him over the coming year in order to continue delivering positive outcomes for the borough.

Referring to teamwork, the Mayor outlined how she intended to continue working closely with fellow members, the new Chief Executive, Council Management Team and other officers in order to capitalise on their strengths and experience and in continuing the hard work of the outgoing and previous Mayors in seeking to achieve the best results for the borough.

Councillor Hylton then outlined her aims for her Mayoralty in terms of continuing to support the Council's vision and objectives. In this role she advised that she also intended to support the following two charities:

- PLIAS Resettlement – a community-based organisation providing support, advice and guidance to people with criminal convictions, and aiming to support offenders and ex-offenders to re-integrate back into society. The organisation also offered support to people who were at risk of offending, as well as victims of crime, and those who had experienced domestic violence.
- Preston Community Library – given the role (highlighted whilst chairing a Contextual Safeguarding Working Group) in libraries providing a safe space for young people and warm and welcoming place for other members of the local community in addition to the various free activities and information also provided.

Highlighting the important work undertaken by each of the charities in terms of supporting some of the most vulnerable and youngest members in society she hoped all members would support her with fund raising efforts during her year in office.

Reflecting on the level of diversity within communities across Brent, the Mayor ended by once again highlighting how proud she was to have been elected as

Brent's First Citizen and how she hoped it would be possible to use the office of Mayor to continue supporting the work being undertaken to unite communities and address the uncertain times and challenges being experienced by so many across the borough.

Taking the opportunity to specifically remember and pay tribute to her late mother (Lizette Maude Hylton) and brother (Wayne Anthony Henry Hylton) and thank her family and friends for their support over the coming year, Councillor Hylton ended by outlining her commitment during her time as Mayor to continue delivering for all communities within Brent.

## **5. Vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Mili Patel, as Deputy Leader, to propose a vote of thanks to all co-opted and other members serving on the Council's committees.

Councillor Mili Patel began by congratulating Councillor Hylton on her appointment as Mayor before moving on to take the opportunity to highlight the valued work of the Council's co-opted and independent committee members, given the core role they played as critical friends in the Council's democratic process. In passing on her thanks, she advised how their independence and objectivity were highly valued and seen as integral to the role of the bodies on which they served including Scrutiny, Audit & Standards and the various health and education bodies. Recognising the challenging nature of recent times in local government she ended by thanking all of the co-opted and Independent Members for their work in supporting the Council's democratic processes and drive towards continuous improvement.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to formally propose a vote of thanks for the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Aden. In doing so, the Leader began by congratulating the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their appointment and by highlighting the honour in serving as First Citizen of the Borough and in being able to advocate and serve as a champion for Brent. These were roles he felt Councillor Aden had worked hard to fulfil during what had continued to be such challenging times. Recognising his passion and commitment to the people of Brent and the range of charities he had supported, the Leader praised Councillor Aden for his continued efforts in seeking to raise their profile and for his valued contribution in being such a strong representative of the borough during his Mayoralty, which he advised had been appreciated by all members.

The Mayor then invited comments from other members in recognition of the role undertaken by the outgoing Mayor.

Councillor Kansagra, as Leader of the Conservative Group, in opening the tributes began by taking the opportunity to congratulate the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their appointment. He then moved on to thank Councillor Aden, as the outgoing Mayor, for the way he had conducted himself in his civic role as well as for the way he had chaired the Council meetings and wished him well on his return to ordinary ward councillor duties.

Councillor Mahmood also took the opportunity to welcome and congratulate the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their appointment before moving on to commend

Councillor Aden for the fairness, dedication, passion and commitment he had demonstrated in fulfilling the role during his time as Mayor.

Following on, Councillor Kelcher also spoke to pay tribute to Councillor Aden for the committed and diligent way in which he had undertaken the role and led the borough as Mayor during such unprecedented times recognising these had involved not only the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations but also her sad passing, official period of mourning and also the coronation of a new Monarch. As such he praised Councillor Aden for the way he had conducted himself and fulfilled his duties during such a challenging period of time.

Having concluded the tributes, the Mayor then invited Councillor Aden to return thanks and review his time in office.

Councillor Aden, in returning thanks, began by expressing his pride at having been elected as Mayor and being able to serve the people of Brent during the previous year. Reflecting on the honour in being able to serve the borough, particular thanks were extended to all members for their support along with Carolyn Downs, as former Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, Natalie Zara and Fatema Limbada within Executive and Member Services and Kim Gordan & Brian Kennedy in the Mayor's Office, which had been much valued. The opportunity was also taken to thank Councillors Ethapemi and Knight for their specific support as fellow Stonebridge ward councillors whilst his attention had been focussed on Mayoral duties over the past year.

Reflecting on his time in office, Councillor Aden highlighted the vast range of events he had been fortunate to attend which had involved him being able to meet so many inspiring, talented and generous local individuals, all of whom had made him proud to represent and live in Brent. In terms of his fundraising activities over the year, Councillor Aden reminded members of the three charities he had pledged to support and raise the profile of during his time in office. These had been the Jason Roberts Foundation, SUFRA and Hilltop Circle and he had been pleased to be able to highlight the important work and support each organisation provided to some of the most vulnerable people in the borough as part of his fundraising and profile raising activities. All members then joined Councillor Aden in a round of applause to recognise the work undertaken by each organisation.

Highlighting how much he had enjoyed his time as Mayor, Councillor Aden ended by taking the opportunity to thank all members, council staff, local community groups and residents for their support and to thank Councillor Hylton for her support as Deputy Mayor and to wish her and her family, along with Councillor Dar as her deputy, all the best for the coming year as Mayor.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Aden for his comments and highlighted how much she had enjoyed working with him during his time as Mayor. She ended by wishing him well for the future and then advised that as this now concluded the ceremonial part of the meeting she would move on to deal with the remainder of the agenda.

## **6. Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

(i) Death of Former Councillor Eddie Baker

The Mayor announced it was with much sadness she had to begin by informing members of the death of former Councillor Eddie Baker who had represented Northwick Park ward between 2006 – 2014.

On behalf of Brent Council, she expressed deepest sympathy to the family and friends of former Councillor Baker.

In addition, tributes were also paid to former Councillor Bob Lacey OBE following the announcement of his death by Councillor Kansagra, as Leader of the Conservative Group.

7. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared by Members at the meeting.

8. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 23 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

9. **Annual Review of Constitution**

The Mayor invited Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce the report from the Corporate Director of Governance. In presenting the report, Councillor Muhammed Butt advised this detailed a number of proposed changes to the Constitution as a result of its annual review including changes to provide further clarification in relation to the Terms of Reference for the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee. The other changes outlined included amendments to reflect the change in current allocation of portfolios on Cabinet, minor changes to the Procedural Rules (Part 2 of Constitution) and Responsibility for Functions (Part 3 of Constitution) and Local Code of Corporate Governance (Part 5 of Constitution).

Having introduced the report, the Mayor then invited Councillor Georgiou (as leader of the Liberal Democrats Group) to move an amendment to the report submitted prior to the meeting in relation to the structure of the Council's scrutiny function and the procedural rules that also applied to their operation.

Councillor Georgiou began by congratulating the Mayor on her appointment and in moving the amendment started by making reference to the findings within a House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee report on the "Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committees" produced during 2017 – 19. The report, he pointed out, had been clear on the need for scrutiny to be as visibly independent of the Executive as possible. In views of concerns regarding the need to safeguard the effectiveness, democratic accountability and independence of Brent's scrutiny function, Councillor Georgiou advised the Liberal Democrats had therefore proposed a number of changes set out as follows, which formed the basis of the amendment moved at the meeting:

- (1) Reports from Scrutiny Committees and their Task Groups along with the Executive response to them should be reported to Full Council, to allow wider debate and consideration.
- (2) Standing Order 49(iii) be amended to require that the Chairs of the existing Scrutiny Committees should be Opposition Group appointments (in order to emphasise the independence of scrutiny from the Executive) with Standing Order 4 (Part 1 Constitution) waived to enable the change to come into immediate effect during the meeting.

In order to avoid individual Scrutiny Committees becoming overloaded and allow more effective scrutiny in terms of the spread of work Councillor Georgiou advised that his amendment was also proposing:

- (3) The Council agree to establish a Scrutiny Committee structure that mirrored the Council's departmental structure to cover the work and responsibilities of all Corporate Directors, including the Chief Executive. In clarifying, Councillor Georgiou advised the proposal was therefore to establish an additional three Committees on top of the two already in existence, with a report to be presented to the next Full Council in order to formally establish the new structure.
- (4) That, subject to the new structure being established, the Chairs of the new scrutiny structure should be shared between all Groups on the Council with each Opposition Group being allocated the Chair on at least one of the Committees.

Having moved the amendment, the Mayor then opened the debate inviting other members to speak on the report and amendment moved by Councillor Georgiou, with the following contributions made.

Councillor Kansagra speaking in support of the proposed changes within the amendment, as Leader of the Conservative Group, highlighted the concerns his Group had also previously raised in relation to impact which removal of the vice-chair roles on scrutiny from the Opposition Groups had had in undermining the independence and democratic accountability of the scrutiny function. As a result, he felt the amendment moved in relation to the arrangements for securing more effective and democratic scrutiny was reasonable, and proportionate and would deliver improved scrutiny along with better outcomes for all. He therefore advised the Conservative Group would be supporting the amendment and more detailed consideration of the proposals through the Constitutional Working Group.

As no further members indicated they wished to speak the Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt to exercise his right of reply in relation to the report and amendment moved at the meeting.

In summing up and responding to the comments and amendment moved at the meeting, Councillor Muhammed Butt began by highlighting what he felt was a need to recognise the clear mandate provided for the current Labour Administration following the most recent local election, which he felt also covered member's participation in scrutiny and the wider democratic process. In commending the work of the existing Scrutiny Chairs and Committees, Councillor Muhammed Butt

was also keen to focus on the cost and resource implications involved in supporting an increased number of Scrutiny Committees, particularly given the current financial challenges and pressures faced by the Council. In seeking to continue making the most effective use of resources and reflecting on the way scrutiny was already being delivered, he advised that the Labour Administration did not feel any further changes were required and were not therefore minded to support the amendment moved by Councillor Georgiou at the meeting.

As a final contribution, the Mayor then invited the Liberal Democrats to exercise their right of reply in relation to the discussion on the amendment moved at the meeting. In responding on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group, Councillor Lorber expressed concern at the stance taken by the Labour Administration in terms of the impact on the effectiveness and ongoing independence, democratic accountability and transparency of the scrutiny function in Brent. Highlighting the importance of maintaining a scrutiny function that was seen as independent of the Executive he expressed specific concerns about independence and transparency in the existing process for the appointment of Scrutiny Chairs and fairness in terms of the lack of representation of Opposition members in these positions, which he felt undermined the overall effectiveness of scrutiny and its ability to meaningfully hold the Executive to account. Having been advised by the Mayor of the need to focus any further comments on the debate at the meeting, Councillor Lorber ended by highlighting the importance, in terms of the Council's overall governance arrangements, in establishing an effective and truly independent scrutiny function and as such commended the amendment to all members.

Having ruled out a previous point of order from Councillor Miller, the Mayor advised she would be willing to accept a point of order from Councillor Kelcher relating to comments made by Councillor Lorber in exercising his right of reply on the debate. In order to avoid any misunderstanding or misinterpretation, Councillor Kelcher felt it important to confirm the position regarding the appointment process for Scrutiny Chairs undertaken within the Majority Group. He clarified that the selection process excluded members of the Executive (including the Leader) specifically as a means of maintaining the independence of these positions.

Having thanked members for their contributions the Mayor then moved on to put the amendment and recommendations within the report to the vote.

On firstly putting the amendment moved by Councillor Georgiou relating to the scrutiny chairing arrangements, structure and procedural rules to the vote this was declared **LOST**.

The substantive recommendations, as detailed within the report, were then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To agree the amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 1 of the report updating the current allocation of roles and Cabinet portfolios, the delegated powers for officers and allocation of functions in respect of plans and strategies in the Policy Framework; Terms of Reference for the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and updating of the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

- (2) To note that, to the extent the changes agreed under (1) above related to executive functions of the Council, they had been approved by the Leader.
- (3) To authorise the Corporate Director of Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes

#### 10. **Representation of Political Groups on Committees**

The Mayor then moved on to invite Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce the report from the Corporate Director of Governance.

Councillor Muhammed Butt advised the report fulfilled the Council's duty to review and determine the representation of different political groups on certain Committees at its annual meeting. It was noted that no changes to the existing allocation of seats had been proposed reflecting the fact that there had been no change in the overall composition of political groups since the previous review.

As no members indicated that they wished to speak on the item the Mayor put the recommendations straight to the vote and they were unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To agree the size of each Committee, as detailed within the report.
- (2) To approve the allocation of seats on Committees to each of the Council's political groups (where the rules of political balance applied) as set out within the report and to make appointments to those committees (under agenda item 10 on the agenda) giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats.
- (3) To note that the political balance on Council Sub-Committees would be reviewed at the first meeting of the General Purposes Committee and Licensing Committee to be held following the Annual Council Meeting

#### 11. **Appointment to Committees and Outside Bodies including the appointment of Chairs & Vice-Chairs**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce the report from the Corporate Director of Governance.

The Leader advised that the report set out the nominations for appointments to Committees, Joint Committees, Forums, Panels, Outside Bodies and nomination for Chairs and Vice Chairs, where necessary, for the 2023 - 24 Municipal Year, with the nominations having been made in accordance with the political balance of the Council and requirements in relation to political proportionality.

The Mayor then opened the debate inviting other members to speak on the report, with the following contributions made.

As an initial contribution Councillor Georgiou began by advising of a correction to the Liberal Democrats membership on the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report) which he confirmed should have been listed as himself rather than Councillor Lorber. With the Mayor having noted the correction made, Councillor Georgiou then moved an additional amendment at the meeting relating to the current structure and membership of the Brent Connects forums. The amendment was seeking to split the current wards covered by the Wembley Brent Connects forum in order to establish an additional Brent Connects forum and ensure a more equitable balance between the spread and focus of wards covered in that area. In reflecting that wards in both the proposed new Brent Connects forum (covering Alperton, Sudbury and adjacent parts of Wembley) and existing Kingsbury & Kenton Brent Connects forum included representation by Opposition councillors he advised the amendment was also seeking to allocate the Chair of the newly created Brent Connects forum in Wembley to the Liberal Democrat Group and for the Kingsbury & Kenton Brent Connects forum to the Conservative Group.

Speaking in support of the amendment, Councillor Kansagra, felt it was important to recognise the current spread of Opposition group members across the wards affected along with the mandate he felt this provided in terms of those members seeking to support their constituents through the Brent Connects arrangements.

As a further contribution, Councillor Fraser highlighted concerns at any attempts made to politicise Brent Connects meetings which it was felt would not be in the best interests of local ward councillor or residents given the role they served in relation to community engagement and participation.

As a final contribution, Councillor Lorber also speaking in support of the proposed amendment advised that whilst not seeking to politicise Brent Connects meetings the proposal moved by Councillor Georgiou on behalf of the Liberal Democrats had been designed to ensure a more balanced focus within the current structure on the areas covered and better reflect, on a democratically accountable basis, local ward councillor representation across each area.

As no further members indicated they wished to speak the Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt to exercise his right of reply in relation to the debate on the report and amendment moved at the meeting.

In summing up Councillor Muhammed Butt again highlighted the clear mandate provided for the current Administration following the most recent local election, which he advised would be reflected and exercised to its fullest extent within the membership on each Council body and to ensure all local communities continued to be represented fairly. As a result, he advised the Labour Administration were not minded to support the amendment moved by Councillor Georgiou as well as outlining the role of the Constitutional Working Group should the Opposition Groups wish to raise any similar proposals for consideration in future.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Georgiou to exercise his right of reply in relation to the debate on the amendment moved at the meeting. Highlighting the importance in ensuring all members were able to effectively represent their constituents, Councillor Georgiou again outlined how he felt the proposals would provide a fairer and more equitable balance in terms of the Brent Connects forum



arrangements and membership recognising the democratic mandate provided to all local ward councillors. As such he ended by encouraging all members to support the proposed amendment.

Having once again thanked members for their contributions the Mayor then moved to put the amendment and recommendations within the report to the vote.

On putting the amendment moved by Councillor Georgiou regarding the structure and chairing arrangements for the Brent Connects forums in Wembley and Kingsbury & Kenton to the vote this was declared **LOST**.

The substantive recommendations, as set out in the report and detailed below, were then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To approve the appointments of members, co-opted members and substitutes to Council Committees and Outside Bodies for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report, subject to the following correction identified at the meeting:
  - Councillor Georgiou to be listed in place of Councillor Lorber as the Liberal Democrats member on the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee
- (2) To approve the appointments of Chairs and Vice Chairs to Council Committees for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report.
- (3) To approve:
  - (a) the reappointment (as detailed within section 3.4 of the report) of David Ewart as Independent Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and Pension Board for a two-year term of office ending on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025.
  - (b) the appointment of Rachael Tiffen (as detailed within section 3.5 of the report) as an Independent co-opted member of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee for a four-year term of office, ending at the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2027 (subject to confirmation of the ongoing appointment at the Annual Council meeting each year).
  - (c) the continuing appointment (as detailed within section 3.6 of the report) of the following three Independent Persons for the remainder of their four-year terms of office (subject to confirmation at the Annual Council meeting each year):
    - (i) William Goh & Keir Hopley - to the Annual Council meeting in 2025; and
    - (ii) Julie Byrom – to the Annual Council meeting in 2026

- (d) in relation to the co-opted membership on the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (detailed within section 3.7 of the report):
  - (i) the re-appointment of Alloysius Frederick (as a voting co-opted member representing the Roman Catholic Diocese) & Sayed Jaffar (as a non-voting co-opted member representing Muslim Faith Schools) for a further three-year term of office to expire at the Annual Council meeting 2026 (subject to confirmation of the ongoing appointments at the Annual Council meeting each year); and
  - (ii) the appointment of Jane Noy (as a voting co-opted Parent Governor representative) and Rachelle Goldberg (as a non-voting co-opted member representing Jewish Faith Schools) for a three-year term of office to expire at the Annual Council meeting 2026 (subject to confirmation of the ongoing appointments at the Annual Council meeting each year).
- (4) To note the appointments:
  - (a) of the Cabinet, Cabinet Committees and Joint Executive Committees and their respective Chairs and Vice Chairs for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.
  - (b) to be confirmed by the General Purposes Committee for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.
  - (c) to be confirmed by Licensing Committee for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.

*(The full list of appointments can be found as part of the appendices to the main report republished prior to the meeting)*

## 12. **Calendar of Council Meetings for the 2023 -2024 Municipal Year**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce the final report on the agenda from the Corporate Director of Governance which the Leader advised detailed the calendar of meeting dates for Full Council and other meetings during the 2023 - 24 Municipal Year.

As no members indicated that they wished to speak on the item the recommendations in the report were put straight to the vote by the Mayor and were declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) Members approve the dates for Full Council and other meetings to take place during the 2023 - 24 Municipal Year, as attached in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (2) The Head of Executive and Member Services be authorised to make any alterations deemed necessary to the Municipal Calendar during the course of

the Municipal Year having consulted the Leader of the Council; the Leaders of the Opposition Groups and the Chair of the affected meeting.

13. **Urgent Business**

As there was no urgent business to be transacted the Mayor declared the Annual Meeting closed and advised that she looked forward to seeing all members at the next Council meeting on Monday 10 July 2023. She then invited all members and guests to join her at her reception.

The meeting closed at 7.18 pm

COUNCILLOR ORLEEN HYLTON  
Mayor

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## **FULL COUNCIL – 10 JULY 2023**

### **Agenda Item 5 – Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and of Independent Co-opted Member**

Standing Order 30(g) states that, if necessary, Full Council is required to agree appointments to committees and outside bodies. In addition to the changes listed Council is being asked to confirm the appointment of an Independent Person

Such appointments are set out below:

#### Committee Membership

Please note: Any changes notified will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

#### Outside Bodies

1. London Council's Greater London Employment Forum – Councillor M. Butt to replace Councillor Mili Patel as the Council's full representative with Councillor Mili Patel to be appointed as Deputy

#### Independent Co-opted Member Audit & Standards Advisory Committee

Full Council's agreement is sought to the proposed appointment of an Independent co-opted member of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee. Appointments to Council Committees require the agreement of Full Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Standing Order 30(g).

The Audit & Standards Advisory Committee includes up to two additional Independent co-opted members who have a particular responsibility for Standards matters. Following a recent recruitment process to fill the second post, Council is asked to agree the



**Brent**

appointment of Stephen Ross to the second of these positions for a 4-year term. Mr Ross' professional and academic specialisms are organisational governance with expertise in ethical standards both religious and values driven. He has served as an Independent Member and Vice Chair of another local authorities Standards Committee for many years and latterly as an Independent Person until his term of office expired.

Full Council is therefore asked:

To agree the appointment of Stephen Ross (as detailed above) as an Independent co-opted member of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee for a four-year term of office, ending at the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2027 (subject to confirmation of the ongoing appointment at the Annual Council meeting each year).



## Item 7.1: Questions from Members of the Public

Full Council – 10 July 2023

1. **Question from D. Richard to Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action)**

Wrottesley Road is allegedly located within a 20 mph area but doesn't share the same luxuries as every single road surrounding it, no speed cushions (or if they exist they are run flat so don't work), no signage to say it's 20 mph, no road marking, so drivers go at any speed.

I doubt whether any other residential road in Brent has as many accidents as this road. It also falls within the 7.5T area, but HGV's ignore that and thunder up and down all day. We have one bus service (187) which is a single decker that runs four times an hour but as we are in close proximity to Willesden Bus Garage and route 260 drivers who run several out of service buses an hour (until 2.00 a.m.) use this as their preferred rat run to get back to the depot, often at considerable speed. The drivers hog the entire road (it's not as wide as All Souls Avenue) and they block the exit where Wrottesley Road joins the Harrow Road at the lights, stopping drivers going left or right. At a time when the air quality is getting better due to ULEZ, this means we are still being subjected to the diesel fumes of buses and HGV's that shouldn't be in this road.

Because of the regular collisions in this road, residents tend not to park on it, which allows speeding drivers even more leeway. Motorcyclists particularly like to do wheelies on it.

Whilst there have been no fatalities yet, it's very dangerous to cross for pedestrian noting we have the Furness Road Primary School close by and the dangerous crossing at the junction of Wrottesley Road/Funess Road, which is used by very young children. I would therefore like to ask:

Will any consideration be given to the residents of Wrottesley Road, to bring this road in line with every single residential road within a one mile radius where the residents are able to park outside their house/flat without fear their vehicle will be peeled open or smashed into and written off; have proper signage showing what the speed limit is; have working speed cushions and visible road markings and not be subjected to HGV's and out of service double decker buses ignoring the 7.5T limit and speeding up and down this residential road?

**Response:**

Thank you for question regarding road safety on Wrotesley Road, NW10. The Council acknowledges your concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians and your request for the introduction of additional signage, traffic calming measures and enforcement of the 7.5T weight restriction. We have reviewed information held on speed limits in the local area and can confirm that Wrotesley Road is not subject to a 20mph speed limit so the national speed limit of 30mph on a street lit road applies.

Wrotesley Road is subject to a 7.5T weight restriction which means that goods vehicles exceeding 7.5T should not be using the road as a through route. The restriction does however not apply to public service vehicles such as London Buses and does not stop access if a goods vehicle is going to a destination within the designated area. Further details of weight restrictions in the borough are available on our website ([here](#)). Following your enquiry, we will arrange for additional CCTV enforcement of the 7.5T weight limit to be undertaken and fines can be issues if breaches of the restriction are identified. We will also contact TfL London Buses to notify them about the speed of buses and the issue with buses blocking both lanes on approach to the Wrotesley Road/Harrow Road traffic signals.

In terms of road safety, the Council is committed to the continued reduction of personal injury accidents (PIA) and improvement of road safety and as part of the recent review of our Long Term Transport Strategy, have adopted a 'Vision Zero' approach to road safety, with the aim of eliminating all deaths and serious injuries on the borough road network by 2041. To that end our accident reduction programmes prioritise locations with the most significant accident problems on an annual basis for the introduction of mitigation measures.

However, there are a number of issues which need to be taken into account when considering any potential road safety and speed reduction measures within the Borough. One of these is the availability of funding to design and install additional speed reducing measures. The Council receives a considerable number of requests in relation to road safety concerns throughout the borough each year, and the chief source of funding is Transport for London through an annual (LIP) allocation.

Unfortunately, the level of funding and resource available to deal with all of these requests is not sufficient to cope with demand. As a result, it is necessary to prioritise potential locations for funding in terms of the level of benefit any speed reducing measures may provide by using that limited funding provision.

The nationally recognised method for determining which locations would benefit most is through recorded traffic accident data analysis. Data on accidents resulting in personal injury (PIA's) within the Borough is provided on a regular basis by the Metropolitan Police. The data is used to identify locations where significant numbers of PIA's have occurred and through this analysis it is possible to prioritise where road safety and speed reducing measures would be of most benefit in terms of accident reduction. This is in line with the Government's road safety strategy to reduce the number of road traffic accidents nationally.



We have undertaken an assessment of the latest available three-year personal injury accident data for Wrottesley Road (between All Souls Avenue and Harlesden Road) which shows that in the three-year period (February 2019 to January 2022), there were 3 reported accidents. Two of these accidents involved a slight injury and one was serious. Unfortunately, at present, this is the latest data which we have access to. Based on this information, it is unlikely that Wrottesley Road will be prioritised for traffic calming measures compared to other roads of the borough which are assessed as having a greater priority.

Following your request, we will arrange for a traffic speed survey to be undertaken on Wrottesley Road to determine the type, speed and volume of traffic using the road. Depending on the outcome, we can then ask the Metropolitan Police to undertake enforcement as part of the Community Roadwatch programme. The programme allows residents to work side by side with their local police teams and use speed detection equipment to identify speeding vehicles in their communities. Warning letters will be issued where appropriate, and the information can help to inform the future activity of local police teams. We will also arrange for the existing roads signs and markings on Wrottesley Road to be reviewed and additional signs and road markings (such SLOW markings on approach to pedestrian crossings and junctions) provided as necessary.

**2. Question from F. Lee to Councillor Donnelly-Jackson (Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Culture)**

In August of 2020 the Mayor of London launched the initiative for Diversity in the Public Realm to review statues street names and landmarks in London, to reflect it's diversity.

Given that Gladstone Park was identified as such for a review and given the obvious link to Leopold II with a Primary School in Harlesden, why has there been no effective council led public consultation in relation to the issue, in keeping with the Mayor's stated initiative?

**Response:**

In 2020 the council undertook a review of the name of the park as part of the Mayor of London's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. This involved a review of statues, street names and landmarks in London including the possibility of a name change for Gladstone Park, and community engagement was part of this process.

The review was completed in in August 2021, and the decision taken by the Black Community Action Plan Steering Group was not to rename the park, but instead to develop a public art commission in partnership with the community to both acknowledge the Gladstone family's role in the slave trade, whilst celebrating the considerable contribution and influence of African heritage to the cultural landscape of Brent. This is in line with heritage sector best practice to retain and not obscure the significant associations of a place, and where the significance of a place is not readily apparent, it should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate, which is what we have strived to do with the heritage trail installed in the park.

In reference to Leopold School, there is no direct evidence to suggest the school is named after King Leopold II of Belgium. The school was originally named in 1874, with the high likelihood that it took its name from Queen Victoria's son, Prince Leopold (1853-1884), who was known for his interest in education. Unable to pursue a military career because of his illness (haemophilia), he instead became a patron of the arts and literature. The school has worked with pupils to explore the history of the school and produced history boards documenting its historic timeline. In doing so, no further origins of the school's name were found in the archives.

**3. Question from N. Scott to Councillor Donnelly-Jackson (Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Culture)**

In light of recent proposals made to the Council to change the name of Gladstone Park, due to the Gladstone family's abhorrent role in African / Caribbean slavery, could you please let me know who and when it was decided to hold a Windrush Tea Party in that particular park from 12-4pm on 24th June?

With regards to the Mayor of London's stated initiative, I am particularly concerned that the Council have made no meaningful attempt to address concerns of local residents and initiate a wider public consultation in relation to ethical name changes regarding Gladstone Park and two Leopold educational establishments - named after families who exploited, traded, tortured and profited from slavery.

**Response:**

The council has a duty to mark Windrush Day – and does so each year. This year's Windrush 75 celebrations follow the land art – known as The Anchor, The Drum, The Ship – which opened in the park in October 2022, and was curated by the Brent artist Linett Kamala. The Windrush Tea Party, also curated by Linett Kamala is being held close by to the heritage trail which has been installed in the park to highlight untold histories, and to recognise and celebrate the hugely valued contribution made to Brent by Black African Heritage residents and to further the conversations that the art exhibition and accompanying heritage trail began. The Brent Windrush 75 community tea party's location reflects the council's commitment to continue the conversation with communities about the history of Gladstone Park.

With regards to Gladstone Park, in 2020 the council undertook a review of the name of the park as part of the Mayor of London's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. This involved a review of statues, street names and landmarks in London included the possibility of a name change for Gladstone Park. Engagement with the community was part of this process, which was completed in August 2021. The decision was not to rename the park but instead to develop a public art commission in partnership with the community to both acknowledge the Gladstone family's link to the enslavement of Africans, whilst celebrating the huge contribution and influence of African heritage to the cultural landscape of Brent.

This space in the park, including The Anchor, The Drum, The Ship land art and the history trail, are now a space for learning, reflection, healing, gathering and celebrating.



## **Item 7.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament**

### **Full Council – 10 July 2023**

**1. Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Tatler (Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Growth)**

How can the council improve employment services to be more accessible for young people and provide more information and guidance on financial education?

**Response:**

Brent Works, our job brokerage service, uses a broad array of communication channels to engage young residents.

This includes social media campaigns, working with local radio, visiting community spaces, working with partners like the Young Brent Foundation, Spark Charity and The Football Association (FA) and engaging with local influencers. We are always adapting our methods of communication and would welcome suggestions from young Brent residents.

We are also part of a partnership looking in depth at how to make employment services more accessible. This is called Flourishing Futures, led by The Young Brent Foundation and in collaboration with Spark! And some housing associations. This aspires to transform the approach to youth employment in Brent. We are also part of the Connected Futures programme which aims to integrate various agencies and services at a local level to provide consistent, quality support for young people who are furthest from the job market, understanding their complex needs.

Phase 2 is likely to start in 2024 though it is not currently confirmed with the funders. It is at this stage that Youth Futures Foundation will fund solutions which have been proposed by the partnership.

Financial information and education would normally be part of the school and college's extra curricula activities, and some schools have been known to invite organisations such as The Money and Pensions Service (MaPS), Barclays' "LifeSkills Master your Moneyverse" and Young Enterprise into schools or colleges to enhance the curriculum offer.

A number of voluntary sector organisations also support extra curricula activities in schools to develop life skills often work in partnership with local businesses. They tend to be based around projects that develop life skills, such as listening,

leadership, team work, creativity, presentation and problem solving and technical skills, while at the same time helping young people develop financial literacy.

As part of the Council's social value requirement linked to contract awards, the Council is proposing to suppliers that they could to work with local schools on relevant life skills, such as financial education.

2. **Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Grahl (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools)**

Does the Council plan on providing financial aid for students to support them with the course costs of college (e.g. equipment and uniform for vocational courses) and higher education?

**Response:**

The Council does not receive any grant funding to provide financial aid to students to support them with the course of costs of college or higher education, such as equipment and uniform for vocational courses. Students in hardship may be able to apply to their educational institution for support. Students may also be eligible to apply for support through the Resident Support Fund if they meet the qualifying criteria. They can apply to the fund as an individual if they are a Brent resident who is aged over 18 and has less than £6000 savings. The Resident Support Fund provides support to meet day to day living expenses including food and utility bills. Applicants need to be willing to comply with any reasonable conditions concerning the payment award, including for example, support from advice agencies.

Further information is available on the Council website:  
<https://customerportal.brent.gov.uk/rsfdip-online/>

3. **Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Nerva (Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care)**

How can the Council make mental health services more accessible - as CAMHS waiting lists are long, is there something young people can access in the meantime?

**Response:**

Mental Health support for Children and Young People is one of the priorities for Brent Borough Based Partnership (Health, the Local Authority and the Voluntary Sector). We recognise that good mental health and emotional wellbeing is as important to a child and young person's safety and wellbeing as their physical health, because poor mental health can impact on all aspects of their life, including their educational attainment, relationships and physical wellbeing. We also recognise that there are many factors that can cause children and young people to experience mental health problems. Every child and young person has the right to good mental and emotional wellbeing which means supporting every child and young person with their emotional and mental health needs at the right time and place.

The starting point for Brent is challenging, with significant demand on services, a significant disparity in investment between Boroughs and real challenges with recruitment and retention of professionals driven in part by differences in NHS paycales between inner and outer London.

That said, there is significant work underway to try and mitigate these significant risks, both in the short, medium and long term. The immediate key areas of focus for children and young people through the Partnership include:

- Reducing the numbers of children and young people waiting for specialist CAMHS support and the waiting times for specialist CAMHS assessments with a focus on waiting well.
- Providing Talking Therapies and the provision of more early identification and early intervention to ensure that children and young people are supported and managed before they reach crisis point. This includes supporting children and young people and their families early in settings that are closer to home.
- Increasing the numbers of schools supported by the Mental Health Support in Schools' programme and maximising the digital offer for our children and young people.

In the immediate term, the current services supporting our children and young people in Brent as an alternative to the Brent Specialist CAMHS service include:

- Brent WEST Service - Targeted Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People in Identified Vulnerable Groups
- Place 2Be
- Mental Health Support in Schools
- Brent Centre for Young People

- Brent Young People Thrive
- Young Brent Foundation
- Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT)
- Kooth
- Healios


In the short to medium term, there is targeted work is underway to address waiting lists for specialist CAMHS, including:

- increasing resources and capacity with sufficient workforce to meet local need.
- using neighbourhood hubs as a prototype for a mental health clinic type surgery supported by the community mental health team and a GP to manage non-complex mental health issues that can be resolved in the community and do not require secondary care.
- Pop-up style wellbeing cafes to support children and young people in collaboration with the voluntary sector.
- more use of Personal Health budgets to support people to access alternative solutions e.g. a child waiting years for talking therapies may benefit from alternative activities.

The Brent Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) has a targeted workstream in place to develop services for children's mental health and wellbeing in a more integrated and co-ordinated way across partners to improve access and simplify pathways to services. This includes implementing the NHS Thrive model, which is an integrated, person-centred and needs-led approach to delivering mental health services that aims to support young people to access mental health support outside of specialist CAMHS. As part of this work, we will co-produce and co-design a local approach and service offer that will respond to what Brent children and young people are telling us they need.

In the medium term, Brent ICP is working closely with partners in Central and North West London (CNWL) as the Borough NHS Mental Health provider as well as the North West London Integrated Care Board, to ensure there is a clear action plan for levelling up mental health services in the Borough, and further reports on mental health levelling up and delivery reports will be provided through the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board and Scrutiny, as advised by Members. These reports will be publicly available.



 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 10 July 2023
	<b>Report from the Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Update report from the Leader and Cabinet</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Council
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1 Cabinet Member Update reports
<b>Background Papers:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	N/A

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report provides an update on the work being undertaken by the Leader and Cabinet, in accordance with Standing Order 31.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 Council is asked to note this report.

## 3.0 Detail

3.1 In accordance with Standing Order 31, this report presents an outline by the Leader and Cabinet Members on the key and significant issues identified as arising from their remits and that of the Cabinet.

3.2 Up to 3 minutes is provided at the Council meeting for the Leader, or any other Cabinet Member(s) identified to present the report highlighting any issues felt to be of significance.

3.3 Set out in Appendix One are the written updates provided.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct financial implications.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct legal implications.

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

6.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct equality implications.

## **Leader of the Council - Councillor Muhammed Butt**

On the following pages is a breakdown of portfolio responsibilities of our Cabinet Members.

I have listed below the key decisions that the Cabinet have taken since our last meeting of full Council in May 2023. As you will read, this is a Council that is delivering week in, week out on the Brent Labour Manifesto pledges that will transform the place we call home:

### **Church End Growth Area (CEGA) Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document**

Brent's Local Plan (2019-2041) was adopted in February 2022. The Plan sets out the vision and policies for development in the borough up to 2041, which includes the delivery of 23,250 new homes from 2019/20 to 2028/29.

Key to accommodating an increasing population are 8 growth areas, viewed as the most sustainable spatial expression for growth. The Church End Growth Area (CEGA) extends to 26 hectares, comprised of Victorian housing stock, the local town centre and 14 hectares of industrial land allocated for mixed-use regeneration.

The CEGA Masterplan SPD is a long-term, ambitious and comprehensive plan that will help to secure at least 1,300 new homes and infrastructure to maximise opportunities and wellbeing for local residents, businesses and communities, including the provision of education, health, cultural and community facilities, open space and play facilities.

Since early 2021 officers have worked to develop the draft CEGA Masterplan SPD. This included extensive engagement throughout 2021, with a range of partners and stakeholders including residents and local councillors, businesses, community organisations, landowners, developers and statutory bodies.

### **Community Led Housing in Brent**

With growing housing demand and the impact of the cost-of-living increasing pressure on Brent Residents, it is imperative the Council considers all possible avenues for the delivery of affordable housing. In 2018, a scrutiny report on affordable housing was produced by members and recommended that the Council explore Community Led Housing (CLH) as an avenue of delivery, specifically as it favoured co-production with residents.

This report agreed to ring-fence the Brentfield Road site set out in the report for Brent Community Land Trust for the purpose of Community Led Housing. Currently, an indicative scheme of 20 one-bedroom flats comprising a mix of one-bedroom 1 person and 1 bedroom 2 person's properties has been designed, with more work to follow.

### **Award of Contracts for Enforcement and Collection Agent Services**

This report concerned the award of contracts for the provision of the Debt Resolution Service. The report detailed the procurement approach followed, the decision process and added value commitments of the selected enforcement agents and the ongoing commitment to the Council's Ethical Debt Recovery Policy.

Three Enforcement Agent companies will be appointed under contracts, with the specification drafted to ensure that a higher proportion of warrants, County Court Judgements and liability orders will be passed to the best performing provider.

All agents are required to work in accordance with the Council's Ethical Debt Recovery Policy and appropriate professional standards, ensuring that residents of Brent are supported as appropriate.

### **Authority to Tender Contract to Design, Build, Operate and Maintain the South Kilburn District Heat Network**

The South Kilburn District Heat Network will be a network of pipes feeding heat to the buildings in South Kilburn. The use of a district heat network is in-line with GLA policy and Brent's Local Plan.

For South Kilburn, the heat network aims to initially provide low carbon heat but ultimately to provide zero carbon heat to developments in South Kilburn which form part of the South Kilburn Regeneration Programme along with additional connections where appropriate and practicable.

### **Brent Residential Children's Care Home Outline Project Business Case**

This report set out the intention to provide a Residential Children's Care Home in Brent following the successful application for capital funding from the Department for Education (DfE) Children's Home Capital Programme.

The Council faces a number of challenges in securing local residential placements for children and young people. At the time of submitting the funding bid the average distance from the young person's home address to their residential home was 24.4 miles. The average weekly cost of a residential placement was £4,700 per week in August 2022, which was above the national average of £4,500 and the highest residential placement at the time was £10,597.

The project will deliver a four-bed residential step-down home within Brent for looked after adolescents with social, emotional and behavioural needs. The home will provide three bedrooms for a step-down provision to prepare young people who are in residential settings away from the borough for a move into a local fostering placement, supported accommodation (if 16+) or to return home. The remaining one bedroom will be allocated for emergency placements to enable a short-term response for children in crisis.

The proposed residential home would generate an estimated annual cost avoidance saving of at least £169k and up to £461k a year against the children's placement budget.

The capital project is estimated to cost up to £2.2m. The DfE required 50%/50% match funding from the LA as part of the bid submission. Therefore, the Council's contribution will be up to £1.1m for the purchase and remodelling of a residential home to create a four-bed residential home in Brent.

### **Post-16 Skills Resource Centre**

This report presented a proposal to develop a Post-16 Skills Resource Centre for young people and young adults with special educational needs. The proposed Post-16 Skills Resource Centre is outlined in the School Place Planning Strategy 2019-23 refresh, approved by Cabinet in November 2021, and is included within the local partnership SEND Strategy 2021-25.

The intended approach is a Post-16 Skills Resource Centre that would operate from two sites. The Welsh Harp Centre would be developed to provide a horticultural facility with work experience and volunteering opportunities.

The second site would be based in new facilities on the Airco Close site in Kingsbury. The intention is to develop facilities for a Post-16 Skills Resource Centre alongside an expansion of special school provision, as agreed in the SEND Capital Programme, building on the synergies between the two developments.

### **Authority to Award Contract for Integrated Community Equipment Services**

Local authorities have a statutory duty under various legislation including the Care Act 2014, and the Children and Families Act 2014, to make arrangements for the provision of disability aids and "community equipment", to meet the assessed eligible needs of individuals who are resident in their area.

The provision of community equipment supports residents to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible and is both a statutory requirement and important in delivering key strategic system priorities, for example hospital discharge and avoidance, a reduction in the use of residential care and a reduced reliance on homecare provision.

### **2022/23 Quarter 4 (January – March) Performance Report**

This report and the performance scorecard set out the position on the Council's performance in the fourth quarter of 2022/23. The content and format of the report and scorecard have been constructed to focus on the previous borough plan.

The new Borough Plan: Moving Brent Forward Together (2023-27) was finalised at Full Council in February 2023 and new performance indicators will be available later this year.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Muhammed.Butt@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Muhammed.Butt@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Portfolio remits:**

### **1. Leader of the Council - Cllr Muhammed Butt**

Communications  
Brent representative on regional and national bodies  
Strategies, priorities and plans  
Transformation  
Digital Strategy

### **2. Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform – Councillor Mili Patel**

Finance, Audit and Pensions  
Procurement & Social Value  
HR, Legal, and IT  
Capital projects  
Corporate Performance  
Property and assets  
Invest 4 Brent & First Wave Housing  
Governance & Members Services  
Brent Black Community Action Plan  
Diversity Ambassador

### **3. Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Growth - Councillor Shama Tatler**

Estate Regeneration  
Inclusive Growth Strategy  
Planning  
Emergency Planning  
Local Plan  
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)  
West London Economic Prosperity Board (WLEPB)  
Jobs, Economy, Employment and Skills  
Brent Starts and Brent Works  
Good work standard and London Living Wage  
Apprenticeships  
Community Wealth Building and Inward Investment  
Affordable Workplace strategy  
High streets and improvement  
Town Centre Managers

### **4. Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection – Councillor Harbi Farah**

Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour  
Liaison with Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)  
Prevent  
Building Control

Planning Enforcement  
Regulatory Services and Trading Standards  
Noise Nuisance and Pest Control  
VAWG (Strategy)

**5. Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care – Councillor Neil Nerva**

Public Health  
Mental health  
Brent Health Matters  
Adult Social Care  
Health and Wellbeing Board  
Liaison with health partners  
Brent Start and Brent Works  
Affordable Workplace Strategy  
Inward Investment

**6. Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action – Councillor Krupa Sheth**

Transport planning, strategy and operations  
Roads and pavements  
Sustainable Travel  
Waste Collection and street cleaning  
West London Waste Authority  
Clean Air and Environmental Health  
Climate Emergency Strategy  
Parking, Street Lighting  
Trees and Ecology  
Parks and green spaces  
Mortuary and funeral services  
Leisure and sports facilities

**7. Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security – Councillor Promise Knight**

Homelessness and Rough-Sleeping Strategy  
New Council Housing Programme (NCHP)  
Brent Housing Management  
Liaison with Registered and Social Providers  
Private Rented Sector regulation

**8. Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools - Councillor Gwen Grahl**

Early Years Learning  
Family Wellbeing Centres  
Children's Safeguarding and Social Care  
Looked after Children and Corporate Parenting

Social Work  
Youth offending  
Brent Youth Strategy  
Brent Youth Parliament  
Pupil referral units  
SEND provision and strategy  
Brent Family of Schools  
School Admissions and school place planning  
Schools Forum and schools improvement  
Further Education

**9. Cabinet member for Customers, Communities and Culture – Councillor Fleur Donnelly-Jackson**

Equality and Disability Strategy  
Community Engagement  
Consultation  
Grants  
Metroland, Borough of Culture Legacy  
Voluntary Sector and Social Enterprise  
Brent Libraries  
Heritage and Archives  
VAWG (Delivery)  
Brent Hubs  
Food poverty  
Council Tax and Business Rates  
Welfare support  
Customer Services and Accessibility  
Citizenship and Registration



## Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform – Councillor Mili Patel

### Top news since my last report:

- **Budget Update** – As you will know, full Council approved the Budget proposals put forward in my last report at November’s Budget Setting meeting for 2023/24, however work has already started on the 2024/25 – 2025/26 budget setting process. An updated report will be presented to Cabinet in July, including the year-end outturn report and Q1 forecast report.
- **New Council Homes Programme** – Brent are pushing forward with our new Council Homes Programme to ensure we are doing our bit to tackle the housing crisis in London. There are currently 1093 affordable homes being built by Brent across 18 sites, 257 affordable homes across 7 sites submitted for planning and awaiting determination.
- **GMB Work to Stop Domestic Abuse Charter** – The Council has now formally signed up to the GMB Work to Stop Domestic Abuse Charter.

The Charter wording is as follows:

*As an employer who cares about the impact of domestic abuse on our employees, we pledge to:*

- *Support employees who are experiencing domestic abuse to access support services and information confidentially.*
- *Ensure that those experiencing domestic abuse will not be disadvantaged within the terms and conditions of their employment and will take all reasonable measures to facilitate any needs in the workplace.*
- *Commit to working/participating with other organisations to facilitate best support for those experiencing domestic abuse.*
- *Provide all employees with access to toolkits, information and our policies on domestic abuse, in a format that is easily and discreetly accessible within the workplace.*
- *Ensure that we have employees trained across our organisation to provide adequate access to support within the workplace for all employees. Staff trained should be representative of our workplace and will include line managers and Trade Union representatives.*

The Council remains committed to tackling domestic abuse and we adopted a Domestic Abuse Policy in 2020, along with appointing a number of domestic abuse champions to support staff facing this issue.

- **Windrush 75** – This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HMT Empire Windrush arriving in Britain with more than 800 passengers from the Caribbean, ready to embark on their new lives. Brent Council hosted a series of events to celebrate this, including a free flagship Market Place at the Brent Civic Centre to celebrate

the legacy and contribution of the African-Caribbean community, a Windrush exhibition and a tea party in Gladstone Park.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Mili.Patel@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Mili.Patel@brent.gov.uk)

## Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Growth - Councillor Shama Tatler

### Top news since my last report:

- **Church End Masterplan** – The transformation of Church End and the delivery of 1,300 much-needed new homes is set to begin after Cabinet approval. The approval and adoption of the Church End SPD is a significant step forward for the regeneration of the area, and will include a new town centre market square, at least 1,300 new homes and a new secondary school. There will also be improved streets, crossings and cycle routes throughout the area and to Dollis Hill and Neasden Underground stations.
- **South Kilburn Regeneration Project** – A deal has been signed between Brent Council and Countryside Partnerships to deliver more than 200 new homes on the South Kilburn estate. The latest phase in the estate regeneration programme will see the existing buildings Neville House, Winterleys House and 113-128 Carlton House replaced with brand new, state-of-the-art homes. The new scheme prioritises social housing and will deliver the first homes by Summer 2025 to accommodate existing South Kilburn residents.

We're now almost halfway through our 15-year regeneration programme for South Kilburn and can't wait to get started on the next phase with Countryside Partnerships. Right across the country local authorities are grappling with spiralling inflation and building costs, but despite the challenges, we are really delighted to be able to deliver this brilliant scheme for residents. This project will create more than 200 much-needed new homes, almost half of which will be for existing South Kilburn residents. Not only will local families be given the keys to safe and secure homes, they will also enjoy a healthier environment, with more greenery and trees on their doorstep and a revamped local park.

- **Brent Starts** – Following a recent inspection of the Brent Start Adult Education Service, Ofsted has judged that the service continues to be Good, the second highest score. Brent Start is the largest local authority provider of adult education in west London, with almost 2,500 learners and over 600 courses. Inspectors found that Brent Start provides a highly inclusive, safe and welcoming environment for learners, along with a well-considered curriculum that engages the community and helps support people from disadvantaged backgrounds. It is great that Ofsted has recognised the brilliant work our Brent Start team does for adult education across the borough.

### Other news:

- **Brent Design Awards** – Brent held its first ever Brent Design Awards Ceremony in May. The awards were created to celebrate high-quality design in the borough, rewarding the most inspiring buildings and spaces that have a positive impact in the community and enrich the lives of residents.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Shama.Tatler@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Shama.Tatler@brent.gov.uk)

## Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection - Councillor Harbi Farah

### Top news since my last report:

- **Brent's Trading Standards Team** - have once again stepped in to seize illegal smoking products and ensure that businesses have a level playing field. The majority of our local businesses sell products within the law, and provide a great service for our residents, therefore we ensure those that don't play by the rules are reprimanded.

Al-Sham Roastery Ltd trading as Al Sham in Willesden was prosecuted after they were found selling 908-unit packs of illegal cigarettes, 5 unit packs of hand rolling tobacco and 85 packs/tubs of shisha molasses tobacco. The company was fined £900 and was ordered to pay £90 victim surcharge and costs of £1000.

- **Cracking down on illegal and anti-social driving** - Our enforcement officers do a fantastic job of making sure that our streets can be used and enjoyed by all and these powers will mean that they will be able to crack down on flagrant drivers who abuse the rules. The PSPO is in addition to recent PSPOs implemented on 1 February 2023 that were agreed at cabinet.

Enforcement officers will be able to issue fines of up to £1,000 to flagrant drivers responsible for any of the following behaviour:

- Racing
  - Performing stunts with a vehicle
  - Revving of the engine or use of horns as to cause a public nuisance
  - Repeated sudden and rapid acceleration (as a public nuisance)
  - Wilfully causing obstruction on a public highway, whether stationary or moving, including driving in a convoy
  - Driving on footways without a reasonable and lawful excuse.
- We have taken the decision to extend Brent's CCTV Contract with TYCO Fire and Integrated Services for 12 months. The extension period will be from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024.
  - Cricklewood Household Accessories Limited trading as 'Supersave Household' on Cricklewood Broadway, sold a 23cm chef knife to a person under the age of 18. The company pleaded guilty at Willesden Magistrates court. A total of £3175.99 in fines and costs.
  - Successfully obtained a Food Condemnation Order against Lobo Seafood, Harlesden following a joint investigation with the Food Standards Agency. The order given by Willesden Magistrates Court required the disposal and destruction of illegal sheep carcasses.
  - **Successful International Women's Day events** – we hosted a number of events including: the marketplace held in the Brent Civic Centre, our annual

online panel discussion which included Dawn Butler MP and; the She is Summit 2023 for young girls & women (from Years 10 to 13) was held at Brent Civic Centre in the Grand Hall.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Harbi.Farah@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Harbi.Farah@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care - Councillor Neil Nerva**

### **Top news since my last report:**

- **Peer Review** - As part of our ongoing focus on continuous improvement, Adult Social Care welcomed an ADASS Peer Review Team to Brent to review our strengths, areas for development, and plans for 'Working with People' and 'Leadership' in line with the new CQC Assurance Framework.

Positively, the Peer Team identified lots we can be proud of in Brent including our committed, compassionate staff; the energy, ambition, and commitment of our leadership; our self awareness and improvement programme; the strength of our strategic partnerships; our approach to supporting residents with complex needs; recent improvements in our front door; and our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

The Peer Team also identified opportunities for us to drive improvements including building on improvements in the front door further; developing our information, advice, and guidance approach; improving our assessments of carers' needs; developing our workforce strategy; and focusing on supporting residents with learning disability and mental health needs.

Our Adult Social Care team have plans in place to address all of these areas via an Improvement Programme and will be working at pace on this over the coming months.

- **Community Diagnostic Centres** – The NHS is developing three new Community Diagnostic Centres on existing NHS sites in North West London. The larger facility will be located at Ealing Hospital, and there will be two Brent focussed sites at the Wembley Centre for Health and Care and another at the Willesden Centre for Health and Care. This will enable an additional 300,000 diagnostic tests per year to be provided across the three new centres by 2024/25.

### **Other news:**

- **Implementation of the Enhanced Access Hub Service** - this service provides additional at scale access to primary care on weekdays from 6.30pm to 8pm and Saturdays from 9am to 5pm. All Primary Care Networks have mobilised an Enhanced Access Hub service providing one hour of extended provision per 1,000 patients. Patients are able to book into the service via their GP or through NHS 111.
- **Promoting activity through Brent Health Matters** – As an addition to the advice and support from the Brent Health Matters Clinical Team, physical activity advice and referral to programmes is also offered.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Neil.Nerva@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Neil.Nerva@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action - Councillor Krupa Sheth**

### **Top news since my last report:**

- **Winter Resilience Programme** - We are at the end of “pothole season” where adverse weather conditions have given rise to multiple potholes appearing on the roads. To address the worst locations along our main routes, a Winter Resilience programme of 49 large patch repairs at multiple locations has already been done by the previous contractor FM Conways. A further programme of £200k of large patch repairs on main roads has been issued to new contractors O’Hara’s. Our injection patching contractor started their latest programme of repairs on the 1st of March. They will be in the borough around three months, concentrating on residential roads, picking up all surface highways defects along identified routes. As of 1st June, 90 roads were visited, and 2,568 repairs had been undertaken.
- **Planned Footway Maintenance** – Six footway schemes, carried over from last year, are currently under construction by our new contractors. Work commenced in April and will be completed in July. The roads are: Fernbank Avenue, Sandringham Road, Beverley Drive (Stag Lane to Roundabout), Greenhill Road, Winchester Avenue (Princes Avenue to Girton Avenue) and Sherborne Gardens.
- **Coronation Day Celebrations** – Highways Management approved 11 resident-led street parties to celebrate the Kings Coronation. The events took place between the 6th and 8th May. To support residents to host street parties, Brent Council waived the costs of road closures and of suspending parking bays in those streets. We also supplied cones and supplies free of charge.

### **Other news:**

- 283 new lamp column chargers were installed by the end of May, bringing the total number in the borough to 609. These were placed in areas of high demand and will be managed by Siemens / Ubitricity.
- Roundwood Playground is now refurbished and opened to the public on 26 May. New and updated play areas are being introduced in Sherrins Farm and Monks Park and Bramshill Playground refurbishment is also commencing.
- This Summer we will also be launching our first pilot street for the BEE Colourful street project. This will involve engaging with the community and providing them with seeds, pots, compost, plants etc. to ‘green up’ and increase biodiversity across Brent.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Krupa.Sheth@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Krupa.Sheth@brent.gov.uk)



## **Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security – Councillor Promise Knight**

### **Top news since my last report:**

The private rented sector (PRS) in Brent has seen rapid growth over the last eleven years, with around 58,000 homes in the borough privately rented (46% of the total dwellings). Renters in private accommodation make up the largest proportion of occupants in our borough.

Brent's private rented sector (PRS) has been subject to small selective licensing schemes for the past eight years. Councils have the Government's consent to implement schemes if they are both under 20% of their total private rented stock and under 20% of the borough's geographical area.

To date the Council had licensed 17,930 properties including 6,660 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Licensing has been used strategically to deal with problems of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and to improve conditions associated with the PRS.

The Council has operated a licence condition and compliance inspection regime, along with proportionate enforcement action, to target non-compliant landlords and improve properties. This has led to over 8,240 properties being improved for the years January 2015 to October 2022.

Over the same period, over 2,200 housing notices have been served on private landlords and there have been 191 prosecutions resulting in fines and costs totalling £1.9m.

The Brent-Labour Manifesto 2022 sets out rationale for further landlord licensing in the borough as part of this Council's administration's agenda for "safe, secure and decent housing", and to protect the safety and wellbeing of renters through high standards.

Confirmation from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) will now be required for any selective licensing scheme where the percentage of either stock or geographical area is over the 20% threshold.

At the forthcoming meeting of Cabinet on the 17<sup>th</sup> July Phase 2 of our Selective Licensing programme will go forward for approval, with a report setting out the evidence, reason and justification for the designation.

If approved the designation will cover 18 wards of Alperton, Barnhill, Brondesbury Park, Cricklewood & Mapesbury, Kenton, Kilburn, Kingsbury, Northwick Park, Preston, Queens Park, Queensbury, Roundwood, Stonebridge, Sudbury, Tokyngton, Welsh Harp, Wembley Central, and Wembley Hill.

I hope that all members will join me in supporting the council's work in this vital area, so we can drive up standards with every power we have.

## **Other news:**

The Council's response to the regulator's damp and mould survey has been assessed and they have concluded that there has not been a breach of standards.

We will continue to build on this work to ensure that all of our homes are safe, secure and a great place to call home.

The regulator stated:

"...that the council has processes and procedures in place and is able to assess damp and mould with regular oversight, and there is no evidence at this time of serious detriment to tenants or a breach of our consumer standards.

In reaching this conclusion we noted the council has a stock condition survey in place, and any hazards identified are passed to its surveyors on a weekly basis with Category 1 hazards sent immediately. We also noted the council's plans to work with its Private Housing Team to carry out inspections focussing on those properties known to be susceptible to damp and mould."

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Promise.Knight@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Promise.Knight@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools – Councillor Gwen Grahl**

### **Top news since my last report:**

#### **Cabinet approves new children's residential care home in Brent**

Brent Council have secured match-funding to build a brand-new residential care home in our borough. There is currently a national shortage of suitable placements which has caused cost pressures, as well as making it more difficult for children to remain within Brent, close to their schools and communities.

This will make a huge difference for some of our most vulnerable children, meaning they can access support and care within our borough at a lower cost.

#### **Brent's Children's Services Department rated 'Good' by Ofsted**

It is excellent news that Brent has passed its recent Ofsted ILACS inspection with a rating of 'good'. The department was rated 'good' in all four criteria, showing the consistency of the services it provides for young people. This is testament to the hard work and dedication of Brent Council's staff, in particularly in children's social work.

The department has faced significant challenges since the last inspection in 2018, including ongoing funding shortfalls and an increase in demand in some areas. An action plan will now be formulated based on the report's recommendations, and the ILACS report will also appear before the Corporate Parenting Committee, as well as Scrutiny later in the year.

#### **Preparations on track to deliver Universal Free School Meals in Primary Schools**

Officers are working closely with local schools ahead of the roll out of Sadiq Khan's policy to deliver free school meals to every primary school in London for one year from September.

Brent Council have sent out a questionnaire to all primary schools to ensure that the policy can be implemented on time. It will happen in addition to Marcus Rashford's flagship Holiday Activities and Food Programme, which will be supplemented in Brent by an additional £1 million of local funding via our Family Food Programme. Pressure will continue on the government to commit to free school meals nationally with the Scottish and Welsh governments also introducing universal provision.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Gwen.Grahl@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Gwen.Grahl@brent.gov.uk)

## **Cabinet member for Customers, Communities and Culture - Councillor Fleur Donnelly-Jackson**

### **Top news since my last report:**

#### **Windrush 75**

Windrush 75 celebrations took place across the borough this month. To acknowledge this milestone Brent Council hosted a 'Windrush 75 Market' as part of the Windrush 75 network national celebrations of the Windrush generation. The council also delivered a 'Windrush 75 Tea Party' in collaboration with Lin Kam Art to provide the opportunity to bring the community together to celebrate the achievements of the Windrush community.

#### **New immigration advice service**

Our new Immigration Service with our partner North West London Law Centre started this month. On Monday's they will be at the Civic Centre and on Wednesday they will be at Brent Hubs Kilburn.

#### **Resident Support Fund/Household Support Fund**

For the financial year 2022/23 - £5m is available to help residents with the cost of living. The criteria from April 2023 has been changed to £1000 maximum per application to ensure we can distribute our remaining funding as widely as possible.

<b>Resident Support Fund</b>	<b>April 2023</b>	<b>May 2023</b>	<b>June-up to 14 June 2023</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Applications accepted</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>1126</b>
<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>£369,541</b>	<b>£386,693</b>	<b>£186,010</b>	<b>£942,244</b>

#### **Family Food Fund**

Cabinet agreed to fund £1m to support families with children who are not entitled to free school meals but are on low income.

In preparation for the summer holidays, we are preparing our communications campaign.

The form for support will go live on 1 July 2023 on the website for residents to apply directly.

We anticipate supporting 2500 children through this fund in the year.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact via the following email address. Contact: [Cllr.Fleur.Donnely-Jackson@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Fleur.Donnely-Jackson@brent.gov.uk)

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## Questions from the Opposition and Other Non-Cabinet Members

### Full Council – 10 July 2023

**1. Question from Councillor Choudry to Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action) and Councillor Farah (Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection)**

According to the last official data from Department for Transport (DfT), in Brent 13 blue badges have been lost or stolen, with 173 in Ealing and 11 in Camden respectively. Residents have recently reported an upswing in the theft of blue badges.

Could both the Cabinet member Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action and Cabinet member for Safer Communities and Public Protection highlight the enforcement work Brent Council is undertaking, alongside the Met Police to tackle the rise of blue badge thefts, and the obstacles to overcome in any transition to an electronic solution?

**Response:**

- The Council are aware of a spate of Blue badge thefts both London-wide and in Brent and officers in the Independent Travel Team, Audit and Investigations, and Healthy Streets and Parking have been working collaboratively to tackle blue badge thefts and fraud.
- The average time it currently takes the Independent Travel Team to process and issue a replacement Blue Badge is usually three weeks.
- Residents should report Blue Badge thefts to the Police and there is also an online reporting tool on the Councils website that directs the user to the gov.uk 'Replace a Blue Badge' form.
- To minimise the inconvenience to residents, a temporary badge is issued to provide residents with the ability to park their vehicle on the road in which they reside and avoid receiving a Penalty Charge Notice for not having their badge displayed. The temporary badges have a unique URN which Civil enforcement officers can then check and validate by entering the URN into their handheld device.
- However, Blue badge holders can also park on yellow lines where there are no loading restrictions in place for up to 3 hours displaying their blue badge and time clock, where it would not impede safety or traffic. The temporary badge does not provide this facility.

- Civil Enforcement Officers in the Parking service can check on a database whether a vehicle is displaying a stolen Blue badge, and take enforcement action including, towing vehicles away, issuing PCNs, and confiscating Blue Badges.
- Officers in the Parking Service work closely with Audit and Investigations and the Police in tackling blue badge fraud, and arrange days of action, targeting know hotspots, with operations in Willesden Green, Kingsbury and Wembley. A total of 127 badges were checked, which resulted in a total of 21 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs). Six PCNs were issued against vehicles illegally displaying a Blue Badge, of which three vehicles were removed and three Blue Badges were confiscated. An operation in Hassop road resulted in 24 Blue Badges inspected, five PCNs issued including two vehicles being removed for Blue Badge related offences.
- In 2022-23 the Audit and Investigations Service oversaw 23 successful prosecutions and 31 cautions/warnings relating to Blue Badge fraud and offences. In addition to these outcomes, the cases where appropriate are filed to the [Cifas National Fraud Database](#), which helps to further prevent and detect fraud. Criminal proceedings and cautions have been instigated (at various stages) with a further 24 live cases.
- Monthly meetings are being arranged with officers and the Police SNT to share data and identify local trends, and there are also future plans to provide more information on our website to deter theft and misuse.
- The Council have entered into a contract with RingGo for cashless parking services commencing on 4th July 2023, including permits. Officers will discuss the feasibility of introducing a virtual permit scheme for residents to use Disabled or resident parking bays outside their property without the need to display their blue badge.
- The theft and supply of stolen Blue Badges appears to be a widespread and increasing problem both Nationally and across all London boroughs. Our continued collaboration and joint-working between internal and external partners, demonstrates that the Council maintains a zero-tolerance approach to all types of Blue Badge fraud within the borough.



**2. Question from Councillor Kennelly to Councillor Knight (Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security):**

Recent reports suggest, damp and mould are responsible for nearly a third of category one hazards in London councils, more than twice the proportion seen across England as a whole. Brent Council handed out the most category one hazards in London for mould and damp, at 138 in the year to March 2022 — the latest period for which figures are available.

Could the Cabinet member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security provide an update on the work we do in partnership with Housing Associations and other housing providers to remediate cases of mould and damp in properties?

**Response:**

The Council has a very successful Private Housing Service which undertakes enforcement action within the Private Rented Sector. The figures referred to in Councillor Kennelly's question relates directly to this service's action within Brent and we should see it as a positive that as a Council we have issued such a high rate of Category 1 hazard notices. This does not indicate levels of damp and mould are higher in Brent than anywhere else, but that we are doing something about it and holding landlords to account with the powers we hold.

With Housing Associations, the Council does not hold any powers to take enforcement action in cases of Damp and Mould, this is the role of the Regulator for Social Housing.

In February 2023, the Regulator published its initial findings following a review of Damp and Mould in England's Social Housing whereby all large Registered Providers were required to provide information. The Regulator found the following:

- Most social landlords understand the extent of damp and mould in their tenants' homes and take action to tackle it, but could strengthen their approach.
- The vast majority of people living in social housing have homes that are free from damp and mould.
- Some landlords submitted poor quality responses that lacked the detail needed for RSH to have confidence about their approach to tackling damp and mould.
- It is estimated that less than 0.2% of social homes have the most serious damp and mould problems, 1-2% have serious damp and mould problems, and a further 3-4% have notable damp and mould.

What is acknowledged by the Council is how detrimental Damp and Mould can be for residents and this is sadly evidenced by the death of 2-year old Awaab Ishak.

To hold Housing Associations to account, I meet with the largest on a quarterly basis and can confirm each have had to outline how they are improving their management of damp and mould to myself and senior managers within Housing. This is also an opportunity to escalate any serious cases if required via the Affordable Housing and Partnerships Team.

The key message however is that whilst the Council can support the Regulator by upholding the expectations in our discussions with Housing Associations, this should be done in parallel with the proper reporting procedures for such cases. Not following the reporting procedure can seriously delay an investigation into the case for residents. I ask all members to ensure if they are aware of residents living with damp and mould in social housing to report it to their Housing Association and if they are unsatisfied with the response, use the complaints process, all the way through to the Regulator for Social Housing and Housing Ombudsman.

**3. Question from Councillor Chan to Councillor Farah (Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection) and Councillor Nerva (Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care):**

Many Harlesden and Kensal Green residents have approached myself, Councillor Kelcher and Councillor Mili Patel to voice their opposition to so-called adult gaming centres, which prey on some of the most vulnerable segments of society, and blight our neighbourhoods.

Could the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection and Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care provide an update on the actions of the Council to address both gambling as a public health issue, as well as the associated anti-social behaviour, and confirm what steps the council can take to prevent the proliferation of these so-called adult gaming centres.

**Response:**

London Borough of Brent is the statutory licensing authority in relation to gambling and adult gaming centres by virtue of the Gambling Act 2005.

The Act requires local authorities to produce a 'statement of principles' to apply when carrying out their licensing functions which must be updated every three years. This policy cannot create new requirements for applications outside of the Act and cannot override applicant's rights to apply for a licence. However, it can require applicants to consider local issues and request they set out how they can contribute towards positively addressing them.

The Gambling Act 2005 states specifically, that a licensing authority may not have regard to the expected demand for the facilities in determining whether to grant a premises licence. Unlike the alcohol licensing regime, the Act does not apply the prevention of public nuisance or anti-social behaviour (ASB) as a specific licensing objective.

Brent's 'Statement of Gambling Principles' was dated 2019 -2022. It was agreed as an interim measure, to renew its contents until January 2024 as at the time, a new Gambling Bill was expected from Parliament following a wide-ranging review of gambling laws by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport. We will therefore be updating our policy over the coming months and consulting with councillors, residents and the gambling industry amongst others.

The long awaited [review](#) was published in April 2023. It sought to ensure government had the balance right between consumer freedoms and choice on the one hand and protection from harm on the other. The report acknowledged more was needed to protect those at risk of addiction and associated unaffordable losses.

One of the proposed changes to be introduced is a statutory levy on the gambling companies, requiring them to fund research, education and treatment. Another proposed initiative was about redressing the power imbalance between customers and gambling companies when things go wrong by creating a non-

statutory ombudsman that gives customers a single point of contact. There is also a commitment to continue to protect children from gambling.

In 2015, the government introduced changes to the planning system that removed a previous permitted development right from betting shops. This means that anyone wishing to change the use of an existing building to a betting shop will need to apply for planning permission to do so in addition to applying for a premise licence.

The statement of gambling Principles includes the local planning policy which restricts the number of adult gaming centres and the locations of these.

The Council has no additional public health powers which would allow action on adult gaming centres. The current licensing regulations do not include consideration of public health harm. However we are investigating the use of the Brent public realm, near licensed gambling locations, to run targeted gambling awareness of the support which is available for residents experiencing problems with gambling: 24/7 helpline 0808 8020 133 or online <https://www.gamcare.org.uk/get-support/talk-to-us-now/>). Brent Public Health have developed brief “making every contact count” training for front line staff to raise awareness of the potential harms of gambling and gaming”

In terms of managing ASB, then this must fall within the routine cycle of work with the police and other agencies to identify problems in town centre areas, to identify perpetrators using CCTV and our own enforcement patrols and to take appropriate and reasonable action (such as CPN sanction) against premises (where there is an established link) and individuals where they are identified. Establishing a direct link between ASB and gambling premises is likely to be difficult to establish, especially where problems are attributed to individuals and may extend to the wider town centre area.

**4. Question from Councillor Georgiou to Councillor Knight (Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security):**

Brent Council moved the cleaning for all of their estates in house in 2019. When this happened the amount that the Council spent on cleaning rocketed from £1.9m to £2.6m. When examined on an individual estate level, many of the increases in council spending were shocking with approximately 20 estates having a cleaning spend increase of between 200% - 655%; 58 having an increase of over 100% and 99 of just over 200 estates managed by Brent having an increase of over 50%.

Leaseholders across the borough are rightly questioning why the consultation documentation they were sent (see attached) had no indication that they could face such huge increases in charges. After complaints, Brent hired a consultant (at a cost of £27,435) and following their report reviewed the cleaning hours across estates. However, a number of concerns remain, including:

1. The consultant recommended a decrease across the borough of 21% in cleaning hours stating that current performance was -21% less effective than industry standard. Brent was spending £2,666,116 on cleaning for 2021-22. Following the consultant visit this was revised down to £2,522,198 representing a 5% decrease in overall spend. This is a worryingly large discrepancy and much less than that recommended.
2. Whilst there has been a reduction in spend on some estates following the review of cleaning hours many are still facing stratospheric increases with examples such as Longely Avenue in Alperton; Overton Close (increase of 806%); Tillet Close (increase of 790%); Owen Way (increase of 672%) and Henderson Close (increase of 320%).
3. The consultant report stated *“reviewing the frequency of cleaning within the specification is key to making sure it meets the demands of the properties.”* Leaseholders were also informed *“with the cleaning service back in house, it will give tenants and leaseholders much greater control over the service they pay for as we are committed to developing a resident led system which works well for all of us.”* I am aware some residents, including one estate where over half supported by the Chair of the Residents Committee, have requested a less frequent service but these have been denied by the Council.

As part of the change to in-house cleaning the structure of charging has also changed. Again this was not communicated to leaseholders. Each property owner, whether Brent or a leaseholder, now pays a fixed charge of approximately £154 per year for costs associated with cleaning and then also pays for the hours their estate is tended to. Brent have been told by the consultant they were overspending on cleaning hours and whilst the consultant did not examine these fixed costs it can only be assumed these are also being overspent on.

It is concerning to note that Brent Housing had promised leaseholders they would adhere to the consultants recommendations for hours spent cleaning estates, yet this was something they went on not to do when the hours were reviewed. Residents only found out via a Freedom of Information request this promise had

been broken. I am therefore concerned that Brent Housing have gone against these recommendations on estate across the borough and, as a result, are wasting money that could be better spent elsewhere.

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security therefore advise:

- (1) Why Brent Council is ignoring the recommendations of the consultant they spent so much money in hiring to review cleaning hours on housing estates; and
- (2) Why the Council seem intent on wasting taxpayer and leaseholder money that could be put to better use.

**Response:**

The Council insourced Caretaking services in September 2019, following a drop in performance and increased dissatisfaction with the service among residents.

When the service was insourced the level of spend increased as a result of the following:

- Increase in staffing wages to meet the London Living Wage and then a further increase in line with the wider market
- Provision of new uniforms and equipment
- Purchase of new vans and repairs to tipper trucks
- Lease of additional welfare cabins

Prior to being insourced to the Council, it was apparent the Caretaking service had been operating with poor working conditions for staff.

Service charges are based on the cost to run the service. It is illegal for the Council, like any provider to profit from delivery of the service.

It is as a result of these improvements to standards, equipment and working conditions that spend rose from £1.9m to £2.6m.

It is with much regret that following bringing the service in house a substantial mistake occurred and the calculation of the cleaning hours apportioned to the 700 Council owned blocks across Brent was incorrectly made. This led to leaseholders in many blocks being either over or under charged.

Work immediately began to review the cleaning charges and took a considerable amount of time to correctly establish. Once this was completed those who had been over charged were refunded. However, those under charged were not pursued, and instead the Council absorbed this cost at its own expense in recognition of its fault.

# Cleaning services in Brent brought back in house

15 January 2019

Brent Council's Cabinet has given the go ahead for cleaning of council estates to be done directly by Brent Council. This means that tenants and leaseholders will be getting more control over the service they pay for.

Wettons Cleaning Services Limited currently clean housing estates across the borough but the report that went to Cabinet this week recommended that a good quality cleaning service, which is more responsive to residents' needs, could be delivered directly by Brent Council.

Wettons were awarded the contract in 2013 by Brent Housing Partnership and are responsible for the maintenance of the internal and external communal areas of blocks of flats managed by the council. A service review revealed that the quality of service, including the responsiveness to complaints and the joint working with other contractors, is poor leading to low resident satisfaction.

Now that the cleaning service will be brought back in house, the council will give tenants and leaseholders an active say, through a consultation, into how the service should evolve.

Councillor Eleanor Southwood, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform said: "Council tenants and leaseholders have been telling us for some time that the current cleaning arrangements aren't working and this is a great opportunity to do something about that. I know how important it is for people to feel happy with where they live, and the cleanliness of our blocks is a huge part of this.


"With the cleaning service back in house, it will give tenants and leaseholders much greater control over the service they pay for as we are committed to developing a resident led system which works well for all of us."

After Brent Housing Management services were brought in house in October 2016, improving the estate cleaning service became a priority. A number of steps were taken to improve the service and this resulted in an increase in resident satisfaction - up from 58 percent to 68 percent in a year.

However, while some improvements have been made, the report to Cabinet recommended that, in order to achieve the desired levels of quality and resident satisfaction, the service should be brought in house. This will allow estate cleaning to be fully integrated with other housing management services while giving the council, tenants and leaseholders greater control.

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 <p><b>Brent</b></p>	<p><b>Full Council</b> 10 July 2023</p> <hr/> <p><b>Report from the Corporate Director of Communities &amp; Regeneration</b></p>
<p><b>Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Chair's Update Report</b></p>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Council
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1 Draft Committee Work Programme 2023-24
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	<p>Jason Sigba Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy &amp; Partnerships 020 8937 2036 <a href="mailto:jason.sigba@brent.gov.uk">jason.sigba@brent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Tom Pickup Policy, Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager Strategy &amp; Partnerships <a href="mailto:Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk">Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Janet Latinwo, Head of Strategy and Partnerships, Strategy and Partnerships 020 8937 4104 <a href="mailto:Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk">Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk</a></p>

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide updates on the meetings and activities of the Resources and Public Realm Committee since the last Full Council meeting on 21 November 2022; as well as present the Committee's 2023/24 draft work programme.

## 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the updates in the report; and the Committee's 2023/24 draft work programme within.

### **3 Detail**

- 3.1. Brent Council has two scrutiny committees; the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The Council is also a member of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC).
- 3.2. A scrutiny committee can look at anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit.
- 3.3. Brent Council Standing Orders allow for the chairs of the scrutiny committees to report to ordinary Council meetings on the activities of their committees<sup>1</sup>.

#### The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

- 3.4. The remit of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for scrutiny committees<sup>2</sup>. The remit of the Committee includes:

*Corporate policy, partnerships and resources; Budget; Customer services; Commercial services; Planning policy; Environmental policy; Public realm; Employment and skills; IT; Recycling; Regeneration; Transport and highways; Community safety; Property; Emergency planning and business continuity.*

- 3.5. The Committee is also the Council's "crime and disorder committee" for the purposes of Section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006 and as such may review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of the crime and disorder functions by the responsible authorities (as defined by section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) who make up the Safer Brent Partnership, in order to make reports or recommendations to Full Council.

#### 2022/23 update

- 3.6. Since the last update to Full Council on 21 November 2022 the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee has met four times (15 December 2022, 24 January 2023, 22 February 2023, and 25 April 2023).

##### 15 December 2022

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<sup>1</sup> Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s133282/Part%202%20June%202023%20Procedural%20Rules.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Brent Council Constitution Part 4.

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s132905/Part%204%20June%202023%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20.pdf>

3.7. The Committee heard from Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure, and Climate Action; and received a report from Resident Services outlining the proposed service changes to be included in the retendered Integrated Street Cleansing, Waste Collections and Winter Maintenance Services Contract ('The Integrated Contract'). The main service changes were coined as the Council's 'Preferred Service', which principally involved the move from i) a frequency-led to an intelligence-led approach to street cleansing, and ii) the switch from weekly commingled recycling collections for street level households to an alternate weekly twin stream recycling collection, with the separation of paper and card from containers. Committee members expressed concerns around how the 'Preferred Service' aligns with Council climate commitments; and questioned the 'robustness' of the proposed service changes against its intended outcomes and what our residents had told us their needs were via recent consultation feedback. The Committee also explored whether the 'Preferred Service' ensured value for money considering the budget pressures faced by the Council. At the end of the discussion, the Committee made the following suggestions for improvement (which have all since been accepted by Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Resident Services):

1. Produce a diagram/flowchart detailing all milestones from May 2019 when the Redefining Local Services (RLS) programme was first initiated.
2. Review household bulky waste collection charges, including consideration of a sliding scale of charges linked to the number of items to be collected, rather than the current fixed rate of £35 for up to five items.
3. Undertake a feasibility study on the potential for introducing a mixed approach to paper/card recycling collections, to explore whether any recycling collection rounds in the borough would be more suited to the use of bins rather than sacks.
4. Arrange a session with ward councillors and Neighbourhood Managers to inform the design and development of the new recycling engagement and communication plan that will accompany the roll out of the new recycling service.
5. Liaise with the West London Waste Authority to ensure access is reinstated for pedestrians and cyclists at the Abbey Road Household Reuse and Recycling Centre.
6. Improve collaboration between in-house enforcement teams and collection operatives in identifying fly tipping hot spots and collating evidence, to remove the burden from residents

24 January 2023

- 3.8. Councillor Rita Conneely, Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Committee presented the Budget Scrutiny Task Group Findings report<sup>3</sup>, which consisted of 13 evidence-based recommendations on the Cabinet's draft budget proposals for 2023/24. As context to the review, it was noted that the Task Group had recognised the challenging financial environment the Council was operating in, most notably having to navigate high inflation, and the long-term reduction in government funding, whilst catering to the increased demand in frontline services. Nonetheless, all recommendations put forward by the Task Group were accepted in full by the Committee, and subsequently agreed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 6 February 2023.

22 February 2023

- 3.9. The Committee welcomed Alex Nickson, Water Resources and Growth Lead from Thames Water to provide a progress update on the lessons learnt from the July 2021 flooding in the borough. This was a follow up meeting to the committee meeting that took place on 9 February 2022. Specifically the Committee were keen to understand what actions Thames Water had taken to strengthen collaboration between its organisation and local authorities, the Police, and the Fire Brigade to manage flooding moving forward. Also, the steps it had taken to improve its communication channels with residents and local authorities contacting them with flooding issues within its remit. The Committee were not convinced that lessons had been properly learnt since the 2021 flooding incidents, citing a recent example where Thames Water had failed to respond to members' specific concerns in writing ahead of this particular meeting. Nonetheless, Alex Nickson committed to returning to a later committee meeting to present Thames Water's 2025-2030 business plan and the London Level Strategy to appease concerns.

The Committee also heard from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Muhammed Butt, who presented a report on 'Spaces for Community Use'. The Committee questioned what available community assets existed in the borough for voluntary groups to carry out their work; how the Council currently supports its voluntary groups in accessing community space; how the Council were ensuring that Council-owned community assets were distributed fairly and transparently; and how the Council was utilising its community assets to generate income. Officers agreed to review the Council's approach to support voluntary groups accessing community space; and committed to attend a future scrutiny meeting to share the final Council Asset Review and the draft Property Strategy. At the end of the discussion, the Committee made the following suggestions for improvement:

1. The priorities for the new Property Strategy should include opportunities for partnership working with CVS groups that can demonstrate sustainable links to promoting Social Value in line with Brent's strategic priorities.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s129287/6.a%20Appendix%201%20-%20Budget%20Scrutiny%20Task%20Group%20Final%20Report.pdf>

2. Inclusion of community spaces to be consistently encouraged and raised with developers making planning applications.
3. Local Ward Councillors to be informed when community properties become available to let.

25 April 2023

3.10. The Committee heard from Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure, and Climate Action; and received a report from Resident Services, providing an update on the Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-2030. The report highlighted the current key focal points of the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency 2022-24 Delivery Plan (adopted by Cabinet in June 2022), namely the new, localised, Green Neighbourhoods pilot. The Chair invited evidence from Brent's Friends of the Earth. The Committee also provided feedback on the proposed pilot itself, and more generally questioned whether the 2022-24 Delivery Plan was ambitious enough. Additionally, the Committee raised concerns on the lack of benchmarking provided in the report; Members stressed that this made it difficult to measure success and to compare the Council's climate action efforts to those of other local authorities. At the end of the discussion, the Committee made the following cabinet recommendations/suggestions for improvement:

1. Continue to lobby central government and the Greater London Authority (GLA) for additional funding to strengthen our efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
2. Introduce a 'climate implications' section into all cabinet reports to ensure that all key decisions are aligned with our net zero targets.
3. Develop an accountability framework (such as a dashboard) for the Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-2030 that is accessible on the Council's website to demonstrate to residents how Brent is performing on its climate ambitions for 2030 and 2045. This framework should also benchmark our activities/efforts with other local authorities for context.
4. Explore opportunities to use strategic CIL (SCIL) monies to fund additional infrastructure projects that are directly aligned with our climate commitments (set out in the Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-2030).
5. Engage with Brent Friends of the Earth and other relevant community partners to support and improve the delivery of the Council's Climate Action agenda.

3.11. The Committee also heard from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform, Councillor Mili Patel, and received a report from Finance and Resources on the 2022/23 Q3 Financial Forecast. It was reiterated that the current and medium-term economic environment that the

Council was navigating remained volatile and uncertain with high inflation, particularly affecting energy costs, rising interest rates, and war in Ukraine precipitating the cost-of-living crisis. Consequently, this made it more difficult for the Council to plan future service levels and the required resourcing envelopes. In terms of the most material risks to the Council's overall financial position, an overall overspend of £3.2m was estimated, made up of £1.6m within the Dedicated Schools Grant, and £2.3m within the Children and Young People directorate. Nonetheless, the Committee delved into the reasons for the overspends mentioned, and questioned how these budget pressures were being managed in light of the volatile economic environment the Council was operating in. At the end of the discussion, the Committee recommended for the lead member to continue to lobby central government for the long-awaited local government finance reforms.

## **2023/24 update**

Next meeting: 19 July 2023

- 3.12. The next meeting of the Resources and Public Realm Committee will be held on 19 July 2023. The Committee will formally agree its work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year (please see Appendix A).
- 3.13. In developing its work programme, the Committee reviewed documents such as the Corporate Forward Plan and Borough Plan 2023-27. The Committee also held sessions with cabinet members, corporate directors, and the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee to temperature check key priority areas (i.e. ensure it can make impact/add significant value to the shortlisted items), avoid work duplication, and most importantly confirm the work plan reflects matters of local community concern.
- 3.14. Members will also review the following reports:
- Budget 2023/24 (Summer) Update
  - IT Shared Services and Cyber Security
- 3.15. The work plan is a living, flexible document, responsive to the needs of Brent residents. The final programme will therefore be regularly reviewed throughout the municipal year by the Committee and updated accordingly where necessary.

## **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **6 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **7 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

7.1 Councillors will discuss this report at the Council meeting.

**Report sign off:**

**Zahur Khan**

Corporate Director – Communities  
& Regeneration

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## Appendix A

### Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2023-2024 (DRAFT)

#### 19 July 2023

Agenda Item	Cabinet Member/Non-Executive Member	Chief Executive/Corporate Director	External Organisations
Committee Work Programme 2023/24	Cllr Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council	Kim Wright, Chief Executive Zahur Khan, Corporate Director – Communities and Regeneration	
Budget 2023/24 Update	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel, Corporate Director – Finance and Resources	
IT Shared Services and Cyber Security	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel, Corporate Director – Finance and Resources	

#### 6 September 2023

Agenda Item	Cabinet Member/Non-Executive Member	Chief Executive/Corporate Director	External Organisations
Establishment of Budget Scrutiny Task Group	Cllr Rita Conneely, Chair of Resources and Public Realm Committee	Zahur Khan, Corporate Director – Communities and Regeneration	
Planning Enforcement	Cllr Shama Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning, and Growth	Zahur Khan, Corporate Director – Communities and Regeneration	

Community Engagement Framework	Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities, and Culture	Zahur Khan, Corporate Director – Communities and Regeneration	
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### 7 November 2023

Agenda Item	Cabinet Member/Non-Executive Member	Chief Executive/Corporate Director	External Organisations
Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2022-23	Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection	Zahur Khan, Corporate Director – Communities and Regeneration	
Complaints Annual Report 2022-23	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Debra Norman, Corporate Director – Governance	

### 24 January 2024

Agenda Item	Cabinet Member/Non-Executive Member	Chief Executive/Corporate Director	External Organisations
Budget Scrutiny Task Group Findings	Cllr Rita Conneely, Chair of Resources and Public Realm Committee	Zahur Khan, Corporate Director – Communities and Regeneration	
Draft Property Strategy/Asset Review Findings	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel, Corporate Director – Finance and Resources	


**27 February 2024**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Non-Executive Member</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Corporate Director</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>
Climate Action	Cllr Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action	Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director – Resident Services	
Regeneration in Brent	Cllr Shama Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning, and Growth	Zahur Khan, Corporate Director – Communities and Regeneration	

**23 April 2024**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Non-Executive Member</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Corporate Director</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>
Budget 2023/24 Update	Cllr Mili Patel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform	Minesh Patel, Corporate Director – Finance and Resources	
Contracts Mobilisation	Cllr Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action	Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director – Resident Services	

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	<p align="center"><b>Full Council</b> 10 July 2023</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Report from the Corporate Director of Communities and Regeneration</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Update Report</b></p>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Council
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1 Draft Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>George Kockelbergh Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy and Partnerships 020 8937 5477 <a href="mailto:George.Kockelbergh@brent.gov.uk">George.Kockelbergh@brent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Tom Pickup, Policy Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk">Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Janet Latinwo Head of Strategy and Partnerships, Strategy and Partnerships 020 8937 4104 <a href="mailto:Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk">Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk</a></p>

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To present Full Council with the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's 2023/24 work programme, and to provide an update on meetings and activities undertaken by the committee.

**2.0 Recommendation(s)**

## 2.1 That Full Council:

Note the report and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's 2023/24 work programme.

## 3.0 Detail

3.1 Brent Council has two scrutiny committees: the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. The council also participates as a full voting member in the North West London Joint Health Overview Scrutiny (NWL JHOSC), which was chaired by Cllr Sheth during the 2022/23 municipal year. The chair of the NWL JHOSC will be elected at its first meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year on July 18, 2023.

3.2 A scrutiny committee can review anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit. The remit of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees which includes:

*Adult social care; Safeguarding; Children's services; Cultural services; Education; Health; Housing; Public Health and Wellbeing.*

3.3 As part of its remit set out in the constitution, and its role to review the provision and operation of health services within the borough, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can scrutinise, and make recommendations to NHS organisations or relevant health service providers.

3.4 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's 2023/24 work programme is detailed in Appendix 1. It outlines the policy areas and council decisions the committee plans to review during the 2023/24 municipal year. Statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny recommends that for scrutiny to be effective, scrutiny committees focus on conducting fewer in-depth reviews of highly significant topics<sup>1</sup>.

3.5 In developing its work programme the committee held a work programming meeting, attended by committee members, Cabinet members and Corporate Directors. At this session committee members prioritised items to include on the work programme based on a set of criteria. Prioritisation ensured that items included on the committees work programme were (i) a strategic priority as set out in the council's 2023-27 Borough Plan (ii) of concern for a significant number of the borough's residents (iii) a significant cabinet decision or (iv) part of a forthcoming policy review or a new strategy being developed by the Cabinet. This was undertaken to ensure that scrutiny has a significant impact and adds value to the council's policy process.

3.6 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is set to meet on 5 July 2023 for its first meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year. Here the committee will

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<sup>1</sup> *Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities* (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government), p21

review two items relating to how health services are delivered to Brent residents. The first of these is a paper on how the Brent Integrated Care Partnership and the council are working together to tackle health inequalities. Health inequalities are avoidable and unfair differences in health between groups of people, and the impact of these inequalities in Brent was brought into sharper focus as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. A significant amount of work is now being undertaken through the Brent Health Matters programme to address these inequalities. The committee will review the successes of Brent Health Matters to date and look at areas where its work could be strengthened. The second paper will focus on current key challenges related to funding and recruitment in the health and social care sector and the impact they are having on local healthcare provision. The committee will review and the impact that these issues are currently having in Brent and will seek assurances from the Brent Integrated Care Partnership that they are working to ensure that Brent residents receive high quality local health services.

- 3.7 At its last meeting of the 2022/23 municipal year on 18 April 2023 the committee received an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Casey Review which assessed the events surrounding the 'Euro Sunday' 2020 UEFA Euro Final at Wembley Stadium. The committee heard from the council and its partners that new measures had been put in place to ensure the events of that day are never repeated. The committee was also encouraged by the strengthened partnership working developed as a result of the Casey Review's recommendations. At this meeting the committee reviewed the progress made against Northwick Park Hospital's maternity improvement plan. Whilst the committee were pleased that improvements had been made to maternity services at Northwick Park there were still significant challenges to overcome in relation to staffing. This meeting also had two update items relating to healthcare, the first was related to the development of community diagnostic hubs in North West London, two of which will be located in Brent. The second was an update on the progress made in implementing the 8 recommendations of the GP Access Task Group. Although the committee were pleased with the progress made in implementing the recommendations, they still expressed significant concerns around access to GP services in Brent.
- 3.8 At its meeting on 7 March 2023 the committee was joined by several Brent headteachers, who along with Councillor Grahl and officers provided an update on attainment in Brent schools. The committee heard that, reporting of school attainment had not been undertaken in the same way compared to previous years due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which made comparison over a number of years more difficult. The committee were similarly disappointed that the progress in narrowing the attainment gap for Black British boys of Caribbean heritage had not been sustained since the pandemic and called on the council and schools to provide extra support to ensure progress was not lost. In this meeting the committee also reviewed an item on children's mental health. This item included contributions from the council's Children and Young People's department and the Brent Integrated Care Partnership who outlined current demand and funding available for children's mental health services in the borough. The committee were concerned that Brent currently received the least funding for children's mental health services across North

West London, despite high demands. The committee reviewed an item on seasonal and childhood immunisations in Brent, presented by Brent's Director of Public Health and NHS England. The report detailed the work undertaken between NHS England, the council and local GPs to increase immunisation coverage in the borough, however the data still showed that there was work to be done to prevent outbreaks of diseases such as measles and MMR. The committee recommended that targeted communications and engagement with vaccine hesitant groups is done at a greater pace to improve health outcomes. At this meeting the committee also confirmed the final recommendations of the social prescribing scrutiny task group. The committee will keep a watching brief over the implementation of these recommendations by the Brent Integrated Care Partnership and are set to receive an item on the progress made at a meeting in the 2023/24 municipal year.

- 3.9 Councillor Ketan Sheth is Brent's representative on the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Sheth has been nominated to continue as chair of the committee for the 2023/24 municipal year. The first meeting of the year will be hosted by the London Borough of Hillingdon on 18 July 2023. At this meeting the committee will review: the North West London Integrated Care System's strategy for the provision of acute beds; the plans to standardise adult and children's ophthalmology services across North West London; and the development of musculoskeletal services across North West London.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

#### **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

- 7.1 Non-executive members were involved in developing the work programme as part of their membership of the committee.

**Report sign off:**

**Zahur Khan**  
*Corporate Director, Communities  
and Regeneration*



## Appendix 1: Draft 2023/24 Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

5 July 2023

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive / Corporate Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Health Inequalities, focusing on the work of Brent Health Matters (60 minutes)	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health	Helen Coombes, Interim Corporate Director, Care, Health and Wellbeing	Brent Integrated Care Partnership	Robyn Doran, Director, Brent Integrated Care Partnership
Funding and Recruitment: Impact of challenges on Brent's healthcare provision (60 minutes)	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health	Helen Coombes, Interim Corporate Director, Care, Health and Wellbeing	Brent Integrated Care Partnership	Robyn Doran, Director, Brent Integrated Care Partnership

**19 September 2023**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive / Corporate Directors</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>	<b>External Participants</b>
Outcome of 2023 Ofsted ILACS and current children's social care improvement activity (including current workforce challenges) <i>(40 minutes)</i>	Councillor Gwen Grahl, Lead Member, Children, Young People & Schools	Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director Children and Young People	TBC	TBC
SEND strategy implementation and readiness for a joint Ofsted/CQC inspection <i>(40 minutes)</i>	Councillor Gwen Grahl, Lead Member, Children, Young People & Schools	Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director Children and Young People	TBC	TBC
Adult Social Care CQC assurance <i>(40 minutes)</i>	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health	Helen Coombes, Interim Corporate Director, Care, Health and Wellbeing  Claudia Brown, Director of Adult Social Services	TBC	TBC

**22 November 2023**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive / Corporate Directors</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>	<b>External Participants</b>
Brent's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children <i>(Considered annually)</i> <i>(40 minutes)</i>	Councillor Gwen Grahl, Lead Member, Children, Young People & Schools	Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director Children and Young People	Metropolitan Police NHS	Independent Chair / Scrutineer, Brent Safeguarding Children Board  Jennifer Roye, Director of Quality, North West London Integrated Care Board

				Detective Superintendent Tony Bellis, Public Protection, North West London Basic Command Unit, Metropolitan Police
Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022- 2023  (Considered annually) (40 minutes)	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health	Helen Coombes, Interim Corporate Director, Care, Health and Wellbeing  Claudia Brown, Director of Adult Social Services	Metropolitan Police NHS	Fran Pearson, Independent Chair, Safeguarding Adults Board  Jennifer Roye, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, North West London Integrated Care Board  Detective Superintendent Tony Bellis, Public Protection, North West London Basic Command Unit, Metropolitan Police
Brent Youth Strategy and provision (40 minutes)	Councillor Gwen Grahl, Lead Member, Children, Young People & Schools	Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director Children and Young People	Brent Community and Voluntary Sector Organisations	TBC

**30 January 2024**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Chief Executive / Corporate Directors</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>	<b>External Participants</b>
Brent Housing Management: including readiness for tenancy satisfaction measures and responsive repairs performance (50 minutes)	Councillor Promise Knight, Lead Member, Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security	Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services  Hakeem Osinaike, Director, Housing		

New single homelessness service (50 minutes)	Councillor Promise Knight, Lead Member, Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security	Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services  Hakeem Osinaike, Director, Housing		
Selective Licensing (20 minutes)	Councillor Promise Knight, Lead Member, Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security	Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services  Hakeem Osinaike, Director, Housing		


#### 4 March 2024

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive / Corporate Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Substance Misuse (50 minutes)	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health	Helen Coombes, Interim Corporate Director, Care, Health and Wellbeing  Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health	TBC	TBC
Brent Health and Wellbeing Strategy implementation (50 minutes)	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health	Helen Coombes, Interim Corporate Director, Care, Health and Wellbeing  Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health	Brent Integrated Care Partnership	TBC
Social Prescribing Task Group 1 Year Update (20 minutes)	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health	Helen Coombes, Interim Corporate Director, Care, Health and Wellbeing	Brent Integrated Care Partnership	Robyn Doran, Director, Brent Integrated Care Partnership

16 April 2024

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive / Corporate Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Annual school standards and achievement report (50 minutes)	Councillor Gwen Grahl, Lead Member, Children, Young People & Schools	Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director Children and Young People	Headteachers from Brent schools	TBC
Implementation of the carer's strategy (50 minutes)	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health	Helen Coombes, Interim Corporate Director, Care, Health and Wellbeing Claudia Brown, Director of Adult Social Services	Representatives from Carers forum	TBC
Brent's new reablement service (20 minutes)	Cllr Neil Nerva, Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health	Helen Coombes, Interim Corporate Director, Care, Health and Wellbeing Claudia Brown, Director of Adult Social Services	TBC	TBC

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 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 10 July 2023
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources</b>
<b>Annual Report of the Chairs' of the Audit and Standards Committee and Audit and Standards Advisory Committee</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Minesh Patel, Corporate Director of Finance and Resources Tel: 020 8937 4043 Email: <a href="mailto:minesh.patel@brent.gov.uk">minesh.patel@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This is the first annual report of the Audit and Standards (A&S), and the Audit and Standards Advisory (A&SA) Committees.
- 1.2 This report seeks to meet the requirements and principles as set out within CIPFA's Position Statement regarding Audit Committees ('Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police').
- 1.3 This report covers the work of the two Committees for the Municipal Year 2022-23. This was the first year of the revised membership, following the May 2022 elections.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Council is asked to note the contents of the report.

## 3. Introduction

- 3.1 The Audit and Standards Advisory Committee met six times within the municipal year, and the Audit and Standards Committee meet three times. During the year the Committees covered a large amount of work, often with very short notice.

Much of the work of the Committees has highlighted the high – if often well-managed – level of risk being faced by the Council.

3.2 The importance of the work of the Committees has been growing as the details of the failures of governance and financial control at other authorities has become clear.

3.3 The degree of oversight of the Council's governance arrangement is also increasing.

#### **4. Overview**

4.1 2022/23 has been a very active and interesting year, and one which is difficult to summarise; however, the key points that have come through from the matters considered by the Committees are as follows:

- a. Brent is in a good position with regard to financial sustainability, with a relatively good level of reserves, and bringing in expenditure within budget. As well as having the audit of its accounts signed off by the end of the financial year. However a number of issues are appearing which may lead to future problems :
  - i. Due to the pressures on Council services the level of expenditure has and is likely to continue to rise above the base line; and
  - ii. As pointed out in the Auditor's annual report, the level of external debt and hence the interest payments is due to the level of capital expenditure rising, which may be becoming an issue with rising interest rates;
- b. In terms of Governance, Brent also has sound arrangements as confirmed by both the External Auditor's Value for Money report and Head of internal Auditor's report. However, there are a number of areas requiring attention particularly:
  - i. The need to address the 'second line' of defence (i.e. the monitoring and reporting of information and data, by management, in respect of the effectiveness of the 'first line' of defence);
  - ii. The need to address the fact that policies and procedures are sometimes absent or outdated, and as such, roles and responsibilities are not always clearly defined and outlined.
  - iii. The need to keep under review the governance arrangement for subsidiary companies; and
  - iv. The need to strengthen the oversight of contract management.
- c. The need for the committee to continue to review and improve its own performance, and work with officers and other member bodies to further improve the Council's risk management and allocation of work between the different bodies.



## **5. Standards Matters**

- 5.1 Although not covered by the CIPFA Statement, this is one of the Committees' key role, and one which is taken very seriously.
- 5.2 During the year the Committees considered a number Standards issues including Complaints against Members (none upheld in 2022), Oversight of Gifts and Hospitality, as well as Member Training and attendance.
- 5.3 A key belief of the Chairs is that in order to avoid the troubles some other authorities have encountered, it is necessary to keep on top of not only the financial resilience and governance arrangements of the authority, but the Standards arrangements.

## **6. Audit Matters**

- 6.1 The Audit and Standards Advisory Committee has continued to be well served by the Internal Audit and Investigation staff, and have provided regular updates on the progress of the 47 risk based audit planned to be undertaken during 2022/23. As well as the work on investigation frauds and irregular actives being undertaken by Investigation staff, the Committee was pleased to note to proactive work being undertaken. As well as these updates the Committees considered the following:
  - a. In June, the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report for 2021/22 which concluded that "The adequacy and effectiveness of the overall arrangements for the Council's systems of internal control, risk management and governance are adequate, with some improvement required." However, in option the following observations were noted:
    - i. Where gaps in control were identified, these were often in relation to the 'second line' of defence (i.e. the monitoring and reporting of information and data, by management, in respect of the effectiveness of the 'first line' of defence).
    - ii. In a number of instances, we noted that policies and procedures were often absent or outdated, and as such, roles and responsibilities were not always clearly defined and outlined.
    - iii. These concerns require to be considered and acting on.
  - b. A report outlining the results of the Internal Audit External Quality Assessment, which had been completed by Head of Internal Audit of the London Borough of Barnet. This is a key part of the Public Sector Audit Standards and gives an independent level of assurance to the Council about the quality of the Internal Audit Function. The A&SA Committee was pleased to see that the highest rating, Generally Conforms, had been giving to Brent's Internal Audit Service.
  - c. The Draft Internal Audit and Strategic Plan and Counter Fraud Plan for 2023/24, set out :
    - i. The use of internal audit resources.

- ii. The proposed 35 audits which are all linked back to the Council's strategic and inherent risks, as well as the plan to complete the three year review of all the key financial systems.
  - iii. The Annual Counter Fraud Plan, highlighting the increased fraud risk facing the Council and the way the Council will combat this.
- d. The A&SA Committee continued to receive updates on the work of the Council's external auditors Grant Thornton, (the audit of the 2021/22 accounts is considered in the Accounts section below). The key item considered was the Annual Value for Money report, which gave an independent review of the state of the Council's governance. The report was also considered at the February Council meeting. The report was positive, with the overall finding being for all three areas reviewed being: "No significant weaknesses in arrangements identified, but improvement recommendation made." The same as for 2020/21. However the report contained a number of recommendations which require to be implemented.
- e. The Committees also considered report on the appointment by Public Sector Audit Appointments of the Council external Auditors (as the Council has opted, like almost any other authority, to be part of the sector lead appointment process) for the five years from 31 March 2024. It was noted both that the new appointment will result in an increase in the general fee levels of about 150% and that Grant Thornton had been re-appointed to Brent.

## **7. Regulatory Framework**

- 7.1 The Committee's continued to oversee a number of areas concerning the regulatory framework, including reviewing the role and operation of the Constitution Working Group, the use of RIPA powers by the Council and a small but important review of the Financial and Procedural Rules governing the Mayor's Charity Appeal.
- 7.2 More significantly the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee has been deeply involved in the work of improving the Council's risk management structure, and the strategic Risk Management process. There has been major improvements in the strategic process which is now clearly linked to the Council's priorities. However, concerns remain over the risk management at departmental level, and the Chairs have been talking with the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees over how to improve oversight of this area which is one where the roles overlap.
- 7.3 The Committees also reviews the Annual Governance Statement, which is an important document as it set out the views of the Council's leadership and senior management on the state of the Council's governance.
- 7.4 An area which has taken up a lot of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee's time was the oversight of i4B and First Wave Housing. Although very important work, it is again one where there is an overlapping of

responsibilities between Audit and Scrutiny, as a number of areas considered by the Committee (such as void levels) could well be better considered by Scrutiny.

- 7.5 The Audit and Standards Advisory Committee also considered a number of reports most of which were also considered by Full Council on the Council's Treasury Management. The very detailed reports show the clear and careful planning and execution of the Council's Capital and Treasurer Management. However, the Committee did raise concerns about the level of borrowing being planned by the Council, particularly in view of the rise in interest rates, and although there is nothing to suggest this will be a problem, it is something the Council should keep under review.

## **8. Statement of Accounts**

- 8.1 The oversight of the Council's accounts is one of the key functions of both Committees. Brent has a proud record of having its accounts fully audited and signed off by the statutory publication date, which for the 2021/22 account was 30 November 2022. However, although the accounts were ready and the audit almost complete by that date, a combination of issues – external (national) and internal (to the external auditors) – resulted in the accounts not being signed off until the 31 March 2023. Although this still places the Council in a better position than most authorities – it was suggested that 74% of accounts were still outstanding at that date.

- 8.2 Members will be aware of the serious issue of the major problems concerning local authority audit, with only 12% of accounts signed off by the publication date for 2021/22, compared with 57% for 2018/19 (which was an earlier date of 31 July 2019). The ASA Committee will be carefully monitoring the situation for the 2022/23 accounts. It should also be noted that the late completion of the 2021/22 audit will make the achievement of the 2022/23 timetable more difficult.

## **9. Review of the effectiveness of the Committees**

- 9.1 The two committees have been required to consider a large number of issues over the last year with the result that some agendas have been packed and some members feeling they are overloaded.
- 9.2 To help overcome this and generally improve the performance of the Committees a self-assessment has been undertaken, with an improvement plan and training being considered.

## **10. Conclusion**

- 10.1 We should like to thank the members of the two committees, the Independent Advisor, and the former Independent Co-opted Members (Standards focused) and Independent Persons for all their support and assistance.
- 10.2 We should also like to express our gratitude to all the Council officers who have so diligently supported the Committees. These include particularly the

Governance Officers who have supported us, the Head of Audit and Investigation and staff of that department, and the officers from the Financial and Legal Services.

**11. Financial Implications**

11.1 The report is for noting and so there are no direct financial implications.

**12. Legal Implications**

12. The report is for noting and there are no direct legal implications.

**13. Equality Implications**

13.1 None.

**13. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

13.1 None.

**Report sign off:**

***Minesh Patel***

Corporate Director Finance and Resources



## Full Council – 10 July 2023

### Motion for Non Cabinet Member debate

#### Casey Review – Metropolitan Police

##### **This Council notes:**

- The damning findings of the March 2023 Casey Review, which showed a persistent and endemic culture of racism, misogyny, homophobia and violence against women within London's Metropolitan Police force.
- The recent BBC investigation that found that the Metropolitan Police seriously mishandled key inquiries related to a major suspect in the murder of Stephen Lawrence.
- That whilst the Casey Review and the recent revelations about the Stephen Lawrence investigation are shocking, it will not be surprising to many in our communities across Brent who have been failed by the Metropolitan Police. Rather, these findings have further exposed an institution that has been known for systemic failures since before the murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993.
- The persistent failure of leadership at all levels of the Metropolitan Police to act decisively and remove dangerous officers from their posts, despite multiple reports showing their propensity for serious harm prior to the violence and destruction they subsequently caused to dozens of lives.
- That the murder of Sarah Everard by Wayne Couzens, the dehumanising treatment of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, the Stephen Port murders, and the 48 rape offenses committed by David Carrick might have been prevented if swift and effective action had been taken at the time.

##### **This also Council notes:**

- That crime disproportionately impacts members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, those on the lowest incomes and members of the LGBTQ+ community, and that tackling crime across the borough means it is integral that these communities have trust and faith in the police that serve them.
- Black people are nine times more likely to be stopped and searched by police than white people, official figures for England and Wales show.

- As highlighted by Baroness Casey, it is not enough for the Metropolitan Police to “reflect” on what needs to change, but that it needs a complete overhaul in order to take firm and decisive action against racism, misogyny and homophobia.
- The work of the Independent Scrutiny and Oversight Board, which has highlighted the reluctance of the Metropolitan Police so far to make any significant change.
- Whilst this council recognises the heroic work done by many police officers, including our own neighbourhood officers here in Brent, there is clearly unfinished business in the police force if there is to be an end to the culture that enabled these horrifying injustices to take place.

**This Council further notes:**

- Brent Council's efforts to address Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) through the following initiatives:
  - The establishment of a VAWG Scrutiny Task Group in 2020 which provided a set of recommendations on how best to utilise Council resources to help combat VAWG. These recommendations are currently being implemented and its progress regularly reviewed to ensure this issue remains a high priority for the Council.
  - Increased resources to VAWG organisations across the borough, as well as increased MARAC service provision to meet the demands from the knock-on effect of the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - Workshops conducted with local businesses across Brent to ensure that training is provided to the night-time economy (local pubs, bars, restaurants, etc.) around supporting vulnerable women and safeguarding is offered more widely to local businesses.
  - A series of public awareness campaigns demonstrating solidarity against VAWG.
- The Council's investment in approaches to address perpetrators, provide trauma support to victims of crime; and investment in early intervention and prevention of community violence and harm – it is local government across London that has the approaches and best practice that is of value to the Metropolitan Police in its transformation.
- The positive introduction of LGBT+ Community Liaison Officers (CLO) for the North West Borough Command Unit (covering Brent, Barnet and Harrow boroughs) to improve relationships and trust between the LGBTQ+ Community and the Police.
- The Cabinet Member for Community Safety meets with the Metropolitan Police Commander for North West BCU (covering Brent, Harrow and Barnet) once a

month to discuss urgent police matters affecting Brent residents and to ensure the interests of our communities in Brent are taken into account by the local police.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities & Public Protection should write to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to confirm Brent Council's support of the Casey Review, requesting that the Metropolitan Police make concrete efforts to rebuild the trust lost by adopting and implementing without delay, all 16 recommendations of the Casey Review.

This includes:

- Adopting a new, independent, multidisciplinary team of police officers and staff who will reform how the Metropolitan Police deals with misconduct cases, with a particular focus on how it handles sexual misconduct, domestic abuse and discrimination.
  - Overhauling the recruitment and vetting system to ensure that new recruits are not drawn to the job for the wrong reasons; and revoking special qualifications where officers' standards fall short of public expectations.
  - Providing the Police Commissioner new powers that ensure that they can take strong and decisive action when the sanctions and consequences for misconduct are inadequate.
  - A dedicated Women's Protection Service with specialist units who focus on rape and serious and sexual offences and the creation of a children's strategy to focus resources on safeguarding and child protection.
- (2) To call upon the Metropolitan Police to build an improved borough-based approach that will rebuild trust in policing across communities by investing in frontline policing - including safer communities and public protection - and ensuring victims of crimes such as domestic violence and sexual assault have appropriate, compassionate, and effective support and resources.
  - (3) To call upon the Metropolitan Police to commit to an overhaul of stop and search powers and accountability for the use of force in our communities.
  - (4) To call upon the Metropolitan Police to further their partnership working with London local government as part of boosting local accountability and scrutiny of police powers, including working closely with those communities most impacted by police activity and communities and individuals subject to the disproportionality highlighted in the Casey report.

Councillor Lix Dixon  
Dollis Hill ward

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 <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Brent</p>	<p style="font-size: 18pt; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Full Council</p> <p style="font-size: 16pt; margin: 0;">10 July 2023</p>
<p style="font-size: 16pt; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Report from the Corporate Director, Governance</p>	
<p style="font-size: 16pt; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Changes to Terms of Reference (ToR) for the North West London Joint Health Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and Appointment to Committee</p>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	N/A
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Council
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix A Proposed changes to Terms of Reference
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Debra Norman, Corporate Director, Governance E: Debra.norman@brent.gov.uk T: 0208 937 1578

## 1.0 Summary

- 1.1. This report proposes changes to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (“NWL JHOSC”).

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree (a) the updated Terms of Reference and (b) that these replace the current Terms of Reference included in Part 4 of the London Borough of Brent’s Constitution as set out in Appendix A.

## 3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Terms of Reference have been developed and agreed by the NWL JHOSC and, once formally agreed by Full Council, will be set out in Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution: Terms of Reference for Council Committees and Sub-Committees.
- 3.2 The London Borough of Brent is a member of the NWL JHOSC and the changes to the ToR were agreed by the JHOSC to reflect the changes in the North West London Health sector landscape with the introduction of the Integrated Care

Systems (ICS) in local areas. It also clarifies in writing the current status where participation in the JHOSC will not preclude any scrutiny or right of response by individual boroughs.

3.3 The changes in paragraphs 1-4 of the Terms of Reference (ToR), set out in Appendix 1, reflect the following:

a) The Health and Care Act 2022 led to the creation of Integrated Care Systems (ICS) in local areas, which are now fully implemented. This includes replacing Clinical Commissioning Groups with the North West London Integrated Care System (i.e. the Integrated Care Board) and the establishment of the Integrated Care Partnership. In North West London, the ICS includes eight local authority areas, which are all represented as voting members of the North West London JHOSC.

b) Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) are partnerships of organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up health and care services, and to improve the lives of people who live and work in their area.

c) Integrated Care Boards are statutory NHS organisations that are responsible for developing a plan for meeting the health needs of the population, managing the NHS budget and arranging for the provision of health services in the Integrated Care Systems area.

3.4 Paragraph 5 and the amended ToR reflect the existing status and practice of the JHOSC:

*“Participation in the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will not preclude any scrutiny or right of response by individual boroughs. In particular, and for the sake of clarity, this joint committee is not appointed for and nor does it have delegated to it any of the functions or powers of the local authorities, either individually or jointly, under Section 23 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013”.*

#### **4.0 Legal implications**

4.1 The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is appointed under the provisions of regulation 30 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013/218 (‘the 2013 Regulations’), which provides that two or more local authorities may appoint a joint overview and scrutiny committee of those authorities and arrange for relevant functions in relation to any (or all) of those authorities to be exercisable by the joint committee subject to such terms and conditions as the authorities may consider appropriate.

4.2 Regulation 23 of the 2013 Regulations provides that, where a responsible person has under consideration any proposal for a substantial development of the health service in the area of a local authority, or for a substantial variation in the provision of such service, they must consult the authority. The proposed revisions to the joint committee’s terms of reference retains the requirement that individual member authorities be consulted in relation to substantial developments and variations in the provision of health services in their local authority area.

- 4.3 The proposed changes to the joint committee’s terms of reference reflect legislative changes introduced by the Health and Care Act 2022, which provides a new legislative framework to facilitate greater collaboration between the NHS, local government, and other partners.
- 4.4 The 2022 Act introduced Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) in local areas, which are partnerships bringing together providers and commissioners of NHS services across a specific geographical area with Local Authorities and other local partners to collectively plan health and care services to meet the needs of their population and reduce health inequalities.
- 4.5 ICSs have two statutory components, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), which have strategic oversight of the system.
- a) ICBs bring the NHS together locally to plan to meet population health needs, allocate resources, ensure that services are in place, facilitate the transformation of services, co-ordinate and improve people and culture development, and oversee the delivery of improved outcomes for the population. Local Authorities are represented on these boards. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were abolished, and their functions transferred to ICBs.
- b) ICPs are a broad alliance of organisations and representatives concerned with improving the care, health and wellbeing of the population, jointly convened by local authorities and the ICB. ICPs have a specific responsibility to develop an ‘integrated care strategy’ for the whole ICS population covering health and social care, and addressing wider determinants of health and wellbeing – such as employment, environment, and housing.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 No specific financial implications arise from this report.

## **6.0 Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising their functions to have ‘due regard’ to the need:
- a) to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
  - b) advance equality of opportunity; and
  - c) foster good relations between those who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.

This is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The ‘protected characteristics’ are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation

- 6.2 No equalities implications are considered to arise from this report.

## **7 Background Papers**

7.1 Not applicable.

**Report sign off:**

**Debra Norman**  
Corporate Director Governance

## **Appendix 1**

### **NORTH WEST LONDON JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Membership**

One nominated voting member from each Council participating in the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee plus one alternate member who can vote in the voting member's absence. In addition, one non-voting co-opted member of the London Borough of Richmond. The committee will require at least six voting members in attendance to be quorate. The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will elect its own Chair and Vice Chair. Elections will take place on an annual basis each May, or as soon as practical thereafter, to allow for any annual changes to the committee's membership.

#### **Terms of Reference**

1. To scrutinise the plans for meeting the health needs of the population and arranging for the provision of health services in North West London; in particular the implementation plans and actions by the North West Integrated Care System and their Integrated Care Board, focusing on aspects affecting the whole of North West London. Taking a wider view than might normally be taken by individual local authorities
2. To review and scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken by North West London Integrated Care System, their Integrated Care Board and/or other NHS service providers, in relation to the plans for meeting the health needs of the population and arranging for the provision of health services in North West London, where appropriate.
3. To make recommendations to North West London Integrated Care System and its Integrated Care Board, NHS England, or any other appropriate outside body in relation to the plans for meeting the health needs of the population and arranging for the provision of health services in North West London; and to monitor the outcomes of these recommendations where appropriate.
4. To require the provision of information from, and attendance before the committee by, any such person or organisation under a statutory duty to comply with the scrutiny function of health services in North West London. Individual local authority members of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue their own scrutiny of health services in, or affecting, their individual areas (including those under the for North West London).
5. Participation in the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will not preclude any scrutiny or right of response by individual boroughs. In particular, and for the sake of clarity, this joint committee is not appointed for and nor does it have delegated to it any of the functions or powers of the local authorities, either individually or jointly, under Section 23 of the local authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.

## **Duration**

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue until all participating authorities decide otherwise and does not preclude individual authorities from leaving the Committee if they choose to do so. The Committee will keep under review whether it has fulfilled its remit and recommendations of the Committee will be reported to a Full Council meeting of each participating authority, at the earliest opportunity.

## **NORTH WEST LONDON JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PREVIOUS TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Membership**

One nominated voting member from each Council participating in the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee plus one alternate member who can vote in the voting member's absence. In addition, one non-voting co-opted member of the London Borough of Richmond. The committee will require at least six voting members in attendance to be quorate.

### **Chair and Vice Chair**

The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will elect its own chair and vice chair. Elections will take place on an annual basis each May, or as soon as practical thereafter, such as to allow for any annual changes to the committee's membership.

### **Terms of Reference**

1. To scrutinise the 'Shaping a Healthier Future' reconfiguration of health services in North West London and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North West London; in particular the implementation plans and actions by the North West London Collaboration of Clinical Commissioning Groups ('NWL CCGs') and its Joint Committee, focusing on aspects affecting the whole of North West London.
2. To review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken by NWL CCGs and/or other NHS service providers, in relation to the 'Shaping a Healthier Future' reconfiguration and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North West London, where appropriate.
3. To make recommendations to NWL CCGs, NHS England, or any other appropriate outside body in relation to the 'Shaping a Healthier Future' plans for North West London and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North West London; and to monitor the outcomes of these recommendations where appropriate.
4. To require the provision of information from, and attendance before the committee by, any such person or organisation under a statutory duty to comply with the scrutiny function of health services in North West London.

The stated purpose of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to consider issues arising as a result of the Shaping a Healthier Future reconfiguration of health services and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North West London, taking a wider view across North West London than might normally be taken by individual Local Authorities. Individual local authority members of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue their own scrutiny of health services in, or affecting, their individual areas (including those under 'Shaping a Healthier Future' and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North West London).

Participation in the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will not preclude any scrutiny or right of response by individual boroughs. In particular, and for the sake of clarity, this joint committee is not appointed for and nor does it have delegated to it any of the functions or powers of the local authorities, either individually or jointly, under Section 23 of the local authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.

### **Duration**

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue until all participating authorities decide otherwise. This does not preclude individual authorities from leaving the Committee beforehand. The Committee will keep under review whether it has fulfilled its remit and any recommendation of the Committee will be reported to a Full Council meeting of each participating authority.

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## Item 15.1

**Full Council – 10 July 2023**

**Conservative Group Motion**

### **Don't Punish Brent's Drivers**

This Council notes that:

1. The Mayor of London has proposed a number of schemes that would penalise drivers in Brent.
2. Introduced in 2019, the Mayor of London oversaw the expansion of the ULEZ in 2021.
3. In 2022 the Mayor of London announced that he would be expanding the ULEZ to cover all of London.
4. Prior to the 2021 ULEZ expansion, TfL ran a £61mil scrappage scheme. The scrappage scheme ran out of money and was closed less than a month after it was launched.
5. The Mayor of London has claimed that a pay-per-mile drivers charge, alongside a daily driving fee, would be a “fair scheme”.
6. An 18-minute drive from Kensal Rise to Sudbury would take two buses and some two and a half times longer on public transport.
7. According to the RAC “[The Mayor of London] proposals to charge vehicles outside of London to enter the boundary are likely to impact hardest on workers such as carers, tradespeople and night-time economy staff for whom there is no alternative to using a vehicle.”
8. There are no concession for the elderly or for those on low income who need their vehicle to get to work.
9. There are not enough new or compliant vehicles to satisfy demand
10. Because of the impending expansion of the ULEZ, the cost of newer compliant cars has rocketed, making the prospect of buying a suitable car or van even more difficult for those on low incomes.

This Council believes that:

1. If a scrappage scheme is launched for the latest proposed ULEZ expansion, it would likely run out of money quickly – leaving thousands to choose between paying £12.50 a day or having to buy a new or newer compliant vehicle, without subsidy.
2. Due to Brent's geography, introducing a 'pay-per-mile' scheme would tax Brent residents for travelling across our borough; it already affects the south of the borough adversely.
3. The Mayor of London schemes will hit commuters, businesses and parents dropping their children off at school.
4. As Brent residents continue to be challenged by a cost-of-living crisis, these proposals show how out of touch the Mayor of London is with the needs of Londoners.
5. Air quality is important, but that ULEZ is the wrong solution and is a regressive tax in outer London boroughs. By wanting to expand ULEZ to outer London Boroughs the Mayor of London message is that you can pollute, as long as you can afford the £12.50. The ULEZ will have negligible or nil impact on air quality but will cause significant social and economic harm to our residents.

The ULEZ does not address pollution caused by Diesel electric trains and aircraft.

The ULEZ does not stop polluted air from outside the zone being blown into London.

The signage is misleading and does not convey to drivers that they are entering a clean air zone and that they may have to pay for the privilege of doing so.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- (1) Condemn the Mayor of London's proposals to tax Brent residents further for driving in the borough.
- (2) Write to the Mayor of London, urging him to scrap plans for ULEZ expansion and 'pay per mile'.
- (3) Write to the Mayor of London suggesting that the ULEZ signage be changed so as to convey that drivers are entering a 'clean air zone' and that they may have to pay online for doing so. Such signage is in place in Birmingham, Manchester and other cities in the UK.

Councillor Michael Maurice  
Kenton Ward

**Full Council – 10 July 2023**

**Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Conservative Group Motion**

*Proposed amendment – To add the wording underlined in red and delete the wording indicated*

**Don't Punish Brent's Drivers Children**

This Council notes that:

1. The Mayor of London has proposed a number of schemes that would ~~penalise support~~ drivers in Brent in transitioning to cleaner, greener vehicles.
2. Introduced in 2019, the Mayor of London oversaw the expansion of the ULEZ ~~in 2021,~~ and now over four million people breathe cleaner air, including children in 1,362 schools.
3. In 2022 the Mayor of London announced that he would be expanding the ULEZ to cover all of London.
4. Prior to the 2021 ULEZ expansion, TfL ran a £61million scrappage scheme. For the 2023 scrappage scheme the Mayor of London has ran out of money and was closed less than a month after it was launched a £110 million scheme, supporting Londoners on low incomes, micro-businesses and disabled Londoners.
5. The former Conservative Mayoral candidate Daniel Korski Mayor of London has claimed that a pay-per-mile drivers charge, alongside “smart” road user charging a daily driving fee, wcould be a “fair scheme”. introduced by the end of the decade.
6. ~~An 18-minute drive f~~ From Kensal Rise to Sudbury it would take ~~two~~ one buses ~~(the No.18)~~ and some two and a half times longer on is a more efficient journey by public transport.
7. ~~According to the RAC~~ “[The Mayor of London’s] proposals to charge vehicles outside of London to enter the boundary are likely to improve the air quality of those most impacted by poor air hardest on workers such as carers, tradespeople and night-time economy staff for whom there is no alternative to

using a breathing in vehicle emissions. In Brent, 149 residents die every year from toxic air."

8. There ~~are no concession~~ is a grace period for ~~the vehicles registered under the disabled and disabled passenger tax until 2027 elderly or and~~ for those on low income, such as Child Benefit, who need their vehicle to get to work there is an enhanced scrappage scheme.
9. There are ~~not~~ enough new or compliant vehicles to satisfy demand.
10. Because of the impending expansion of the ULEZ, the cost of newer compliant cars has ~~rocketed~~ risen, however making the prospect of buying a suitable car or van will be made even ~~more difficult~~ easier for those on low incomes using the Mayor of London's £110million scrappage scheme.

This Council believes also notes that:

1. ~~If a A~~ scrappage scheme is has been launched for the latest proposed ULEZ expansion, ~~it would likely run out of money quickly – leaving with TfL approving thousands of applications to choose between paying £12.50 a day or having to support those on low incomes or disabled Londoners to buy a new or newer compliant vehicle, without a subsidy. To date 6,982 applications worth over £25 million have been approved.~~
2. ~~Due to Brent's geography, The Mayor of London has confirmed that the introduction of a 'pay-per-mile' scheme would tax Brent residents for travelling across our borough city is not on the horizon, with the "technology quite a long way off". ; it already affects the south of the borough adversely.~~
3. The Mayor of London's schemes will ~~hit~~ cover five million people including commuters, businesses and parents dropping their children off at school to breath cleaner air if ULEZ is expanded to outer London.
4. As Brent residents continue to be challenged by a cost-of-living crisis, these proposals show how ~~out of touch~~ committed the Mayor of London is with to making the needs of Londoners a zero-carbon city by 2030.
5. Air quality is important, but ~~that~~ ULEZ is ~~the wrong~~ just one solution ~~and is a regressive tax~~ in outer London boroughs, with Brent Council committing to its own Climate Emergency strategy, setting out our own route to creating a cleaner, green borough. By wanting to expand ULEZ to outer London Boroughs the Mayor of London's message is that ~~you can~~ pollution, as is no longer as you can afford the £12.50 accepted in our city. The ULEZ will ~~have help tackle negligible or nil impact on toxic~~ air quality but will and the public health effects of emissions that cause significant social and economic harm to our residents.

The ULEZ does not address pollution caused by Diesel ~~electric~~ trains and aircraft.

The ULEZ does not stop polluted air from outside the zone being blown into London and demonstrates why all areas of the UK would benefit from measures to tackle poor air quality.

It is important that ~~The~~ signage ~~is misleading and does not~~ conveys to drivers that they are entering a clean air zone and that they may have to pay for ~~the privilege of~~ doing so.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- (1) ~~Condemn~~ Confirm Brent Council's view that the Mayor of London's proposals to ~~tax~~ improve the air quality of Brent residents further from polluting vehicles ~~for~~ driving in the borough are welcome.
- (2) Write to the Mayor of London, ~~urging him to scrap~~ welcoming his plans for ULEZ expansion ~~and 'pay per mile'~~.
- (3) Write to the Mayor of London suggesting that the ULEZ signage be ~~changed~~ improved so as to convey that drivers are entering a 'clean air zone' and that they may have to pay online for doing so. Such signage is in place in Birmingham, Manchester and other cities in the UK.

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**Full Council – 10 July 2023**

**Liberal Democrats Group Motion**

**Protecting, preserving and promoting Parks and Open Spaces in Brent**

**This Council notes:**

Our borough is home to many wonderful green, open spaces and parks that are enjoyed by residents of all ages and backgrounds. From smaller parks like Mount Pleasant Open Space in Alperton, King Edward VII in Wembley, to historical parks like Barham Park and Gladstone Park, larger country parks in Fryent, and thriving open spaces in the Welsh Harp and Northwick Park, to name but a few.

These vital spaces must be protected, particularly if they are threatened by development that does not meet local need.

In recent years we have become even more aware of how important green spaces are for local people. During the Covid-19 pandemic and periods of lockdown, they became a sanctuary for so many who were able to spend time in them, benefiting both mental and physical health.

With ever increasing building works in Brent, particularly of tall tower blocks, it is crucial that new residents are able to access open spaces in the areas they move to. Sadly, most new developments do not incorporate adequate large green space, rather most include only small pocket parks that are not sufficient and often not well maintained by Housing Associations/ Managing Companies.

Achieving Climate Emergency targets relies heavily on safeguarding open spaces in our borough, protecting mature trees and important habitats for local wildlife. Without doing so, we risk missing these targets.

The decision by the Planning Committee to allow the building of houses located along the north-west corner of Barham Park goes against Brent Council's long established Core Strategy of protecting Brent parks and open spaces from unwelcome development. The decision also undermines the whole point of local people getting involved in developing Local Neighbourhood Plans. The Planning Committee overrode the Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Plan policy BP1 which specifically designated Barham Park as a green space where development or redevelopment of buildings not intended for community uses should be refused.

The Barham Park decision creates an unwelcome precedent putting other parks and open spaces in Brent at risk. Following that decision hundreds of local people have signed a petition on the Brent Council website, calling for the protection of parks and open spaces from development, which indicates the strength of feeling on this important issue.

**Therefore, this Council believes:**

1. That all of Brent's parks and open spaces should be valued and celebrated as vital assets in our community.
2. Parks and open spaces must all be protected from the potential of development, particularly of development that does not meet local need or that is clearly not for genuine community use.
3. The value of parks and open spaces cannot be understated; even more so as increasing numbers of local people have little to no access to their own gardens or green space.
4. The Cabinet should reassure all residents that within its responsibilities it will always prioritise the preservation of our parks and open spaces and promote these assets.

**This Council resolves:**

- (1) To confirm its longstanding strategic position that it will recognise the value of open spaces and parks in the borough and seek to protect them.
- (2) To call on the Cabinet to ensure within its responsibilities there will be no new buildings and no expansion of buildings in parks other than for legitimate community use.
- (3) To seek to strengthen its Planning Policies on protecting public parks and open spaces by confirming the principle that "real harm" would be caused if permission was granted for the building of houses or other buildings within Brent Parks and Open Spaces which were not intended for direct community uses.
- (3) To incorporate in all Planning reports the potential environmental impact applications will have on our area, and how they might impact Climate Emergency targets.
- (4) To work with partners across the city, from the Corporation of London, other Local Authorities and City Hall to protect, preserve and promote vital green, open spaces in London.
- (5) In view of the public concern about intensification of building in Barham Park contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan policy and restrictions imposed in past disposal documents, to call on the Council and Cabinet to support the Barham Park Trust in considering a Judicial Review into the recent decision of the Brent



Planning Committee to approve an application for 4 houses located along the north-west corner of Barham Park.

Cllr Anton Georgiou  
Alperton Ward

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**Full Council – 10 July 2023**

**Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Liberal Democrats Group Motion**

*Proposed amendment – To add the wording underlined in red and delete the wording indicated*

**Protecting, preserving and promoting Parks and Open Spaces in Brent**

**This Council notes:**

Our borough is home to many wonderful green, open spaces and parks that are enjoyed by residents of all ages and backgrounds. From smaller parks like Mount Pleasant Open Space in Alperton, King Edward VII in Wembley, to historical parks like Barham Park and Gladstone Park, larger country parks in Fryent, and thriving open spaces in the Welsh Harp and Northwick Park, to name but a few.

These vital spaces must be protected, particularly if they are threatened by development that does not meet local need.

In recent years we have become even more aware of how important green spaces are for local people. During the Covid-19 pandemic and periods of lockdown, they became a sanctuary for so many who were able to spend time in them, benefiting both mental and physical health.

With ~~ever-increasing building works~~ the promise of much needed homes in Brent, ~~particularly of tall tower blocks~~, it is crucial that new residents are able to access open spaces in the areas they move to. ~~Sadly, most~~ Brent Council continues to work with partners to bring forward new developments ~~do not to ensure they~~ incorporate adequate large green space, ~~rather most include only small pocket parks that are not sufficient and often not well~~ which is maintained by Housing Associations/ Managing Companies. In Wembley Park, for example, a new seven acre Union Park will feature a bandstand, children's play areas, sport zones and urban meadow. It replaces a former 1,000 space care and coach park and is one of the first new large public parks in London for decades and is Wembley's first new mayor park in 150 years.

Achieving Climate Emergency targets relies heavily on safeguarding open spaces ~~in our borough~~, protecting mature trees and important habitats for local wildlife. Without doing so, we risk missing these targets in or borough.

The decision by the Planning Committee to allow the building of houses located along the north-west corner of Barham Park ~~goes against~~ is in accordance with Brent Council's long established Core Strategy of protecting Brent parks and open spaces from unwelcome development. The disposal of the properties at 776 and 778 Harrow Road was first taken by the Executive in December 2009. The decision made by the Planning Committee was on the basis of officer recommendation and discussion at the meeting, including the consideration of the ~~also undermines the whole point of local people getting involved in developing~~ Local Neighbourhood Plans. The Planning Committee ~~overrode the Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Plan policy BP1 which specifically designated Barham Park~~ decision does not result in the loss of any local as a green space ~~where development or~~ from the redevelopment of the buildings and does not impact upon the ability to experience the area of the original historic landscape park intended for community uses should be refused.

The Barham Park decision does not result in the loss of any local green space and therefore re-affirms ~~creates an unwelcome the existing~~ precedent ~~putting other parks and open spaces in Brent at risk.~~ Following that decision hundreds of local people have signed a petition on the Brent Council website, calling for of maintaining the protection of parks and open spaces from development, ~~which indicates in keeping with~~ the strength of feeling from local residents on this important issue.

**Therefore, this Council believes:**

1. That all of Brent's parks and open spaces should be valued and celebrated as vital assets in our community.
2. Parks and open spaces must all be protected from the potential of development, particularly of development that does not meet local need or that is clearly not for genuine community use.
3. The value of parks and open spaces cannot be understated; even more so as increasing numbers of local people have little to no access to their own gardens or green space.
4. The Cabinet should reassure all residents that within its responsibilities it will always prioritise the preservation of our parks and open spaces and promote these assets.

**This Council resolves:**

- (1) To confirm its longstanding strategic position that it will recognise the value of open spaces and parks in the borough and seek to protect them.
- (2) To call on the Cabinet to ensure within its responsibilities there will be no new buildings and no expansion of buildings in parks other than for legitimate community use.
- (3) To ~~seek to strengthen~~ reaffirm its Planning Policies on protecting public parks and open spaces ~~by confirming the principle that "real harm" would be caused if~~

~~permission was granted for the building of houses or other buildings within Brent Parks and Open Spaces which were not intended for direct community uses.~~

- (3) To incorporate in all Planning reports the potential environmental impact applications will have on our area, and how they might impact Climate Emergency targets, utilising our newly approved Sustainable Environment & Development Supplementary Planning Document.
- (4) To work with partners across the city, from the Corporation of London, other Local Authorities and City Hall to protect, preserve and promote vital green, open spaces in London.
- ~~(5) In view of the public concern about intensification of building in Barham Park contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan policy and restrictions imposed in past disposal documents, to call on the Council and Cabinet to support the Barham Park Trust in considering a Judicial Review into the recent decision of the Brent Planning Committee to approve an application for 4 houses located along the north-west corner of Barham Park.~~

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**Full Council – 10 July 2023**

**1<sup>st</sup> Labour Group Motion**

**Celebrating 75 years of the NHS in Brent**

**This council notes:**

- 5 July 2023 marked 75 years of the National Health Service - it is the beating heart of Britain and the Labour Party's proudest achievement.
- Treating over a million people a day in England, the NHS touches all our lives. It is also the biggest employer in Europe and the world's largest employer of highly skilled professionals, with over 1.3m members of staff from over 200 different nationalities.
- When it was founded by Nye Bevan in 1948, the NHS was the first universal health system to be available to all, founded on the simple principle of care based on people's need, not their ability to pay.
- Today, nine in 10 people agree that healthcare should be free of charge, more than four in five agree that care should be available to everyone, and that the NHS makes them most proud to be British.
- The NHS has delivered huge medical advances, including the world's first liver, heart and lung transplant in 1987, pioneering new treatments, such as bionic eyes and, in more recent times, the world's first rapid whole genome sequencing service for seriously ill babies and children.
- This year also marks another very important 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary – the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush in Britain with more than 800 passengers from the Caribbean, ready to embark on their new lives. The Windrush Generation helped to build the National Health Services and we stand on the shoulders of their legacy.
- More recently the NHS and social care organisations have also benefitted from EU and other overseas staff.
- Throughout Covid-19, doctors, nurses, health and social care workers and NHS staff put their lives at risk to protect us all.

### **This council further notes:**

- Our NHS colleagues are integral to the work of Brent Council.
- Since its creation, NHS spending has increased by an average of 3.7 per cent per year in real terms. But from 2010/11 to 2018/19, NHS funding growth slowed to 1.4 per cent per year. Spiralling inflation has reduced the value of the NHS budget, with NHS Confederation analysis showing that the NHS is facing real terms cut in funding of between £4 billion and £9.4 billion.
- Over the last ten years, the foundations of the NHS have been eroded through outsourcing to private companies and insufficient investment in both staff and infrastructure. Pay for health practitioners is now less than it was in 2010, 40 per cent of doctors in the NHS are looking to leave the NHS for work abroad; and of Boris Johnson's promised 40 new hospitals, less than a quarter are yet to gain planning permission.
- There are currently more patients waiting for treatment than ever in the history of the NHS. Furthermore, every month, tens of thousands of patients are spending entire days waiting in A&E with hospitals overwhelmed with patients who are fit to leave or wouldn't need to be there in the first place if they could access healthcare earlier.
- Ahead of the NHS's 75th birthday, a report by the NHS Assembly has set out the growing consensus that the NHS should now focus on three key areas for long term development: better preventing ill health, personalising care and delivering more co-ordinated care closer to home.
- The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) communities highlighted the deep health inequalities faced by so many of our residents, as well as the inequalities faced by BAME staff in the NHS, which the NHS also needs to urgently address.

### **This Council believes:**

- The infrastructure of the NHS at both the community and national level requires wholesale renewal to meet the demands of an ageing population.
- Brent Council has a strong track record of working with the NHS for the benefit of all our residents, to ensure a borough where we can all feel safe, secure, happy and healthy. In partnership with the NHS we have:
  - Launched 8 Family Wellbeing Centers, bringing together health, nursing, and parental support for children.
  - Held Prostate Cancer Awareness events in Stonebridge and Harlesden.



- Won the Nursing Times Award for the Public Health Nursing category and been shortlisted for the unique initiative of the oral health mobile bus, which looked to improve education for parents across Brent about healthy eating and dental health.
- Despite these achievements, there is so much more that could be done to improve the NHS in Brent – and that only with a Labour Government will the necessary change be delivered.
- That the time is now, to seize the historic moment of the NHS's 75th anniversary to unite behind a shared vision of its next and best era.

**This Council resolves to:**

- (1) Request the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care write to the Shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, outlining support for the Labour Party plan for the biggest expansions of doctor and health practitioner numbers in the history of the NHS, committing to:
  - Doubling the number of medical school places to 15,000 a year
  - Doubling the number of district nurses qualifying each year
  - Training 5,000 new health visitors a year
  - Creating 10,000 more nursing and midwifery clinical placements each year
  - A long-term workforce plan for the NHS, with independent workforce projections, new career paths into the NHS, and new types of health and care professionals.
  - Supporting the expansion by reintroducing the 45p additional rate of income tax paid by those earning more than £150,000 a year.
- (2) Work with the North West London Integrated Care System to promote measures that maximise opportunities at a local level to improve life for local residents by:
  - Promoting prevention and reducing the number of people with long term conditions.
  - Promoting the best deployment of resources to address identified need.
  - Work with other statutory partners but also co-produce solutions with our communities and Voluntary Sector that will improve the lives of our most deprived communities in Brent.
  - Working with our diverse communities to ensure equality of experience in accessing health care services.

Councillor Sandra Kabir  
Queensbury Ward

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**Full Council – 21 November 2022**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Labour Group Motion**

**Keeping Brent on the move: renewing our roads and pavements**

**This council notes:**

- Providing a transport network which supports economic development and works to improve safety, accessibility and inclusivity is fundamental to keeping our borough on the move in the coming years.
- Whether you walk, drive, cycle or take a bus or taxi; maintaining Brent's roads, pavements and infrastructure is vital part in creating a safe place to call home.
- In Brent, in the last Administration our teams repaired or maintained over 128 Kilometres of roads and pavements, enough to get you from the Civic Centre to Dover.
- In this year alone, as part of Brent's "winter resilience" programme of injecting patching of potholes, we have undertaken 2,568 repairs across the borough.
- In London more broadly, as the effects of austerity have compounded, so too has the effect on our public realm. London Councils have stated that our infrastructure is in "managed decline" thanks to years of real terms budget cuts, exacerbated by high inflation. For example, over 80 bridges in London are currently substandard and subject to restrictions owing to a backlog in repairs.
- With the effects of climate change increasing the severity of storms and flooding, our roads, pavements and drainage systems will be overwhelmed more frequently and require greater investment than ever before.
- In the last London Councils "State of the City" report a total backlog for maintenance repairs across all forms of infrastructure in the capital is said to be c. £1.6bn. In Brent, repairing every effected part of our pavements was estimated at the time to be over £60m.
- Brent Council has recently launched a new "Fix my Street" tool which will make it quicker for residents to report roads and pavements in need of repair. At time of submitting this motion 36k reports have been submitted, with 5k fixed in just the last month alone.

### **This council further notes:**

- That the situation has deteriorated further when, in 2018, the government withdrew highway maintenance funding to Transport for London (TfL). This funding had been ring-fenced to resurfacing TfL's Red Routes and the 32 boroughs' principal roads (with Brent Council formerly receiving approximately £900k annually).
- If Brent Council was not in London, adjusted for inflation, we could have expected to receive up to £7 million of funding for our roads from TfL during the intervening period.
- As a result of the significantly reduced funding for our principal road network, the overall condition of these routes has suffered. To address the decline Brent Council has allocated £4m for a Principal Roads programme with £1m of the investment being spent in 2022/23 and a further £2m programmed for 2023/24.
- That unlike the whole of the rest of England, the government provides no funding for the maintenance of highways and pavements in London.
- By way of comparison, the government has committed over £2.7 billion of local highways maintenance outside of London between 2022 and 2025.
- Recent announcements of funding worth £200m from Active Travel England are also unavailable to London boroughs.
- The government has since announced a £380m cut (by more than 50% of its current budget) to the active travel budget in the current spending review, which the Labour Party has estimated could cost more than £2bn in the long term through the impact on public health and wider economy.
- This follows a long line of broken promises from this government on infrastructure, from the Northern Powerhouse Rail to HS2 – now all curtailed.

### **This Council resolves to:**

- (1) Request that the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, write to the Secretary of State for Transport demanding that London is treated in the same way as the rest of England when funding the maintenance of our roads, pavements, and infrastructure.
- (2) Request that the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, bring forward a report to Cabinet, setting out Brent Council's future capital investment into our roads, pavements, and improvements in our public realm – as part of our manifesto commitment to invest £15 million into a programme of repairs and renewal.

Councillor Teo Benea  
Sudbury Ward