



## SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday 18 September 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.

KIM WRIGHT  
Chief Executive

Dated: 8 September 2023 (republished on 13 and 18 September 2023)

**For further information contact:** James Kinsella, Governance Manager  
Tel: 020 8937 2063; Email: [james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk](mailto: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 of 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 - 38

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 10 July 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) 39 - 42

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

(Agenda republished on 18 September 2023 to include the list of appointments)

## 6 Deputations (if any)

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

Members are asked to note that the following deputation is due to be received at the meeting:

**Future of Barham Park** (Deputation to be made by the Sudbury Matters Forum)

## 7 Questions from Members of the Public 43 - 48

To receive questions submitted by the public to Cabinet Members, in accordance with Standing Order 33.

Members are asked to note that four public 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.

Members are asked to note that the following petition is due to be presented at the meeting:

**Protecting Brent Parks and Open Spaces** (Lead petitioner - Councillor Paul Lorber)

## **9 Annual Report from the Leader of the Council**

To receive an annual report from the Leader of the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 38.

## **10 Reports from the Leader and Cabinet 49 - 60**

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.

## **11 Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members 61 - 68**

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

Five 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 and Opposition members to ask questions of Cabinet Members.

## **12 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:

12.1 Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 69 - 82

12.2 Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 83 - 108

(Agenda republished to include the update from the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee on 13 September 2023)



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.

**13 Report from the Vice Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committees** 109 - 112

To receive a report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 37.

**14 Non Cabinet Members' Debate** 113 - 120

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:

**Provision of support to deal with cases of RAAC Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete in Brent Schools**

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

(Agenda republished on 18 September 2023 to include a Labour Group amendment to the original motion submitted as the basis of the Non-Cabinet Member debate).

**15 Brent Youth Justice Plan 2023-24** 121 - 180

This report presents the Brent Youth Justice Plan 2023/24, which includes an overview of local youth justice progress, priorities and arrangements for monitoring performance. Following its submission to the Youth Justice Board and consideration by Cabinet on 11 September 2023 Council is being asked to formally adopt the Plan.

**Ward Affected:**  
All Wards

**Contact Officer:** Palvinder Kudhail, Director  
Integration and Improved Outcomes  
Tel: 020 8937 1646  
[Palvinder.Kudhail@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Palvinder.Kudhail@brent.gov.uk)

**16 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2022-23** 181 - 208

To receive a report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources updating members on Treasury Management activity and confirming that the Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2022 - 23.

Members are asked to note that this report was received and noted by the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 18 July 20223 and Cabinet on 11 September 2023 and has been forwarded to Council in compliance with CIPFAs Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

<b>Ward Affected:</b> All Wards	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Amanda Healy, Senior Finance Analyst Tel: 020 8937 5912 <a href="mailto:Amanda.Healy@brent.gov.uk">Amanda.Healy@brent.gov.uk</a>
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## 17 Changes to the Constitution

209 - 216

To receive a report from the Corporate Director of Governance seeking approval for changes to the Constitution in relation to the Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board and the arrangements for withdrawal of Motions under Standing Order 42.

<b>Ward Affected:</b> All Wards	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Debra Norman, Corporate Director Governance Tel: 020 8937 1578 <a href="mailto:Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk">Debra.Norman@brent.gov.uk</a>
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## 18 Motions

217 - 230

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

- The motions submitted for debate 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 13 September 2023 and Labour Group amendments submitted in respect of the Conservative and Liberal Democrats motions on 18 September 2023)

## 19 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](#)

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## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

**Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 10 July 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	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
Mitchell	Moeen
Molloy	Nerva
Patel	M Patel
Rajan-Seelan	Shah
Ketan Sheth	Krupa Sheth
Smith	Southwood
Tatler	

### **1. Mayors Introductory Statement**

The Mayor welcomed all those present to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Collymore and Rubin.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 17 May 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Lorber declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 15.2 (Liberal Democrats motion (Protecting, Preserving and Promoting Parks and Open Spaces in Brent) as a Director and Trustee of Barham Community Library given the reference to Barham Park within the motion.

There were no other declarations of interest made at the meeting.

5. **Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

(i) Kings News Years Honours List 2023

The Mayor began her announcements by congratulating everyone connected with Brent who had received an honour in the King's 2023 Birthday Honours list. Members were advised that this included Bob Blackman MP who had received a CBE for his outstanding contribution and dedication to public service and who had served as Deputy Leader of Brent Council between 2006 and 2010 and Leader of Brent Council between 1991 and 1996.

(ii) Pride Flag Raising

The Mayor advised that she had been pleased to attend (along with many other councillors, staff and residents) an LGBTQ+ Flag raising event on the 6th June, arranged to mark Pride month.

(iii) 75 Anniversary of Windrush

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank all those involved in arranging a recent event held at the Civic Centre to honour 75 years of HMT Empire Windrush's arrival in the UK. Highlighting how wonderful it had been to see so many people attending and enjoying the event, the Mayor felt it important to recognise the significant opportunity this had provided to thank all those from that generation who made such sacrifices and contributed towards the rebuilding of post war Britain.

(iv) Reopening of Harlesden Library

In terms of other engagements, the Mayor advised members it had also been her pleasure to attend and celebrate the official reopening of Harlesden Library. Referring to the success of the Council in attracting grant funding from Arts Council England towards the refurbishment of the library in the hub of Harlesden, she was pleased to report that the opening event had been well attended and enjoyed by all who were there.

(v) Srebrenica Memorial Event

The Mayor advised she had also been honoured to attend the recent Srebrenica Memorial Event, which had marked 28 years since the genocide at Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(vi) Barham Primary School

Congratulating the school on their achievement, the Mayor advised she had also been pleased to attend an event at Barham Primary School in order to celebrate them having achieved international recognition by being shortlisted for an award in the 'Community Collaboration' category, as one of the Top 10 schools in the prestigious World's Best School Prize. Referring to the special ceremony she commended all those involved including the pupils for their performances.

(vii) Celebrating 75 years of the NHS

The Mayor informed members she was delighted to be able to report that Jenny Lanyero, Team Manager of the Brent Health Inequalities Team, had recently been invited to attend a reception at No.10 Downing Street to celebrate 75 years of the NHS. The reception had been attended by more than 100 NHS staff from across the country working at various levels and across a range of diverse services. The Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had briefly attended along with Steve Barclay, as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care who when speaking had taken the time to recognise the history of the NHS and the importance of future plans to sustain it.

Feeding back, the Mayor advised of the honour expressed by Jenny Lanyero at having been invited to attend the reception in order to represent Central and North West London NHS Trust, Brent, nursing and BAME staff.

(viii) Community Cohesion

The Mayor then moved on to advise that one of the things she was most proud about in representing Brent was the level of diversity across the borough and way in which different communities lived side by side in peace and harmony.

Highlighting the peaceful relationships that existed between the boroughs diverse, multicultural communities she felt it was, however, important to remain vigilant and mindful of the need to maintain this cohesion and with that in mind to recognise the distress caused to many residents by the recent incident in Stockholm involving the burning of a copy of the Qur'an. In seeking to condemn such acts, the Mayor highlighted how keen she was to support the ongoing efforts being made across the borough to work together in faith for all communities and also thanked Councillor

Moeen for her work in seeking to highlight the specific issue raised in advance of the meeting.

(ix) Passing of Sir Ben Helfgott

The Mayor advised that it was with sadness she had to inform members of the death of Sir Ben Helfgott who recently passed away aged 93. In paying tribute, members were advised that Sir Ben was a longstanding resident of Brent and member of Wembley United Synagogue. He was knighted in 2018 in recognition of his long service to Holocaust Education and was one of the last remaining holocaust survivors, having been imprisoned in both Buchanwald and Theresienstadt concentration camps.

In recognition of his legacy and longstanding connection to the borough the Mayor advised that she had agreed to allow Councillors Maurice and Nerva to pay further personal tribute in commemoration of Sir Ben.

In paying tribute, Councillor Maurice began by providing a brief outline of Sir Ben's life, his survival of the holocaust and success he had gone on to achieve having been relocated to Britain with his sister as an orphan following the Second World War. In addition to a successful sporting and business career he advised how Sir Ben had also been involved in establishing and serving on a number of organisations set up to support fellow holocaust survivors leading to the recognition of his unequalled and unparalleled legacy as a holocaust educator.

Adding to the tributes already paid, Councillor Nerva was then invited to speak and outlined the valued and welcome contribution Sir Ben had made as a resident of Brent not only in supporting holocaust memorial events but also in seeking to challenge hatred and racial intolerance. These efforts had formed a key part of the work being undertaken to create the conditions necessary to ensure all communities could live in peace, harmony and mutual respect across the borough with his legacy therefore one of hope and understanding.

Having thanked both councillors for their kind tributes the Mayor ended by expressing the Council's sincere condolences to Sir Ben's family and inviting all members to join her in observing a moments silence in memory and honour of Sir Ben Helfgott.

*All present at the meeting then stood to join the Mayor in observing a moments silence.*

(x) Petitions

As a final announcement, the Mayor referred members to the list of current petitions tabled at the meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders which also detailed the action being taken to deal with them.

**6. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs (if any)**

The Mayor referred members to the list of changes circulated in relation to appointments to Council Committees, Sub Committees and other bodies.



Having considered the changes outlined it was **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To approve the following change in appointments to Outside Bodies:
  - (a) London Council's Greater London Employment Forum – Councillor Muhammed Butt to replace Councillor Mili Patel as the Council's full representative with Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Muhammed Butt as Deputy.
- (2) To confirm the appointment of Stephen Ross to fill the vacant position as an Independent Co-Opted Member on the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee for a four-year term of office expiring at the Annual Council meeting in May 2027 (subject to confirmation of the ongoing appointment at the Annual Council meeting each year).

**7. Deputations (if any)**

The Mayor advised that no deputations had been requested for presentation at the meeting.

**8. Questions from Members of the Public & Brent Youth Parliament**

**8.1 Questions from the Public**

The Mayor advised that the following three questions had been received from members of the public.

Question 1 from Diane Richard to Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action) regarding the introduction of additional signage, traffic calming measures and enforcement of the vehicle weight restriction on Wrotesley Road, NW10.

Question 2 from Fitzroy Lee to Councillor Donnelly-Jackson (Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Culture) concerning the renaming of Gladstone Park and Leopold Primary School under the Mayor of London's Diversity in the Public Realm initiative.

Question 3 from Noreen Scott to Councillor Donnelly-Jackson (Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Culture) regarding the use of Gladstone Park to host a Windrush 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration event given previous concerns raised in relation to the naming of the Park.

Members noted the written responses provided on each of the questions, which had been circulated with the agenda. The Mayor advised that each member of the public had been invited to the meeting in order to ask any supplementary question and whilst Diane Richard had been unable to attend, she was pleased to be able to welcome Fitzroy Lee and Noreen Scott to the meeting in order to ask a supplementary question.

The following supplementary questions were asked of the relevant Cabinet Member(s).

### **Question 2 Supplementary Question from Fitzroy Lee to Councillor Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Culture.**

In noting the written response to his original question Fitzroy Lee sought further clarification on the extent of community engagement undertaken in relation to the renaming of Gladstone Park and Leopold School given what he felt had been the lack of reference to this within the original response.

In taking the opportunity to thank Fitzroy Lee for his question and attendance at the meeting, Councillor Donnelly-Jackson by way of further explanation confirmed that a series of drop in consultations had been conducted between December 2021 and January 2022. These had led to the creation of the artwork in Gladstone Park that acknowledged the Gladstone family's role in the slave trade and celebrated the considerable contribution and influence of African heritage to the cultural landscape of Brent. Whilst recognising that the consultation process had taken place during the pandemic the efforts made by the Council to work with local community groups in order to promote the consultation events were highlighted, which it was pointed out had been open for all to attend.

### **Question 3 Supplementary Question from Noreen Scott to Councillor Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Culture.**

In highlighting her disappointment at the response provided and use of Gladstone Park to host a Windrush 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration event Noreen Scott sought clarification on the basis of the decision to use the park for the event as opposed to Roundwood Park, which it was felt would have been more appropriate and inclusive as a venue.

In thanking Noreen Scott for the question, Councillor Donnelly-Jackson apologised if it was felt the original response had not provided the clarification being sought. In reiterating the Council's duty to mark Windrush Day, further detail was provided on the decision to host the event in Gladstone Park, which it was pointed out had followed on from installation of the land art and Heritage Trail installed in the park curated by a local artist designed 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 conversation that the art exhibition and accompanying heritage trail had generated in relation to the history of the park. Whilst recognising the concerns expressed, Councillor Donnelly-Jackson felt it was important to reflect that the event had been warmly received, with many Windrush elders in attendance.

Having noted the responses provided, the Mayor thanked the members of the public in attendance for their supplementary questions and Cabinet Members for their response and then moved on to deal with the questions submitted by Brent Youth Parliament.

## **8.2 Questions from Brent Youth Parliament**

The Mayor advised that the following questions had been received from Brent Youth Parliament:

Question 1 from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Growth regarding the improvement of employment services and the accessibility of financial education for young people.

Question 2 from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools concerning the availability of financial aid to support students with the cost of college and higher education courses.

Question 3 from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, regarding the range of access to mental health support for young people.

The Mayor thanked Brent Youth Parliament for their questions, with members noting the written responses provided. Members were advised that a representative of Brent Youth Parliament had been invited to attend the meeting with Ayan Abdi present to ask supplementary questions on the written responses provided. Having been welcomed to the meeting, the following supplementary questions were asked of the relevant Cabinet Member(s).

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

Having thanked the Cabinet Member for the written response provided, further details were sought on how it was felt the Flourishing Futures project would specifically be able to support young people in the borough. In highlighting the project's focus on research and data, details were sought on the potential benefits and what the Council was expecting to achieve as a result of the research.

In thanking Brent Youth Parliament for their question, Councillor Tatler advised that it was anticipated the data and research would help develop the support available for young people in terms of enhancing the training and skills on offer and improving employment opportunities with a more detailed response available, if required, after the meeting in terms of the full benefits that the project would bring.

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

In referring to the written response, in which it was stated that the Council would co-produce and co-design a local approach to mental health services in response to feedback from young people, further details were sought on the co-design process and how Brent Youth Parliament could be involved.

In thanking Brent Youth Parliament for their question and before providing a response, Councillor Nerva outlined the operational responsibility for development of the process outlined which was being led through the Brent Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). In seeking to co-produce and design the local approach and service outlined it was explained that focus would not only be on waiting lists but also on the way in which children's mental health and wellbeing services were integrated and co-ordinated across partners to improve access and provide a more person-centred and needs-led approach to delivering mental health support for young people. As part of this work, Councillor Nerva advised he would be willing to facilitate a meeting to consider how best Brent Youth Parliament could be involved

and engaged in the process in order to ensure the offer was able to respond to what young people had identified was needed.

With no further questions to be considered, the Mayor advised that this now concluded the public question session and moved on to the next item.

**9. Petitions (if any)**

The Mayor advised that no requests for debates on any petitions had been received for consideration at the meeting.

**10. Reports from the Leader and Cabinet**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, to introduce the report updating members on the work being undertaken across each Cabinet portfolio in order to provide ongoing support and services to residents within the borough.

In presenting the report, the Leader began by highlighting the work being undertaken across each Cabinet portfolio alongside the efforts being made to manage the Council's finances as efficiently as possible within the current economic climate and in order to provide ongoing support and services to residents within the borough. As part of the update the Leader took the opportunity to outline the work also being undertaken to support young people and other members of the local community into employment as well as to extend business opportunities, with reference to the recent topping out ceremony for SEGRO V-Park Grand Union development and upcoming Brent Jobs Fair. Finally, members were asked to note the details on Executive decision(s) that had been taken under the Council's urgency procedures, since the previous update provided for the Council meeting in November 2022, as tabled at the meeting.

The Mayor thanked the Leader for the report and it was **RESOLVED** to formally note the update provided.

**11. Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members**

Before moving on to consider the questions submitted by non-Cabinet members, the Mayor reminded Members that a total of 30 minutes had been set aside for this item, which would begin with consideration of the written questions submitted in advance of the meeting along with any supplementary questions. Once these had been dealt with, the remaining time available would then be opened up for any other non-Cabinet members to question Cabinet Members (without the need for advance notice) on matters relating to their portfolio.

The Mayor advised that four written questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for response by the relevant Cabinet Member and the written responses circulated within the agenda were noted. The Mayor then invited supplementary questions on the responses provided:

- 11.1 Councillor Choudry thanked Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, for the written response in relation to his question regarding the enforcement and prevention of blue

badge thefts across Brent. As a supplementary question further details were sought on how residents should report any concerns regarding blue badge theft, fraud or misuse.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth advised that residents should report any concerns to either the Healthy Streets and Parking Team or Community Safety Team would then be able to liaise (as necessary) with the police.

- 11.2 Councillor Kennelly thanked Councillor Knight, as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security for the written response in relation to his question concerning the partnership work being undertaken with Housing Associations to address cases of damp and mould. In recognising the Council did not have powers to take enforcement action in cases involving Housing Associations, which were matters that fell under the Regulator for Social Housing and Housing Ombudsman, concern was expressed that the multi-layered system of agencies involved could potentially lead to unclear outcomes for residents. As an example, he highlighted issues raised about conditions in a housing block located within his ward, which were now under investigation following contact with the Chief Executive of the relevant Housing Association. As a supplementary question Councillor Kennelly sought details on the support available through the Council to assist in raising concerns about the standard and condition of properties managed through Housing Associations.

In responding, Councillor Knight, as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, outlined the type of support available in seeking to hold Housing Associations to account as part of the process in seeking to maintain and improve living standards for residents in the borough. As part of this approach, regular meetings were held with the largest Housing Associations where issues could be raised, as appropriate, with assurance also having been sought on how they were seeking to improve their management of damp and mould. Whilst reminding members of the Council's lack of specific enforcement powers Councillor Knight ended by stating that the Council would continue to work with the Housing Associations to ensure that concerns and issues being raised in relation to the standard and condition of the properties they managed were addressed as quickly as possible.

- 11.3 Councillor Chan firstly thanked Councillors Farah, as Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection, and Councillor Nerva, as Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care for the written response to his question regarding actions that the Council could take to address both gambling as a public health issue and the associated anti-social behaviour, in addition to the steps that the council could take to prevent the increase of adult gaming centres. Highlighting his concern at the impact adult gaming centres had on local communities and in targeting some of the most vulnerable in society, along with the legislative restrictions imposed on local authorities in being able to oppose, them Councillor Chan, as a supplementary question, sought further details on any public health approach which could assist in mitigating against the detriments of gambling and on other changes required to provide the necessary powers to tackle the concerns identified.

In response, Councillor Nerva felt it was important to recognise that the Council had no additional public health powers which would allow action on adult gaming centres, with the current licensing regulations only providing limited powers and the Gambling Act not applying the prevention of public nuisance or anti-social behaviour (ASB) or consideration of public health harm as specific licensing objectives. This was further complicated by issues and concerns relating to the increase in online gambling. Having recognised the anti-social behaviour and public health issues associated with gambling and adult gaming centres, Councillor Nerva outlined the efforts being made through the Local Government Association to lobby for a change in legislation in order to provide the necessary powers for local authorities to address the blight being caused by gambling locally on which advised he would be pleased to work with Councillor Chan, other councillors and residents.

- 11.4 Councillor Georgiou began by expressing disappointment at the written response provided by Councillor Knight, as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security which he felt had not addressed the rationale behind the approach taken to the implementation of proposals arising from the review of the housing estate caretaking service and associated impact on service charges and costs. In referencing the discrepancy between the recommended decrease in cleaning hours made following the service review, when compared to the level implemented, and associated impact on service charges alongside the error in calculation of cleaning hours apportioned to Council owned blocks Councillor Georgiou (as a supplementary question) sought further detail on what was being done to rectify the overspend in cleaning hours identified including the associated impact on the fixed charge for the service. In view of the concerns raised, he also called for the matter to be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for further review.

In response, Councillor Knight felt it important to outline that the recommendations made as a result of the service review had been followed. At the same time, however, it was recognised that residents were experiencing financial pressures due to the cost-of-living crisis and that service charges therefore needed to remain affordable and offer value for money. Given the changes required to improve the standard and level of performance offered by the caretaking service once it had been insourced, which had included payment of the London Living Wage, it was acknowledged that spend had been increased although it was pointed out that the current cleaning charge per property was still less than many other social housing providers across the borough. Members were advised that the error identified in relation to the calculation of the cleaning hours apportioned to Council owned blocks had also now been resolved with the costs absorbed by the Council.

Having thanked members for their written questions and Cabinet Members for the responses provided to the supplementary questions the Mayor then advised that the remainder of the time available would be used for an open question time session to the Cabinet. Questions relating to the following issues were raised and responses provided, as set out below:

- (i) Councillor Kansagra, regarding the current approach towards the payment of carers allowances under the Members Allowance Scheme.

In response, Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, felt it important to recognise the nature and extent of allowances already provided for members in undertaking their duties and need to work within the level of provision already available. It was pointed out that any further consideration of the issue would need to be undertaken on a cross party basis through the Constitutional Working Group.

- (ii) Councillor Lorber, expressing concern, given the recent decision of the Planning Committee on an application relating to a site located along the north-west corner of Barham Park, at the Council's commitment towards the Neighbourhood Planning process and seeking assurance about the application of policies adopted as a result through the planning process.

In response, Councillor Tatler, as Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Growth, advised that queries relating to the basis of decisions taken on specific planning applications would be matters that fell within the remit of either the Planning Committee or officers in exercising their delegation decision making powers. In terms of the wider issues highlighted, members were advised that the Council remained committed to the Neighbourhood Planning process as evidenced through the work being undertaken to support the development and review of Neighbourhood Plans in other areas of the borough with an assurance provided that the Council would continue to ensure planning policy was developed and applied to reflect the needs of the borough.

- (iii) Councillor Kennelly highlighting concern at the recent vandalism of a commemoration tree planted by the Association of Jewish Refugees in Preston ward and action being taken to protect and prevent any further damage in future.

In responding, Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, supported Councillor Kennelly in highlighting the importance of the Council not tolerating any forms of hatred or discrimination. In highlighting the specific action taken to address the vandalism members were advised that the Council was also exploring the possibility of enhancing CCTV coverage in the area to protect the site with Councillor Krupa Sheth pleased to note that the tree had sustained no long term damage.

- (iv) Councillor Mistry seeking assurance in relation to the Council's policy on the collection of rent from vulnerable residents living within Supported Accommodation.

In response, Councillor Nerva, as Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, advised that whilst not aware of the specific case referred to, he would be willing to investigate further with officers if further details were provided outside of the meeting.

- (v) Councillor Kelcher regarding the Council's commitment to continue supporting the improvement and development of parks and open spaces, including those located across Harlesden and Kensal Green ward such as Bramshill Road Park.

In response Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, felt it important to highlight the Council's continued commitment and investment towards maintaining and improving parks and open spaces not only within Harlesden and Kensal Green but across the borough as a whole. In terms of the improvements at Bramshill Road she confirmed that she would be happy to visit the park in order to celebrate completion of the improvement works and would continue to promote the work being undertaken elsewhere across the borough as a means of ensuring parks and open spaces were as accessible as possible and could be enjoyed by all residents.

- (vi) Councillor Long, relating to accessibility of the details and information being provided on the Landlord Selective Licensing Scheme.

Councillor Knight, as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, reassured Councillor Long on the robustness and accessibility of the database being used to support the extension of the Landlord Selective Licensing Scheme. Should any issues be experienced, however, once the scheme had gone live members were asked to ensure these were highlighted for further investigation.

- (vii) Councillor Jayanti Patel, regarding the measures being taken to tackle and enforce against illegal footway parking along Kingsbury Road and around Kingsbury Circle.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, advised that officers were aware of the issue and working to address the concerns raised, which included the use of CCTV to support enforcement action already being undertaken. Councillor Krupa Sheth advised she would also be willing to visit the area with local ward councillors to discuss and consider what additional action it may be possible to take ensure that the issues were effectively being dealt with.

- (viii) Councillor Georgiou regarding the appropriateness of Shared Ownership being classified as a genuinely Affordable Housing option in the development of housing schemes across Brent and rationale behind the approach to the disposal of 23 of these type of properties in Alperton due to be considered by Cabinet on 17 July 2023.

In response, Councillor Knight, as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, explained that the Cabinet report referred to was not seeking to dispose of the properties but rather repurpose them. Recognising the individual circumstances of the specific scheme along with a shift in appetite and demand for these type of tenures, it was felt this demonstrated the flexibility and responsiveness in the Council's approach towards the delivery of affordable housing across the borough.



At this stage in the proceedings, the Mayor advised that the time available for the open question session had expired. The Mayor therefore thanked all members for their contributions and advised that the meeting would now move on to the next item.

## **12. Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees**

Before being presented with the updates from each Scrutiny Committee, the Mayor reminded members the time set aside for this item was 12 minutes, with each Chair having up to three minutes in which to highlight any significant issues arising from the work of their Committees. Once these updates had been provided, the remaining time available would then be opened up for any other non-Cabinet members to question (without the need for advance notice) the Scrutiny Committee Chairs on matters relating to the work of their Committee.

Councillor Conneely was then invited to introduce the update report on the work being undertaken by the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, with the following issues highlighted:

- The broad ranging and dynamic nature of the Scrutiny Committee's work programme for 2023-24
- Key issues identified for review as part of the Committee's work programme had included monitoring ongoing delivery of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and tracking the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Budget Task Group to ensure the proposals being developed moving forward continued to meet the needs of Brent's residents; Brent's Community Engagement and consultation Framework to ensure the way in which the Council consulted and engaged with local residents reflected the requirements being identified; progress in delivery of Brent's Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-2030 with updates to also be provided on the work being taken to tackle violence against women and girls as part of the Safer Brent Partnership Community Safety Strategy.
- As a final update, members were advised of the Committee's ongoing concern in relation to the operation of Thames Water as a key public service provider both in terms of their recent financial challenges and also the transparency and level of local service being provided to customers. With a representative having attended a recent meeting, it was confirmed that the Committee would continue to keep a watching brief in order to challenge local performance with the Chair supportive of any eventual move towards renationalisation of the service as a key public utility, given the performance concerns identified.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Conneely for her update and then invited Councillor Ketan Sheth as chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to introduce the update report on the work being undertaken by that Committee. The following issues were highlighted as part of the update:

- The broad ranging nature of the Committee's work programme for 2023-24 with the Committee having already held its first meeting of the new Municipal Year to coincide with celebrations to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS.
- Key issues considered at the initial Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee had been focussed around the delivery of health services to local residents including a review of the work being undertaken by the Council and

local health partners to address health inequalities across the borough through the Brent Health Matters programme. Whilst noting the positive and collaborative nature of work being undertaken locally, the Committee had also recognised the significant challenges still to be addressed in seeking to tackle the inequalities identified and would therefore be maintaining a watching brief on progress. As a further area of focus the Committee had also considered the key challenges relating to funding, recruitment and retention of staff in the health and social care sector. Given the negative impact of current pay rates and funding on recruitment and retention and the associated impact on local healthcare provision the Committee had agreed to accelerate the work being undertaken on this issue during the year.

- Concerns were also highlighted in relation to the funding settlement which had been provided to support Mental Health Service provision across Brent when compared to the level of need identified, which Councillor Ketan Sheth, as Chair of the North West London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) advised he intended to raise at the next JHOSC meeting with the Chief Executive of the North West London Integrated Care Board (ICB). In terms of other areas of focus he advised that the JHOSC would also be seeking to raise concerns regarding the Government's recent decision to postpone funding for the new build and refurbishment works at hospitals across North West London, including St Mary's, Hammersmith, Charing Cross and the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre as well as seeking updates on the plans to standardise adult and children's ophthalmology services and develop musculoskeletal services across North West London which he would continue to keep members updated on.

The Mayor thanked Councillors Ketan Sheth and Conneely for presenting their updates and it was **RESOLVED** that the contents of both reports be noted.

Following the updates provided, the Mayor advised that the remainder of time available would be open for questions from non-cabinet members to the Scrutiny Chairs. The Mayor reminded members of the need to ensure that questions raised were focused on the updates provided or the work being undertaken by the relevant Committee. The following questions were raised and responses provided:

- (i) Councillor Kansagra seeking clarification on the outcome of the review undertaken by the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee on the performance of Thames Water across the borough and Committee's position regarding renationalisation of the utility service.

In response, Councillor Conneely advised that the Committee's review of Thames Water had initially been focussed around the management of flooding and flood risks across the borough along with the communication process involving local residents and the Council. In view of concerns highlighted during the review regarding the lessons which had been learnt by Thames Water, the Committee had been keen to retain focus on the development of Thames Waters Business Plan and London Level Strategy. As an outcome of the review one of the recommendations identified had included the need to consider the potential future public ownership of key public utilities including the water infrastructure.

- (ii) Councillor Kabir to the Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee regarding proposals for any planned new build hospital provision within the borough.

In response, Councillor Ketan Sheth advised that neither he or the Committee were currently aware or had been informed of any specific new build proposals for hospital provision across Brent.

As no further questions were raised the Mayor thanked members for their contribution before moving on to the next item.

### 13. **Annual Report from the Chairs' of the Audit & Standards Advisory and Audit & Standards Committees**

The Mayor invited Councillor Chan, as Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee to introduce the first joint annual report from both Committees, updating members on the work undertaken during the 2022-23 Municipal Year.

Prior to introducing the report Councillor Chan welcomed David Ewart to the meeting in his role as Independent Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and in terms of issues highlighted drew members' attention to the important role and work undertaken by the Committee in relation to monitoring and advising on various governance matters relating to audit activity, the Council's finance, accounting and regulatory framework as well as members standards of conduct. This had included, as a key area of focus the measures introduced by the Council to mitigate against the impact of the current economic uncertainty and cost-of-living crisis being experienced in relation to the delivery of Council services and support for residents as well as the ongoing delivery of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

Members were advised that the approach adopted towards the work undertaken had also included consideration of the Council's risk management structure and strategic risk management process with an increasing focus not only on the effectiveness of governance processes relating to the first but also "second line" of defence in terms of the monitoring and reporting of information and data. Highlighting the extensive nature of the work undertaken across both Committees, members were also advised of the joint work being developed with scrutiny given the overlap of responsibilities in relation to the oversight of the Council's two subsidiary companies i4B and First Wave Housing Ltd and how this could be structured and managed.

In concluding, Councillor Chan thanked David Ewart for his support over the year and advised that both Committees were looking forward to continuing their work with members and other key stakeholders to ensure the necessary focus was maintained in relation to compliance and control of the Council's key governance arrangements.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Chan for the update provided and it was **RESOLVED** to note the Joint Annual Report provided by the Chairs' of the Audit & Standards and Audit & Standards Advisory Committees outlining the work undertaken by both Committee's during 2022-23.

#### 14. **Non Cabinet Members' Debate**

In accordance with Standing Order 34, the Mayor advised that the next item on the agenda was the non-Cabinet member debate, with the subject chosen for consideration being the Casey Review of the Metropolitan Police.

Members were advised that the motion submitted as the basis for the debate had been circulated with the agenda and that the time available for the debate was 25 minutes.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Dixon to introduce the motion. As context for the debate, Councillor Dixon began by referencing the Sarah Everard case and expressing concern that the subsequent review undertaken by Baroness Casey had been driven through the concerns highlighted by women and other groups rather than an internal desire for change within the Metropolitan Police. Whilst it was felt that the Metropolitan Police could change and rebuild trust, Councillor Dixon highlighted that for many communities this would involve a long and complex process given the loss in faith of policing by consent and need for the Metropolitan Police to open itself up to scrutiny as a result of the damning findings in the Casey Review, which had shown a persistent and endemic culture of racism, misogyny, homophobia and violence against women. In pointing to the findings of institutionalised racism, lack of leadership and professional incompetence detailed in the Macpherson Report which had followed the death of Stephen Lawrence, Councillor Dixon stated that the findings of the Casey Review were again shocking with a critical need for fundamental change identified in order to rectify the elitism within the Police, the abuses of frontline officers, and the misogyny and racism embedded in the force. In commending and valuing the model of local neighbourhood policing as an essential way forward, Councillor Dixon praised the work of the local Safer Neighbourhood Teams which she was keen to see properly resourced. Highlighting the increasing democratic deficit between the Metropolitan Police and communities they served, Councillor Dixon hoped all members would support the motion in seeking to add their voice and back the call for the recommendations within the Casey Review to be implemented as soon as possible. including the provision of more powers to the Commissioner to tackle the issues identified, addressing issues in terms of recruitment and police numbers and the establishment of new teams to deal with rape and domestic abuse with the disbanding of teams where it was clear deep rooted issues had taken hold. In highlighting the need for action, it was felt the measures identified were essential in seeking to address the lost of trust in the Metropolitan Police as well as in ensuring the safety of victims.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Dixon for introducing the motion and then opened up the debate for contributions from other members.

In supporting the motion, Councillor Johnson stressed that a city as diverse as London required a police service that reflected the communities it served, with everyone needing to feel fairly treated irrespective of their characteristics. In highlighting the major mishandling of key inquiries relating to the Stephen Lawrence investigation, the tragic case of Sarah Everard and the recent behaviour of the Metropolitan Police at Charing Cross Police Station Councillor Johnson was concerned it appeared the Metropolitan Police had not learned from previous

mistakes, which in turn had led to an erosion of trust that would be difficult to regain. In supporting the call for an overhaul of the Metropolitan Police in order to take firm action against racism, misogyny and homophobia, Councillor Johnson endorsed the motion.

Whilst welcoming the Casey Review and supporting the motion, Councillor Kansagra, as Leader of the Conservative Group, felt there was a need to not only focus on the actions of the Metropolitan Police as a whole service but also on the individual behaviours of those individuals found to be at fault. Referring to the approach taken within other public services such as healthcare where the focus was on individuals rather than the institution as a whole in cases of wrongdoing or abuse, Councillor Kansagra felt it was reasonable for the same approach to be applied with the police as it was believed that a small number of malicious officers did not mean the institution as a whole was bad. Whilst supporting the need for reform Councillor Kansagra felt there was also a need to recognise the level of good officers also serving within the force.

In expressing the Liberal Democrats Group support for the Casey Review and its recommendations, Councillor Georgiou, Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group, outlined how he felt the Metropolitan Police had failed Londoners, particularly women, ethnic minorities and the LGBTQ+ community, with widespread misogyny, racism and homophobia demonstrating little had changed since the Macpherson Report in 1999 and which had resulted in a decrease in trust that needed to be restored. In highlighting the need for strong leadership to bring the necessary reforms, Councillor Georgiou also took the opportunity to express concerns over the performance of the Mayor of London since taking office and underfunding of the police (particularly in relation to the development of community policing) as a result of government austerity, which he felt had also contributed to the loss of trust between local communities and the Metropolitan police. In concluding, Councillor Georgiou advised that the Liberal Democrat Group would be supporting the motion believing that implementation of the recommendations within the Casey Review would be the first step needed to bring necessary reform.

Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam, also speaking in support of the motion, felt that the challenge being provided through the Casey Review was a sign of progress and called for the continuation of pressure to end the institutional racism, sexism and abuse of power in policing. In expressing support for a more local led approach to policing as a means of rebuilding trust and addressing the causes of crime, concerns were raised at the impact of the Governments approach in terms of legislation such as the Public Order Bill which it was felt would introduce further restrictions on freedom and divide society impacting on trust and the potential abuse of power by the Metropolitan Police in the way they would be expected to enforce the provisions. As a result, he ended by not only highlighting his support for the Casey Review but also in seeking to stand against the Public Order Bill.

In further support of the motion, Councillor Afzal felt that the need to undertake the Casey Review had in itself showed a failure on behalf of the Metropolitan Police, which he pointed out had been already been found to be institutionally racist. In opposing the words of the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Afzal highlighted multiple cases demonstrating institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police which he felt it was important not to regard as isolated incidents. In his view the recruitment of additional police officers was not the main issue to be addressed

and of more importance was the need to address the systemic issue of institutionalised racism within both the Metropolitan Police force and society in general. On this basis he hoped all members would support the motion.

Councillor Mistry, whilst expressing her support for the motion and recognising the numerous failings of the Metropolitan Police, also felt it important to reflect on the role of the Mayor of London in overseeing the service provided as Police and Crime Commissioner and working in partnership to ensure the recommendations and change identified as required within the Casey Review were fully delivered. Whilst supporting the need to ensure officers found to have abused their power were removed from office and where necessary prosecuted, Councillor Mistry in concluding also felt it important to recognise that not all police officers were bad as evidenced through the work being undertaken locally through the Safer Neighbourhood Teams across the borough.

In also expressing his support for the motion and addressing previous comments made by Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Miller highlighted the difficulty in being able to distinguish between cases of wrong doing within institutions as a whole and the individuals who worked within them pointing out, as an example, the action often taken by regulators in medical and healthcare settings to implement system changes in response to individual cases of misconduct. In responding to criticism of the Mayor of London, Councillor Miller also felt it was important to recognise the strong leadership and action demonstrated by the Mayor in removing the former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police from office, despite resistance by the Home Secretary at the time and felt the difference in approach between political parties would become even clearer in the run up to the next London Mayoral election.

Councillor Smith, also in responding to the earlier contribution made by Councillor Kansagra, took the opportunity to highlight her own personal observations of racism experienced at the hands of the Police and to emphasise the importance both historically and within the current social climate of everyone being treated fairly and with respect. In highlighting her support for the motion, Councillor Smith felt that it represented a distorted view to believe that the problems experienced in the Metropolitan Police as an institution were only the fault of a small number of officers.

As a final contribution, Councillor Grahl also speaking in support of the motion thanked Councillor Dixon for bringing the matter forward for consideration and encouraged all members to read the final report from the Casey Review in full. In highlighting longstanding issues with the Metropolitan Police she also took the opportunity to refer to a national inspection of child protection arrangements by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services undertaken in 2016 where inadequate police practices had been identified in a significant proportion of child protection cases. It was felt this demonstrated that the concerns identified were not just focussed on a small number of individual officers but across the Metropolitan Police as an institution. In response to criticism of the Mayor of London Councillor Grahl also supported the view that the stance taken in removing the previous Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police had demonstrated strong leadership and a desire to ensure change was implemented across the service.

As there were no further contributions, the Mayor then invited Councillor Farah, as Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection, to summarise and close the debate.

Councillor Farah began by thanking Councillor Dixon for raising such an important subject for debate recognising the findings of the Casey Review as damning for the Metropolitan Police as an institution. Whilst highlighting his concern that the service had been found to be embroiled in so many systemic failures and mistrust he felt this should not have come as a surprise given the views being expressed by many communities across Brent and London as a whole with the trauma caused as a result of these failures taking time to heal. It was, however, felt that the Casey Review provided an opportunity to deliver the change required at both a cultural and operational level with the work of the neighbourhood police officers in Brent in seeking to make the borough a safer place also recognised. As specific examples of work being led locally by the Council, Councillor Farah outlined the support being provided for organisations involved in tackling violence against women and girls; in seeking to enable the safe operation of the night time economy and support vulnerable women, and the approach towards investing in the rehabilitation of offenders whilst also providing support for the victims of crime. To conclude the debate, Councillor Farah stated that as Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection he was committed to ensuring Brent remained a safe place for all communities and to working with the Police to ensure full implementation of the recommendations from the Casey Review as a means of enhancing local accountability and in seeking to adopt a culture that moving forward would enable trust to be rebuilt in the police.

Having concluded discussions, the motion moved as the basis for the Non-Cabinet Member debate was then put to the vote by the Mayor and unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following motion as the outcome of the 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 Council also 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.”

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

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, to introduce a report from the Corporate Director of Governance outlining a number of changes to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (“NWL JHOSC”).

In introducing the report, it was noted that the amendments had been developed and agreed by the NWL JHOSC and were primarily designed to reflect changes in the North West London Health sector landscape with the introduction of the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) as well as clarify the current status where participation in the JHOSC would not preclude any scrutiny or right of response by individual boroughs.

As no other members indicated they wished to speak on the report and Councillor Muhammed Butt had confirmed he did not need to exercise any right of reply the Mayor then put the recommendations in the report to the vote and they were unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED** to:

- (1) Agree the updated Terms of Reference for the North West London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC) a detailed within Appendix A of the report.
- (2) replace the current Terms of Reference for the NWL JHOSC included within Part 4 of Brent’s Constitution with the updated version approved under (1) above.

16. **Motions**

Before moving on to consider the motions listed on the summons, the Mayor advised members that a total of 40 minutes had been set aside for the consideration of the four motions submitted for debate, based on an initial allocation of 10 minutes per motion. Should the time taken to consider the first motion be less

than 10 minutes he advised that the remaining time available would be rolled forward for consideration of the remaining motions.

#### **16.1 1<sup>st</sup> Motion (Conservative Group) – Don't Punish Brent's Drivers**

The Mayor invited Councillor Kansagra to move the first motion which had been submitted on behalf of the Conservative Group. Prior to addressing the motion, Councillor Kansagra felt there was a need to seek further advice on an amendment submitted in advance of the meeting by the Labour Group, which he was concerned had been designed to negate the basis of the original motion submitted for debate. The concerns highlighted by Councillor Kansagra regarding the amendment were also shared by the Liberal Democrats Group who supported the view that the proposed amendment would have the effect of negating the spirit and basis of the original motion. In responding to the concerns highlighted the Corporate Director of Governance advised that the amendment had been subject to detailed review and on balance was felt to have retained a sufficient element of the original motion to avoid entirely nullifying it. On this basis the amendment had been cleared to proceed for consideration.

In expressing concern at the negative effect of the amendment and precedent it was felt this approach would set moving forward, the Conservative Group advised the Mayor they were no longer minded to move the motion and would instead be seeking to withdraw it from consideration at the meeting.

With the Labour Group initially indicating they were minded to continue with the debate in order to consider the amendment they had submitted, the Mayor agreed to a brief adjournment of the meeting to enable the respective Groups to seek further constitutional advice from the Corporate Director of Governance. Having reconvened, following a brief withdrawal of all members of the Conservative Group from the meeting, it was **RESOLVED** having been put to a vote, in accordance with Standing Order 42(I), to approve withdrawal of the Motion submitted by the Conservative Group from consideration at the meeting.

#### **16.2 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion (Liberal Democrats Group) – Protecting, preserving and promoting Parks and Open Spaces in Brent**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Georgiou to move the second motion which had been submitted on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group. As context for the motion Councillor Georgiou began by highlighting what he felt was the importance in seeking to protect and value all Brent's parks and open spaces as vital assets to the local community. This included the need, given approval of the recent planning application relating to a site located along the north-west corner of Barham Park, to protect parks and open spaces from the potential of development especially where this was not felt to meet local need. In valuing the green and open spaces available across the borough, Councillor Georgiou felt the pandemic and increasing levels of development that only provided limited access to green space, had further highlighted their importance given the mental and physical health benefits from the access provided to green and open spaces for so many residents as well as in relation to addressing the climate emergency.

On this basis, it was felt the recent decision to allow the building of houses located along the north-west corner of Barham Park not only went against the Council's

long established Core Strategy of protecting Brent parks and open spaces and local Neighbourhood planning but had also created an unwelcome precedent which it felt put other parks and open spaces in Brent at risk. Referring to the level of local support for an online petition set up following the recent planning decision calling on the Council to protect parks and open spaces from future development and rejecting the amendment to the motion submitted by the Labour Group, Councillor Georgiou ended in moving the motion by calling on members to recognise the strength of local feeling and prioritise the preservation and promotion of the boroughs parks and open spaces as valuable assets across the borough.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Georgiou for introducing the motion and then drew member's attention to an amendment submitted by Councillor Tatler on behalf of the Labour Group, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

In moving the amendment Councillor Tatler began by thanking all residents who had signed the petition referred to by Councillor Georgiou and the value placed on Brents parks and green spaces. In seeking to reassure local residents of the Council's commitment to protecting and enhancing the boroughs parks she felt it important to emphasis not only the significant level of investment already provided but also the ongoing use of the Community Infrastructure Levy and planning process to secure a number of new parks and open public spaces including areas such as Wembley Park, South Kilburn and Grand Union in Alperton. In highlighting what she regarded as the progressive nature of the Council's planning policies in seeking to balance the need for housebuilding with the wider demand for infrastructure like parks and wider sustainability objectives, Councillor Tatler also took the opportunity to remind members of the recently adopted planning guidance on Sustainable Environment and Development; Residential Amenity Space, with Brent one of the first local authorities to have adopted such a policy.

As a result, she advised that the amendment sought to recognise the work already being undertaken by Council, in conjunction with the GLA and the London Plan, to safeguard parks and open spaces. This included Local Plan policies in Growth Areas identifying specific local park provision, a series of play areas and open spaces within new developments and the requirement for developments to provide an urban greening factor, bio-diversity gain, replacement tree canopy cover and space for water and habitats that would not have existed before. In seeking to query what was felt to be a misleading stance taken by the Liberal Democrats Group, Councillor Tatler highlighted their groups limited engagement in the process undertaken to support the development of planning policy and also their involvement in the original decision to seek to dispose of the Barham Park site referred to within the motion, taken by the Executive in December 2009, where it had been confirmed that the only use of the site would be for a small residential development that would not lead to a loss of green space.

In concluding, Councillor Tatler took the opportunity to assure residents how seriously the current Administration took its responsibility to protect the boroughs parks and green spaces alongside the need to balance the demand for housing against promoting more sustainable development. As a result, she advised the Labour Group would be seeking to oppose the original motion in favour of the amendment move, which was as follows:

To add the wording underlined 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 Alpertown, 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."~~

The Mayor thanked Councillor Tatler for moving the amendment on behalf of the Labour Group and then opened the debate for contributions from other members in relation to both the original motion and amendment.

In seeking to clarify the position relating to the decision taken by the Executive in 2009 on disposal of the properties located along the north-west corner of Barham Park (as referred to by Councillor Tatler in moving the amendment) Councillor Lorber as Chair of Executive at the time, explained the background and context to the decision made. The opportunity was also taken, in supporting the original motion, to highlight the strength of local opposition to the planning decision and support for preserving the boroughs parks and open spaces and to clarify that the final decision on disposal of the site had been taken by the Labour Administration in 2010.

Councillor Hirani also speaking in support of the original motion, highlighted what the Conservative Group felt was the important need to protect and preserve parks and open spaces across the borough. Highlighting the strength of opposition to the recent planning application and decision relating to the properties located along the north-west corner of Barham Park concern was expressed at the way in which it was felt the decision had undermined the Local Neighbourhood Planning process with specific reference to the Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Plan policy BP1 and the precedent set as a result, particularly given the importance of the boroughs parks and open spaces, including Woodstock Park, in terms of tackling wider sustainability, bio-diversity and air quality issues. Recognising the strength of local views Councillor Hirani ended by highlighting what she felt was the importance in the Barham Park Trust seeking to maintain the necessary protection and preserve the original basis on which the park had been provided for the benefit of local people.

As there were no further contributions, the Mayor then invited Councillor Georgiou (as mover of the original motion) followed by Councillor Tatler (as mover of the amendment) to exercise their right of reply.

In exercising his right of reply, Councillor Georgiou took the opportunity to remind members that the original aim of the motion had been to secure the necessary commitment towards maintaining and safeguarding Brent's parks and open spaces particularly in cases where they may be threatened by development that did not meet local need. Given the unwelcome precedent which it was felt the recent decision to allow the building of houses located along the north-west corner of Barham Park set in relation to not only the Council's Core Strategy of protecting Brent parks and open spaces but also local Neighbourhood planning policy and strength of public feeling identified in support of the petition to protect Brents parks and open spaces he hoped all members would join him in supporting the original motion in seeking to prioritise the preservation and promotion of the boroughs parks and open spaces.

Councillor Tatler in closing the debate and exercising her right of reply again repeated her early assurance regarding the Council's ongoing commitment to safeguarding and investing in the boroughs parks and open spaces. Highlighting

the value of parks and open spaces along with further plans for future investment and the creation of new open spaces and their importance in terms of air quality and wider environmental and public health impacts she hoped all members would support the amendment moved, which had been designed to reflect the work being undertaken to protect and enhance the boroughs parks and open spaces which she reminded members included no loss of green space in Barham Park.

Having thanked councillors for their contributions, the Mayor then moved to the vote on the motion starting with the amendment moved by the Labour Group. The amendment, as set out above, was then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

The Mayor then moved on to put the substantive motion, as amended and set out below, to a vote which was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following 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 the promise of much needed homes in Brent it is crucial that new residents are able to access open spaces in the areas they move to. Brent Council continues to work with partners to bring forward new developments to ensure they incorporate adequate large green space 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, protecting mature trees and important habitats for local wildlife. Without doing so, we risk missing these targets in our borough.

The decision by the Planning Committee to allow the building of houses located along the north-west corner of Barham Park 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 Local Neighbourhood Plan. The Planning Committee decision does not result in the loss of any local green space from the redevelopment of the buildings and does not impact upon the ability to experience the area of the original historic landscape park.

The Barham Park decision does not result in the loss of any local green space and therefore re-affirms the existing precedent of maintaining the protection of parks and open spaces from development 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 reaffirm its Planning Policies on protecting public parks and open spaces
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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."

### **16.3 3<sup>rd</sup> Motion (Labour Group) – Celebrating 75 years of the NHS in Brent**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Kabir to move the first motion submitted by the Labour Group. In moving the motion, Councillor Kabir highlighted the celebrations undertaken to mark the 75th anniversary of the NHS, which she regarded as one of the nations and Labour's proudest achievements. Referring to the creation of the National Health Service by Nye Bevin in 1948 as the first universal health system of its kind, she felt that despite the critics and attempts to undermine the founding principles, it still stood strong as a service provided free at the point of access and on the basis of need rather than the ability to pay. In commending the range of pioneering treatments developed by the NHS which had subsequently been rolled out to other health services across the world, Councillor Kabir also paid personal tribute for the service and standard of care received.

In seeking to celebrate the achievements of the NHS, tribute was also paid to the diversity of the NHS workforce which, in also celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Windrush anniversary, it was felt represented another of its great strengths. Whilst seeking to celebrate these achievements Councillor Kabir advised that the motion was also designed to highlight concerns regarding the Conservative Governments approach towards the NHS, which it was felt had not matched the current reality in terms of investment required to balance the demands of an aging population or in relation to social care, infrastructure and staffing levels and pay. As a result, the motion, in recognising the need for further investment in the NHS and stable political leadership, was seeking to support the approach within the Plan developed by the Labour Party, including proposals to increase the number of medical school places and district nurses whilst also training more new health visitors and creating more nursing and midwifery clinical placements alongside a long term plan for the NHS. In commending the motion to members, Councillor Kabir ended by highlighting the way in which it was felt Labour's Plan for the NHS would not only continue to safeguard and preserve the NHS but also provide the necessary level of investment required to ensure that it would be possible to celebrate its next 75 years.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Kabir for moving the motion before inviting other members to speak, with the following contributions received.

Following Councillor Kabir's opening statement, Councillor Moeen, in supporting the motion, expressed pride that it had been the Labour Party who had established the NHS in 1948. However, whilst recognising the hard work of all NHS staff the need for further investment was identified with Councillor Moeen ending by supporting the call to improve the pay, working conditions and recruitment of NHS staff.

Councillor Kelcher also spoke in support of the motion highlighting a need, in terms of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the NHS, for support by a government that believed in the service and would provide sufficient investment, as opposed to the stance taken by the current Conservative Government. As an example, Councillor Kelcher highlighted the approach taken by the last Labour Government towards tackling NHS waiting lists with the public rating of the NHS during that time at an historical high. In celebrating its history, Councillor Kelcher felt the NHS continued to have a bright future as long as it was properly supported and safeguarded which he felt a Labour Government would be best placed to achieve.

In response to the debate, Councillor Lorber felt it was important to recognise that in his view the process of NHS privatisation had started under the previous Labour Governments led by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, including the large scale

engagement of management consultants. This process had continued under successive governments since then with Councillor Lorber pointing out the principles guiding the formation of the NHS actually reflected what were regarded to be radical liberal ideals originally proposed by the likes of John Maynard Keynes and William Beveridge, and not only the Labour Party.

Councillor Mistry, also responding to the debate felt members should also be aware that whilst the NHS had been formally established by Nye Bevan in 1948 the idea had first been proposed by Winston Churchill whose Conservative Government had commissioned the Beveridge Report. Since its establishment, the size of the NHS had massively expanded both in terms of workforce and budget with Councillor Mistry highlighting the significant levels of investment provided by the current Conservative Government which she pointed out had resulted in the provision of an additional 41,000 more nurses and 5,100 more doctors compared to 2019. In paying tribute to NHS staff and seeking to celebrate its anniversary, Councillor Mistry felt it important to outline how the Conservative government were already taking action to protect the NHS, such as expanding the size of the workforce, increasing funding, and undertaking system reform alongside measures being taken to improve access to primary care including provision for GP appointments and expanding community pharmacies.

As a further contribution in support of the motion, Councillor Hack reminded members of the difficulty those experiencing poverty had, prior to the establishment of the NHS, in gaining access to healthcare. In commending the approach outlined within the motion, Councillor Hack felt that the Conservative Party had demonstrated a tolerance of the NHS rather than actually supporting the philosophy of universal healthcare that underpinned the service. In building on the previous point, he reiterated that the Labour Party should be proud of its stance as a party that was seeking to preserve and safeguard the NHS. In concluding, Councillor Hack felt it was important to recognise the impact created as a result of the political choices relating to austerity across all public services including the NHS, and ended with reference to Nye Bevan in stating that the NHS would only last if there were people who believed in it and were willing to preserve it.

Councillor Johnson, also speaking in supporting of the motion, commended the role played by citizens from around the world in making such a positive contribution as a key part of the NHS workforce. Whilst praising the service provide by the NHS, Councillor Johnson felt that it had unfortunately been failed by the current Conservative government in terms of under investment which had also impacted on increasing levels of health inequalities within the system, and staff leaving. In supporting the call for more investment Councillor Johnson felt this was essential to ensure the NHS was able to continue providing an equal service for all.

In expressing further support for the motion and responding to the contributions made by members of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups during the debate, Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam queried the stance taken towards the NHS by both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties whilst in power, which he felt had encouraged the privatisation of services. In contrast, he was keen to ensure that any activity designed to make profit from the NHS was avoided to preserve and protect its status as a much-valued public service and asset.

Councillor Matin in contributing towards the debate and in support of the motion took the opportunity to highlight her personal experience of the NHS. In commending the service provided, Councillor Matin highlighted the importance in ensuring the required level of investment was provided and also that staff deserved a salary that reflected the important nature of service they provided. The opportunity was also taken to comment on previous statements made in relation to NHS privatisation which she felt also need to reflect the approach adopted by the Labour Government under Tony Blair.

As a final contribution, given the time available, Councillor Nerva, as Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, ended by wishing the NHS a happy birthday and highlighting the revolutionary nature of the concept behind the NHS at the time of its formation in providing free healthcare at the point of access. Whilst acknowledging that the establishment of the NHS by a labour Government had built on the Beveridge Report, Councillor Nerva also highlighted the opposition to its formation expressed at the time by the Conservative Party. Moving on to focus on the state of the NHS today, Councillor Nerva felt it had been undervalued and underfunded by the current Conservative Government with significant problems also now being experienced in relation to, staffing, recruitment and retention which he argued had been exacerbated by Brexit and concern also expressed at the widening level of health inequalities being experienced as a result of the cost of living crisis, child poverty, and inadequate housing. In commending the motion to all members, Councillor Nerva ended by highlighting what he felt were the key issues needing to be addressed in terms of ongoing health provision, as set out in the motion, which included tackling health inequalities, prevention, and maintaining equal access to health services for all across the NHS.

Highlighting the limited time remaining, the Mayor then invited Councillor Kabir to exercise her right of reply. In responding and closing the debate, Councillor Kabir whilst keen to recognise the achievements of the NHS felt that more was required in terms of investment and support and therefore hoped all members would join her in supporting the motion as a means of uniting behind a shared vision and in seeking to support delivery of the necessary change in approach by Government required to preserve and safeguard the NHS.

Having once again thanked all members for their contributions, the Mayor then put the motion, to a vote which was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following 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”

#### **16.4 4<sup>th</sup> Motion (Labour Group) – Keeping Brent on the move: renewing our roads and pavements**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Benea to move the second and final motion submitted by the Labour Group who began by outlining that despite the Conservative Group’s opposition to the expansion of the Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) it had been the current Conservative government who had placed a condition on Transport for London (TfL) to expand the ULEZ in order to receive financial support following the Covid-19 pandemic. In highlighting that London had the only major European transport network that was not financially subsidised, Councillor Benea advised that this inequity had formed the basis of the motion. Moving on to focus on the investment required in highway infrastructure, Councillor Benea pointed out that London Councils had estimated the required level of investment to address the backlog in maintenance and repairs totalled £1.6 billion, with the lack of funding being provided through Government impacting on every council in the capital. In highlighting the need for a safe, accessible, sustainable and inclusive transport network the need to continue expanding and improving public transport and sustainable travel modes was also outlined as a key issue, with initiatives such as the Mayor of London’s super-loop bus service praised. At the same time the need to maintain investment in London’s highway infrastructure was also recognised. Whilst commending the provision of additional capital investment by the Council to support the programme of work required, concern was expressed at what was felt to be the managed decline of highway investment by the Conservative Government in London and impact which the provision of additional investment by the Council itself was having on the provision of other vital services that protected vulnerable residents, with Councillor Benea reiterating that the Council should not be subject to such a binary choice. In commending the motion to all members, Councillor Benea ended by calling for greater investment in transport infrastructure praising the stance taken by the Council when compared to that of the current Government had overseen the curtailment of many key transport infrastructure pledges including Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Benea for moving the motion before inviting other members to speak on the motion, with the following contributions received.

In thanking Councillor Benea for introducing the motion, Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, felt it important to start by highlighting that Transport for London (TfL) required £475 million from central government to meet its 2024-25 capital delivery programme, a programme that was integral to both Brent and London and that without a long term funding settlement further degradation of the capital’s transport and highways infrastructure could be expected. In highlighting the lack of funding being provided for TfL

through central government and reminding members of the impact the pandemic had on TfL's income, Councillor Krupa Sheth outlined how the financial challenges being experienced by TfL also impacted on Brent locally. In contrasting the funding position for local authorities in London, when compared to those outside of the Capital, Councillor Krupa Sheth highlighted the difference in levels of funding being made available by the Government and impact this was having in terms of the boroughs highway maintenance programme with the position being further impacted through increased costs driven by inflation. Whilst outlining and commending the additional investment provided by the Council in the borough's transport network, including £20 million spent across the lifetime of the previous administration and £15 million committed to the highway budget by the current administration, it was pointed out this remained insufficient to cover all roads and pavements across the borough including the work required to mitigate against the impact of climate change. As a result, Councillor Krupa Sheth hoped all members would support the motion in seeking to ensure that TfL was properly funded and London was treated in the same way as the rest of England when funding the maintenance of roads, pavements, and infrastructure.

As a final contribution, recognising the limited time available, Councillor Lorber also spoke taking the opportunity to remind members of the proposals put forward, but not approved, by the Liberal Democrat Group as part of the budget setting process to increase the level of investment in the boroughs highways infrastructure to address the backlog in repairs from £15m to £20m. Referring to the potential availability of funding through the Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy and New House Bonus, it was pointed out that decisions on the priority for use of these sources of funding remained at the discretion of the Council with Councillor Lorber highlighting key areas of concern raised by local residents continued to be focussed around potholes, broken pavements and roads and litter.

Given the remaining time available and as no other members had indicated they wished to speak on the motion and Councillor Benea had confirmed she did not need to exercise any right of reply, the Mayor having thanked members for their contributions, then put the motion to a vote which was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following 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."

#### 17. **Urgent Business**

There were no urgent items of business raised at the meeting so the Mayor, in closing the meeting, thanked all members for their co-operation and support and advised that he looked forward to seeing everyone again in person at the next Full Council which would be on Monday 18 September 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.33 pm

COUNCILLOR ORLEEN HYLTON  
Mayor

## **Full Council – 18 September 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:

#### Cabinet Membership

Council is asked to note that the Leader of the Council has appointed Councillor Shama Tatler to cover the role of Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform whilst Councillor Mili Patel is on maternity leave. This will be in addition to Councillor Tatler's existing remit as Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Growth.

#### Committee Appointments:

1. General Purposes Committee – Councillor Harbi Farah to replace Councillor Mili Patel as a full member with Councillor Shama Tatler to be appointed as Vice-Chair. Councillor Harbi Farah to be replaced by a vacancy as substitute member.
2. Health & Wellbeing Board – Councillor Shama Tatler to replace Councillor Mili Patel as a full member
3. Joint Borough IT Committee Brent, Lewisham & Southwark - To note that the Leader of the Council has appointed Councillor Shama Tatler to replace Councillor Mili Patel as full member and Brent's Chair.

4. Barham Park Trust Committee - To note that the Leader of the Council has appointed Councillor Knight to replace Councillor Mili Patel as a full member with an accompanying vacancy as substitute member.

Outside Bodies:

1. London Council's Leaders Committee – Councillor Shama Tatler to replace Councillor Mili Patel as deputy.
2. London Council's Greater London Employment Forum – To note that the Leader of the Council has appointed Councillor Shama Tatler to replace Councillor Mili Patel as deputy.
3. London Council's Grants Committee – To note that the Leader of the Council has appointed Councillor Fleur Donnelly-Jackson to replace Councillor Mili Patel as Brent's full representative with Councillor Shama Tatler 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 the resignation of Rachel Tiffen, Council is asked to agree the appointment of Rhys Jarvis to the second of these positions for a 4-year term. Mr Jarvis has recently concluded his rotation as one of two Independent Members of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), where he served the South Yorkshire Community for the last six years. In that capacity he was both Independent Vice-Chair of the SYMCA Audit Standards & Risk Committee and Independent Vice-Chair of the recently disbanded SYPTE Risk & Audit Committee.

Full Council is therefore asked:



To agree the appointment of Rhys Jarvis (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).

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## Questions from Members of the Public

### Full Council – 18 September 2023

**1. Question from Martin Francis to Councillor Promise Knight (Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security)**

The following list of questions pertain to the Building Safety Act that received Royal Assent in April 2022 and the requirements for landlords, including local councils, therein. 'Buildings in Scope' refers to those buildings under the Building Safety Act, that are high-rise residential buildings that are 18 metres tall or higher, or at least seven storeys, with two or more residential units that are defined as 'higher-risk'.

Across England there are approximately 12,500 of these buildings and the new regulator required all of them to be registered from April 2023, with a named person responsible for maintaining their safety. The registration process is a crucial stage in setting up the new building safety regime. Registering buildings in scope will be a legal requirement and owners and managers who fail to comply by October 2023 will be investigated and may face prosecution.

On this basis, could the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security provide address following questions in relation to the Council responsibilities:

1. Does the council know the details of the residents who cannot evacuate without help, or those whose first language is not English as part of any emergency arrangements in each of the 40 buildings in scope?
2. Can you describe the details of the construction methods in each of the buildings in scope?
3. Can you provide the access and means of escape, including travel distances, in all the buildings in scope?
4. Can you identify all the Building Safety risks in each of the buildings in scope?
5. Can you provide the maintenance and inspection schedules for every building in scope using The Golden Thread of information? [LINK](#)
6. Can you set out the emergency plan for each building in scope, including their evacuation strategy?

7. Please set out your complaints system and that how you will operate an effective mandatory occurrence reporting system?
8. Are you now able to publish a risk assessment for each of the buildings in scope?
9. Do all fire doors in every building in scope meet the full standard of fire prevention?
10. Do you know if any of the buildings in scope have any structural issues and can you provide full details of the utilities they use and if any of them impact on common parts of the building, or evacuation plans? Does fire stopping meets the appropriate standard so that compartmentation is not compromised?
11. Have you identified the 'responsible person' for each block?

**Response:**

**Question (1)** The council has previously undertaken work to proactively identify tenants living in our high-rise blocks who cannot evacuate without assistance in event of an emergency. The information the council received as part of this work is currently being reviewed. When tenants whose first language is not English are identified, the council records this and will make reasonable adjustments.

**Question (2)** The construction method for each of the High Rise blocks is in the Fire Risks Assessment (FRA) for the property and is included in the Building Registration information provided to London Fire Brigade (LFB) and the Building Regulators. Furthermore, this information is contained in our asset database.

**Question (3)** The access points and means of escape are clearly set out in all of the buildings. Travel distances in the buildings complied with the Building Regulations current at the time the building was constructed.

We also have wayfinding information conspicuously displayed in all our blocks that provide access and means of escape information as well as direction/fire escape routes out of the property.

**Question (4)** The Fire Risk Assessments for each building identifies all safety risks which are being actioned in the required timescales.

**Question (5)** All maintenance and inspection schedules/records are on our New Compliance asset compliance management database. All new build blocks in scope are following the Gateway process.

**Question (6)** All information in regard to emergency plan and strategy are provided as part of the building registration with LFB and the fire strategy for each block is displayed in the lobby area in each block.



It is also imperative to highlight that our buildings are generally stay put for purpose built blocks unless there is a communal alarm system in place, and simultaneous evacuation for converted street properties.

**Question (7)** The Council's principal accountable person for our occupied higher-risk buildings is working on establishing and operating a suitable system for the investigation of relevant complaints.

Mandatory occurrence reporting is designed to help report structural flaws and fire risks that might arise at any point throughout the life cycle of a building and can cause catastrophes.

We are working to develop a suitable system(s) that will cover the following requirements:

- Introducing a more reliable reporting system that complements RIDDOR and voluntary occurrence reporting regimes.
- Strengthening the golden thread (or the digitally stored collection of information about a building and its safety).
- Boosting residents' engagement to improve the accuracy and frequency of fire and structural risks.

**Question (8)** All our Fire Risks Assessments are available for each resident upon request.

**Question (9)** We carry out quarterly inspections of all the communal doors as well as service cupboard doors in each block, and a yearly inspection of the flat entrance doors to ensure all doors meet the full standard of fire prevention.

**Question (10)** We have carried out FRA4 inspections on all of our buildings in scope and we have identified any structural defect or issue in our buildings and we are confident that the fire stoppings in all our High-Rise properties meet appropriate standards of compartmentation.

**Question (11)** All our FRAs has the detail of the responsible person for each block.

2. **Question from John Cox to Councillor Harbi Farah (Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection)**

What steps have been taken, and will be taken, to shield Brent residents in Harley Road NW10 from the noise of nearby mechanical diggers dropping thousands of tonnes of spoil from High Speed Two into empty steel railway wagons, for it to be taken to other parts of the country?

The spoil currently comes from the HS2 station excavation at Old Oak Common and in future will also be from HS2 tunnels dug westwards towards Greenford and eventually eastwards towards Euston.

The noise, which happens continuously around the clock, is created on the HS2 site in Ealing, but the harmful effect is in Brent.

As a result, can the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change advise:

1. If that is the reason why no noise barriers or other measures were ever insisted on by Brent and when did Brent first get informed of the matter by HS2 Ltd, or by Ealing, or by the Environment Agency?
2. What nature, duration and acoustic level does Brent consider acceptable to its residents?
3. What action can Brent take in response to the concerns raised.

**Response:**

HS2 Willesden Euro Terminal works have received formal consent under Control of Pollution Act 1974, from Ealing Council.

Brent Council were notified of these works due to the proximity of residential units on Harley Road. HS2 operates the HS2 Ltd [Public Helpdesk](#) 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for the duration of the works, to manage all complaints, handle enquiries and coordinate incident response.

**3. Question from Charlotte Child to Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action)**

Why are the residents of Cavendish Road, Willesden Lane and The Avenue NW6 finding it impossible to get a pedestrian crossing put on the busy and dangerous junction.

It is a popular school/nursery route and there are daily problems with vehicles and pedestrians and yet the council has claimed they don't have the funding to do much more as change the phasing of the traffic lights to allow time to cross. With large building developments planned for either corner, the pedestrian foot traffic is only set to increase.

Can a crossing be put in before there's a fatality?

**Response:**

There are traffic signal junctions in Brent and indeed across London that do not have a pedestrian crossing phase. Pedestrians therefore need to cross the arm of the junction when the signals are red and proceed with caution as there may be vehicles turning.

Providing a pedestrian phase at this junction would require a study, traffic modelling and approval of a scheme by Transport for London who are responsible for the management of traffic signals. Consideration would be given to the capacity of the junction and the impact that an 'all red' pedestrian phase would have on traffic and particularly bus journey times.

This would require a significant investment by the Council and the main source of funding for road safety is through Transport for London. There is limited funding and resources available and therefore the Council needs to prioritise locations in consideration of accident records.

According to our records, there have been 3 slight injury accidents over the last 6 years, 1 involved a pedestrian on Saturday 31/07/23. This indicates that whilst this junction is more difficult to cross, pedestrians do so with caution and as a result there has been no history of pedestrian collisions.

Officers are aware of developments in the area and will continue to monitor road safety at this location. Arrangements have been made for this location to be considered for inclusion in a future programme. Improvements would be programmed should this location be prioritised and funding secured.

**4. Question from Naishadh Patel to Councillor Neil Nerva (Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care)**

My understanding is that people are not being discharged from hospital due to unavailability of care provision in the community yet companies with good and above ratings with the CQC who are interested in providing this care do not appear to have been offered the work.

Can the Cabinet Member therefore advise:

1. How companies who are able to offer care provision services are able to express an interest and get on the list to provide these type of services?
2. How companies, where there are concerns regarding their ratings, are monitored and if necessary suspended or removed from the list of providers in order to eliminate any potential harm to clients.


**Response:**

Brent does not currently have delays to hospital discharges as a result of unavailability of care provision. There is sufficient homecare and reablement provision available in the borough to support people home from hospital, and also meet the needs of those in the community receiving care.

Providers are appointed to provide care for the council based on an open tender exercise. Brent carried out a homecare provider tender in 2020/21, where the council's lead homecare providers were appointed. A tender is currently in progress to appoint up to 20 providers to join Brent's homecare framework. This was advertised on Find a Tender service, Contracts Finder service and the London Tenders Portal. Brent's Adult Social Care Commissioning Team has also undertaken a significant market warming exercise with providers to make them aware of these opportunities, including arranging bespoke support for local providers on applying for tenders with the council. Over 40 providers attended workshops in relation to this, and over 170 providers bid for this tender.

Similarly, the tender process for reablement services is ongoing, and new providers should be appointed in October of this year. The process for engagement ahead of the reablement tender mirrored that for the homecare tender.

The Adult Social Care Commissioning Team has a robust quality assurance process. The team works with providers to maintain standards and improve CQC ratings where appropriate. As part of this process, we maintain strong working relationships with the CQC and use our contractual default process and procedure with the failing providers if required.

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 18 September 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> (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: Cabinet Member Update reports
<b>Background Papers:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	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, including their contribution to the Borough Plan and other Strategic Priorities.
- 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 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

- 4.1 The relevant Lead Cabinet members have provided the updates detailed within Appendix 1 of the report.

#### **5.0 Financial Considerations**

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

#### **6.0 Legal Considerations**

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

#### **7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

- 7.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications.

#### **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

- 8.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct implications.

#### **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

- 9.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct implications.

#### **10.0 Communication Considerations**

- 10.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct 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 July 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:

### **Financial Outturn Report 2022-23**

This report set out the outturn for income and expenditure versus the revenue budget and capital programme for 2022/23 and other key financial data. The Council's General Fund outturned at break even. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) also broke even. In 2022/23 the Council's capital programme spent £165m which equates to 71% of the approved budget.

Whilst the General fund as a whole broke even, there was a service overspend of £3.7m in the Children and Young People's department as a result of increased placement and staffing costs. Adult Social Care and Health overspent by £0.9m while other General Fund services out turned with modest variations. The budgeted use of corporate contingencies of £4.2m has resulted in an overall breakeven position for the General Fund.

### **Medium Term Financial Outlook**

This report set out the overall financial position facing the Council and highlighted the significant risks, issues and uncertainties with regards to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). It also set out the proposed budget setting strategy for 2024/25, which is the Council's minimum legal duty in respect of local authority budget setting, in order to maximise the period of consultation with residents, businesses and other key stakeholders. The report also outlined how the MTFS will aim to provide a framework to invest in broader ambitions and long-term priorities such as the Borough Plan, the cost-of-living crisis and other future steps to ensure the Council continues to operate in a financially sustainable and resilient way as well as supporting residents in need.

The remainder of the report set out the medium-term risks and uncertainties with regards to the current budget assumptions contained within the MTFS. These primarily relate to exceptional factors such as high levels of inflation, rising interest rates, increased demand for key services and uncertainty in government funding. In doing so, it must be recognised that the situation remains uncertain and it is extremely difficult to make a full, definitive and comprehensive assessment of the ongoing financial impact of these issues. As such, the figures provided were based upon best estimates and forecasts and it was noted will therefore be subject to change. However, the significance of the financial challenge cannot be underestimated and over time, the Council will need to develop a response that continues to maintain a commitment to strong financial resilience and sustainability while ensuring the best for our residents.

## **Brent Local Implementation Plan (LIP) Two-Year Delivery Plan: 2023/24 – 2024/25**

This report provided an update on Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding arrangements for the two-year period 2023/24 – 2024/25.

It provided details of the programme of transport schemes and measures approved by Transport for London (TfL) to be implemented by the Council up to 31 March 2025.

## **Brent / Harrow Council Inter-Authority Agreement for the Provision of a Special Needs Transport Shared Service**

Brent Council agreed to enter an Inter Authority Agreement with Harrow Council for the continued provision of Special Needs Transport services for 3 years with an option to extend for a further 3 years.

## **Selective Licensing in the Private Rented Sector in Brent 2023 – Phase 2**

As part of the Administration's commitment to "safe, secure and decent housing" and to protect the safety and wellbeing of renters through high standards, this report agreed approval of Designation 2/2023 for a new Private Rented Sector Selective Licensing scheme in Brent.

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)



## Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform – Councillor Shama Tatler

### Top news since my last report:

- **Council Accounts** – The external audit of the Council's statement of accounts for 2022/23 has been taking place since July and is due to complete in September. After this, the Audit and Standards Committee will formally sign off the accounts in September or October. The statement of accounts for First Wave Housing and i4B were signed off by their relevant boards in August, as planned.
- **Budget 2024** – The budget setting is also underway in formulating the 2024/25 – 2025/26 budget setting process and updating the Medium Term Financial Strategy. It is currently planned to present the draft 2024/25 – 2025/26 budget to Cabinet in November.
- **Elections 2024** - The arrangements for the elections in May 2024 are fully in train. A project plan and a comms strategy are in place and the Elections Board is meeting on a monthly basis. We are also in close touch with our colleagues at Harrow to ensure that arrangements for the count go as smoothly as possible.

Much of the communications strategy is focussed on community engagement and 'spreading the word' about Voter ID. The Elections and Engagement Teams are working hard to meet with those members of Brent's communities who are less likely to be aware of the need to bring ID to vote next year. Leaflets have also been printed and are being distributed at all events and have been included in Canvass letters.

The general feedback to date is that Brent's communities have a good awareness of the need to bring Voter ID to the elections in 2024 but there are clearly pockets of the population who are unaware and the campaign is proving fruitful in reaching them.

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 Regeneration, Planning and Growth - Councillor Shama Tatler**

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

- **Ealing Road and Alperton as new Creative Enterprise Zones** – The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has officially declared Ealing Road and Alperton (ERA) a Creative Enterprise Zone. The new designation will boost the area's creative industries and help nurture emerging talent from across the borough.

The new Creative Enterprise Zone stretches from Ealing Road (at the intersection with Wembley High Road) to the north side of the Grand Union Canal in Alperton. The accreditation recognises the area's rich culture and potential for creative growth.

The ambitious programme will encourage creative growth by creating a 2000 sqm of affordable, permanent workspaces for local talent, developing a creative network of over 300 people, investing in local sustainable projects and creating a local circular economy.

- **Wembley Jobs Fair 2023** – The Wembley Jobs Fair in July was a huge success, with attendance reaching 7400. More than 200 companies including the Brent-based London Designer Outlet and global brands such as Amazon and BOXPARK took part, and it gave jobseekers a rare opportunity to meet with employers face-to-face and apply for roles directly.
- **New Planning Guidance to tackle climate change** – To protect the planet and improve the wellbeing of local people, the council has passed new planning guidelines for developers looking to build in the borough. These guidelines, set out in two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), build on the council's Local Plan policies and clarify the council's expectations for well-designed places that improve people's quality of life and create a greener and healthier environment for communities.

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:**

- **Planning Enforcement** - The Financial Investigation Team at Brent have been undertaking a case for Lambeth Council Planning team as part of our income generation. The case has recently concluded at Inner London Crown Court where confiscation order of £116,835 was awarded against Bernard Construction UK LLP and fines of £20,000 for the limited liability partnership and £20,000 against one of the partners. The case concerned a property which had been converted into six flats without planning permission. The defendants have been in the property development business for over 30 years which further aggravated the situation.
- **Licensing** – The Licensing team prosecuted two regular repeat illegal street sellers caught at Wembley event days. Both were fined £100 and ordered to pay costs £200.
- **Working with our partners in Mental Health** – Representatives from Adult Social Care Mental Health are now attending the Integrated Offender Management Meeting (IOM) and this has made a positive difference to our IOM partnership.
- **Homes for Ukraine** – The Homes for Ukraine Team is almost fully staffed now with four community support officers, two Project Officers, one Project Assistant and a manager. Another Project Assistant will be joining the team in the next month. Currently, we have 387 Ukrainian guests (including 76 children) and 184 hosts.

### **Other news:**

- As part of the cost-of-living project officers visited shops in Harlesden, Trading Standards tested 10 weighing scales, issuing 1 notice for a non-compliance. Further visits will be carried out throughout the year.
- Two businesses with mice have been closed by the Food Safety team, one has since re-opened having provided evidence the issue has been dealt with, the other remains closed.
- We have reinstated our Culturally Integrated Family Approach behaviour change provision and this will be delivered in partnership with colleagues from RISE.

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:**

- **Appointment of Rachel Crossley, Brent's new Corporate Director of Care, Health and Wellbeing** - In a career spanning more than 20 years, Rachel Crossley has led a diverse range of services from public health, strategy and democratic services to commissioning, health integration and key transformation programmes.

In her new role at Brent, Rachel will be responsible for leading the council directorate that provides adult social care and public health services. In addition, Rachel will also lead the work across the council and with health partners to improve health and well-being outcomes for all Brent residents.

- **Brent Health Matters (BHM) Community Events** – 136 events have now been held with over 7000 people attending. Key data collected from these events includes:
  - 5,986 people had health checks.
  - 2,972 people who did not have diabetes had their Diabetes risk score assessed and discussed with clinicians.
  - 1,634 people needed and were escalated to their GPs for further input.
  - 1,851(31%) people were seen by mental health team.

A dashboard is being developed which will provide us with details of people attending our events including their age, ethnicity and where they live. We hope to be able to further link this with our clinical findings.

- **Children Oral Health Care** - The Public Health team have been out on the oral health bus again this year, providing screening for caries, fluoride varnish application and health promotion advice in locations that are accessible to families.

In 2022 the oral health bus project won the Nursing Times award for the Public Health Nursing category. This year the project was shortlisted for the NHS Parliamentary Health Equalities award.

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:**

- **Short Sections Carriageway Patching programme** – Following on from the completion of our Winter Resilience programme, consisting of 49 large patch repairs at multiple locations on high trafficked routes, a further £200k programme of large patch repairs on main roads has been issued to our new contractor O'Hara's.

Of 41 locations, 29 are completed and the rest were programmed for completion over the summer. Six patches are located along Chamberlayne Road and will require road closures and night working. One, on Tanfield Avenue, is on hold pending Thames Water investigation into a sinkhole.

- **Planned Footway Maintenance** – Six footway schemes, carried over from last year, have now all been completed by our new contractors:
  - **South Area** - Fernbank Avenue, Sandringham Road and Greenhill Road
  - **North Area** - Beverley Drive (Stag Lane to Roundabout), Winchester Avenue (Princes Avenue to Girton Avenue) and Sherborne Gardens
- A further strand of the Redefining Local Services (RLS) contract procurement programme has taken effect this month with the commencement on 4<sup>th</sup> July of the new Parking Services contracts with NSL for enforcement and RingGo for cashless parking and permits. NSLs opened their new bases in the borough, were fully opened, there is an all-new electric fleet and enforcement officers were on patrol with new uniforms and equipment.

### **Other news:**

- 40 x Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping issued in July 2023.
- Successful prosecution of a Brent resident for flytipping with a fine of £500 plus a criminal record.
- 141 x Fix My Streets reports actioned by Environmental Enforcement.

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:**

- **Protecting tenants against rogue landlords** - A criminal businessman, Jaydipkumar Rameshchandra Valand, has been slapped with Brent's first ever rogue landlord banning order. The order prevents Valand from letting out houses in England and engaging in any sort of property management work in the country for the next five years.

A judge issued the ban after the council proved that Valand had been responsible for multiple housing-related offences in Brent. Brent Council takes a zero-tolerance policy against rogue landlords such as this, and we will use everything in our powers to hold them to account to safeguard our vulnerable residents.

The new selective licensing scheme that we introduced on 1 August is part of our commitment to protecting renters' rights and securing a decent standard of living for all residents. Landlords who rent out properties in Dollis Hill, Harlesden & Kensal Green and Willesden Green are now legally required to have a property licence.

- **Single People's Homelessness service** - Brent's service for single people facing homelessness is moving to a new venue in Harlesden from 07 August 2023. Anyone who is single and at risk of homelessness can drop into The Turning Point located in the Design Works, Park Parade, Harlesden, NW10 4HT, for support with their housing needs.

The Turning Point is within five minutes' walk of the Crisis Skylight building, and the Job Centre Plus Harlesden, both of which are key partners in tackling homelessness. If needed, people will be linked up with other services within the same building. The new service will mean that people's housing needs will be addressed more quickly.

### **Other news:**

- Brent's new Council Homes Programme has been shortlisted for the Inside Housing Development Awards for Best Affordable Housing Development for the Stonebridge Hillside and Milton Avenue Scheme.
- Roadshows were held across 11 estates in Brent to kick start tenant and leaseholders' involvement in developing a new strategy and framework for delivery.

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:**

- **Brent's young people show excellent attainment in A Level results despite challenges** – Initial A Level results so far in Brent show an excellent set of results from our young people, with early indications suggesting results well above the national average.

This has been a particularly challenging time for young people, who have been adversely affected by both the pandemic and the cost of living crisis, as well as the government's insistence on returning to pre-pandemic grading methods against the advice of teaching unions. The NEU has claimed that this decision has 'damaged the future of students from disadvantaged backgrounds'.

- **Holiday, Activities and Food Programme** - Brent's Holiday, Activities and Food Programme HAF programmes took place between 21 July – 3 September 2023, with eligible children able to access 16 days of HAF funded activities between these dates. We have provided a range of activities, working closely with youth organisations across the borough, and including provision for those with SEND. A more detailed breakdown of this year's programme will follow in September.
- **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:**

- **Huge Pension Credit cashback for Brent pensioners** - Brent has successfully supported 148 pensioners in the Borough to receive an additional £3,837 a year in unclaimed Pension Credit payments.

This came after the council reached out to 754 eligible households to tell them how much Pension Credit they were entitled to which was going unclaimed.

The amount of Pension Credit claimed because of this campaign equates to nearly £7million over an average lifetime, helping ease the burden of the cost-of-living crisis for nearly 150 pensioners.

- **Neighbourhood Priorities Consultation (NCIL)** - Every three years under the Community Grant (formerly NCIL), a public consultation is conducted to update the neighbourhood priorities in each CIL neighbourhood area; Wembley, Harlesden, Willesden, Kilburn, and Kingsbury & Kenton.

The consultation was open from the 26 June and closed 23 July. To ensure the survey was accessible there were multiple options for residents to take part. In addition to the survey portal, we had an online workshop in each Brent Connect area, drop-in sessions in each library, attended multiple youth groups, community events and festivals across the borough, including the Wembley Job Fair with over 7000 people in attendance. We received approximately 500 responses to the consultation with around 50% completed online and the rest on paper at the various events listed above. The results are currently being analysed and evaluated and will inform the priorities for how the Community Grant is to be allocated over the next three years.

- **Household Support Fund – Voucher Stream** - Tesco vouchers were sent to eligible families to cover the school summer break. We have been given the go ahead to order a bar code scanner which will enable us to accurately record the voucher numbers sent to families. We will then be able to check the balance and cancel and that are reported missing or lost.

A payment was been made to Edenred to enable schools to purchase vouchers prior to schools closing for the summer.

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



**Questions from the Opposition and Other Non-Cabinet Members****Full Council – 18 September 2023****1. Question from Councillor Gbajumo to Councillor Grahl (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools)**

Given some of the challenges that have faced our young people in recent years, which include the global pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, please could the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools outline how our exam results compare to others nationally, and the steps we are taking to support our young people with attainment.

**Response:**

The 2022 Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 results were either above or in line with national. Similarly, GCSE results and A Level results in 2022 across Brent secondary schools were above national. Despite a national reduction in the award of higher grades in 2023, the provisional results, that could be subject to change, indicate that Brent young people have again achieved above national performance in both GCSE and A Level qualifications, with 30.8% of A Levels graded A\*-A compared to 26.5% nationally. The provisional GCSE results indicate that 74.2% of Brent passes were graded 9 to 4 (a standard pass) compared to 67.8% nationally and 61% were graded 9 to 5 (a strong pass) compared to 52.2% nationally. The difference between Brent grades and national grades has widened in 2023.

The latest provisional data is not yet available for full analysis of performance by groups of young people. However, the local authority is continuing to work with schools to raise the attainment of underachieving groups of children and young people, including boys of black heritage and children with SEND. This includes funding 'Leading From the Top' training for all headteachers in Brent that focuses on ensuring an inclusive approach to education.

The overall effectiveness of Brent schools is very strong with 98.8 per cent of Brent schools currently judged good or outstanding by Ofsted. Brent is well above the national average of 87 per cent and above the London average of 93 per cent. This means that 99.9 per cent of pupils attend a school that is good or outstanding.

In line with the Borough Plan 2023-2027 the local authority is committed to supporting children to have the best start in life. This includes the Setting and School Effectiveness Service providing support and challenge to community schools to ensure that they are offering an appropriate curriculum and delivering quality first teaching to the benefit of all pupils. The local authority also works in

partnership with local academies and the Brent Schools Partnership, that delivers training and support to schools in a self-improving system, to ensure the quality of local provision. Through the Setting and School Effectiveness Partnership Board, chaired by the Corporate Director for Children and Young People, schools and the local authority together set the local school improvement agenda.

The local authority also supports nursery schools and early years providers through both a training offer and specialist support to ensure local early years provision is of high quality and inclusive. This investment in Brent's very youngest children will have a positive impact on young children's future life chances.

Despite a national trend of lower grades, fuelled in part by a change back to pre-pandemic grading protocols, Brent's young people have excelled and again produced a set of results well above the national average. I would like to congratulate our young people who have shown resilience and determination during a time of significant hardship.

**2. Question from Councillor Long to Councillor Nerva (Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care):**

I understand that Centene is exiting the UK market and is in the process of selling its UK GP clinics and hospitals. There are several GP practices in Brent owned by Centene / Operose.

Please could the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care let me know the impact will this have on patients and staff in the borough.

**Response:**

Currently the company is seeking a buyer and we await the outcomes of this process.

There is no impact on the two GP practices in Brent currently. If there is no successor the practices would be subject to a competitive tender. This has been added to both the Integrated Care Partnership (Borough) and Integrated Care Board (NW London) risk registers and will be monitored at Primary Care Executive (PCEG) on an ongoing basis should the position change and require further action.

**3. Question from Councillor Dixon to Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action)**

As you will know, there have been concerns raised by residents about the recent move to RingGo for parking permits in the borough.

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action please tell me what measures the Council has put in place to address these concerns.

**Response:**

New contracts with NSL for Parking Enforcement and RingGo for permits commenced on 4 July. The new RingGo permit system replaces DASH which had been in use for over 10 years, but it is no longer supported and therefore caused technical issues when migrating data to the new provider at the end of their contract.

RingGo provide permit services to a number of London boroughs including Waltham Forest, Merton, Croydon, Hammersmith and Fulham, Richmond and Islington and have over 19 million registered users in the UK.

The contract commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and benefits include:

- A modern permit system with easy accessibility via the app, mobile phone or landline.
- Residents only need to pay for visitor parking when needed, rather than book 5 sessions, and vehicle registration numbers can be changed within 15 minutes if entered incorrectly.
- Residents have the option of receiving confirmation of booking and reminders when their permit will expire.
- Resident and business permit holders receive reminder emails 14 and 7 days in advance of their permits expiring.
- Continuity of previous on-street pay by phone parking services RingGo have been providing since 2010 with new improved on-street signage provided free of charge.

To support the transition to the new RingGo permit system, the Council:

- Published information and guidance on the Council's website the week before the new contract went live.
- Emailed circa 53,000 account holders to explain the changes to the permit system on 6th July, once data was received from the previous provider, DASH.
- Met weekly with RingGo to address any emerging system issues as quickly as possible.
- Regularly review and improve information on the council's website parking pages, including updating FAQ's and providing videos explaining how to set up an account and purchase permits.

- Arranged for RingGo to provide training sessions for both Brent and NSL staff on the permit system. NSL also provided additional support from their national call centres by staff that are familiar with RingGo system used in Waltham Forest.
- Emailed circa 13,500 account holders with unused visitor credits on 12<sup>th</sup> July advising that they would be reimbursed within 10 working days for any unused visitor credits, at the current charge rates (£1.75 for 2 hours, £3.50 for 4 hours, or £5.25 for all day parking), along with a complimentary all day parking permit credit for the inconvenience.
- Issued post office refunds on 25th July, within the 10 working days stated.
- Emailed 26,420 account holders on 15 August to advise of their virtual permit expiry date, as although data was transferred and enforcement officers were able to see these permits, only permits purchased in RingGo are visible to residents on the new permit system.

The Council apologises for any inconvenience caused and continues to prioritise supporting residents and businesses. Volumes of enquiries have been steadily reducing as more and more residents set up their RingGo account and purchase permits. Permit sales are now at expected levels.

Residents can find information on the council's website by visiting: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/parking> or request assistance by calling our Parking line on 020 8290 8300 (option 2 or 3) or by emailing [parking.permits@brent.gov.uk](mailto:parking.permits@brent.gov.uk)

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

Kenton residents and local schools have been alarmed by the presence of rough sleepers in Woodcock Park in the north of the borough for over 2 years. It has been the subject of numerous Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) meetings and emails to the Council outlining safeguarding concerns but to no avail. I understand that the rough sleeper group may have offered accommodation, which for one reason or another was rejected.

St. Luke's Hospice staff have also reported being disturbed by these rough sleepers which has affected the quality of care for their 'end of life' patients. Residents advise that they are being fed and 'minded' by persons unknown. I understand that when issues with rough sleepers were highlighted in Gladstone Park the Brent SNT Borough Coordinator was able to arrange for these to be addressed within two days.

Could the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security outline the steps officers are now taking to permanently address the concerns in relation to the Woodcock Park rough sleepers.

**Response:**

Generally, all rough sleepers are engaged by the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team, commissioned through St Mungo's. The Outreach Team will offer accommodation via various accommodation pathways, dependent on the individual's needs and availability of beds. However, not all rough sleepers engage with the Outreach Team, due to mental health or other issues. Also, not all rough sleepers are eligible for assistance under homelessness legislation due to their immigration status in the UK. We only have 2 bed spaces for non eligible rough sleepers, in the rapid assessment hub in Willesden Green.

With regards to the rough sleepers in Woodcock Park, I can confirm the following

- There are 2 rough sleepers in tents in the park.
- Both are Romanian nationals and therefore require EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) registration, to stay in the UK.
- Neither has EUSS status in the UK – so are not eligible for housing services.
- The Outreach Team have ascertained that one is planning to return to Romania next week, however St Mungo's have not seen a travel ticket to confirm.
- The second is engaging with his immigration advice process, and there is a high chance that he is likely to receive EUSS status in the UK.
- In the meantime he will be offered one of the bed spaces for non eligible rough sleepers once a bed is available.

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

There has been considerable confusion in recent months about the Council's position on Shared Ownership housing schemes. Too often this housing model is lumped together under the umbrella term '*Affordable Housing*', which is an insult to those who are trapped in these schemes that are causing so many in our borough and across the country financial and mental misery.

Conflicting statements and decisions by the Labour Administration have fuelled this confusion. For example, at a Brent Cabinet meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 the decision was made to '*dispose*' of 23 Shared Ownership Units in Alperton. In the report, '*Release of 23 Shared Ownership Homes*' it is acknowledged that the '*appetite and demand for these homes*' is '*reducing*' and that the Council did not have the '*knowledge, experience and the capacity*' to '*effectively sell and manage*' Shared Ownership. However, on the same day, just an hour before in the General Purposes Committee, the decision to approve the Stopping Up Order for works to commence at Watling Gardens was taken. Within the Watling Gardens scheme the Council would be allowing the conversion of 24 units into Shared Ownership. So, on the one hand, the Council are seeking to '*dispose*' of Shared Ownership units that they cannot manage and there is little demand for in Brent and on the other the Council is building even more of this unit type.

Publicly, the Council has offered conflicting statements on Shared Ownership schemes, particularly in relation to affordability for Brent residents. In a Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee in November 2022, the then Brent Chief Executive was explicit in response to questions I asked around Shared Ownership, confirming that these units are '*not genuinely affordable*'.

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

- (1) Advise what is the difference between the Shared Ownership Units at the Grand Union scheme in Alperton and at Watling Gardens?
- (2) Advise how will the Council be able to manage the Shared Ownership units at Watling Gardens but were not able to do this at Grand Union in Alperton.
- (3) Confirm the Council has no plans to sell the Shared Ownership units at Watling Gardens or other Council managed schemes in the borough to a Housing Association or Registered Provider.
- (4) Confirm whether the Administration stands by the very clear and unequivocal statement made by the previous Chief Executive in relation to Shared Ownership.
- (5) Outline whether it is felt Shared Ownership Units are genuinely affordable for Brent residents.

**Response:**

**Question (1)** Decisions for individual sites are taken on a case-by-case basis and reflect the market at the time, housing demand and viability challenges impacting each site. It is not possible therefore to compare the Shared Ownership Homes at Grand Union and those at Watling Gardens.


**Question (2)** The shared ownership homes in Watling Gardens are not due until 2025 and as mentioned any decisions on management of these homes are taken on a case-by-case basis. Again, this could be dictated by the market.

**Question (3)** There are currently no plans to sell the Shared Ownership homes at Watling Gardens.

**Question (4)** The Administrations priority remains to provide social housing to the many households on the Housing Waiting list or dealing with overcrowding. This is a very different group of people to those looking to purchase a home. The small number of shared ownership homes being delivered by the Council are solely to protect the financial viability of the scheme and safeguard delivery of the much-needed social housing.

**Question (5)** Shared ownership is a recognised form of affordable housing and there are many Brent residents that have benefited from Shared Ownership homes. The purpose of Shared Ownership is to help people on the housing ladder. Shared Ownership targets a different group of residents living in Brent such as First-Time Buyers who otherwise would not be able to afford to stay in London, but home ownership is not affordable for all. That is why as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, our development of New Council Homes prioritises delivery of Social Housing and we are also heavily investing in raising standards in the Private Housing Sector. To genuinely meet housing need, we need a market of all tenures that provide affordability and a good standard of homes across Brent.



	<b>Full Council</b> 18 September 2023
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director of Communities and Regeneration</b>
<b>Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Update Report</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>List of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1: Updated 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>	Tom Pickup, Policy Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk">Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</a>  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>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. To update Full Council on the meetings and activities of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and North West London Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee since the last meeting of Full Council on 10 July 2023.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Full Council:

Note the report and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's updated 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 Councillor Ketan Sheth during the 2022/23 municipal year. Councillor Sheth has since been re-elected as chair of the NWL JHOSC at its first meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year which was held on 18 July 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 work of the committee contributes to the delivery of all of the strategic priorities within the Borough Plan as it seeks to support, advise and enhance the Council's activity. The recent activity outlined in this report contributes most specifically to the "A Healthier Brent" strategic priority within the plan.
- 3.5 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's 2023/24 work programme has been amended since the last Full Council meeting was held and 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>.
- 3.6 It is with great sadness to report the passing of our Independent Chair for Brent's Safeguarding Adults Board, Fran Pearson. Fran was an exceptional Chair and was recently appointed to be incoming Independent Chair of our Children's Safeguarding Partnership. Fran was a valued colleague who worked tirelessly to raise awareness of safeguarding; both adults and children, tackling issues head on and tackling inequalities. Fran was committed to improving the lives of our residents and also the lives of others both locally and nationally, successfully driving forward safeguarding adults' activity with great expertise, dedication, empathy and sensitivity. She worked with officers, partners, members, residents and their families tirelessly and will be deeply missed. Fran leaves a legacy which we will continue to build on, taking collective learning where the services we provide need to improve and how we can ensure people are kept safe.

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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

## The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

- 3.7 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met for its first meeting of the municipal year on 5 July 2023. Here the committee reviewed an item on tackling health inequalities in Brent. The paper was introduced by Councillor Neil Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care who highlighted that there are significant inequalities in how people access care and their wider health determinants. The committee heard about a range of initiatives that had been put in place since the formation of Brent Health Matters (BHM) to tackle health inequalities in Brent. These included factory interventions, working with communities to best target outreach initiatives and employing members of the community to become Community Connectors and Brent Health Educators. The HR Business Manager's for GreenCore and Bakavor also spoke to the Committee about the outreach events that had taken place in their factories and their positive outcomes. Dr Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health) provided further details of this approach to the Committee.
- 3.8 The Committee were pleased that the report clearly outlined existing health inequalities and the progress Brent Health Matters (BHM) had taken to address these. However, they requested further benchmarking and data to understand how Brent compares with other areas. The Committee asked whether there had been any work done to identify 'pockets' of wards as having significant health inequalities, particularly in the North of the borough. Dr John Licorish (Public Health Consultant, Brent Council) confirmed that there were pockets of deprivation across the whole borough in some specific communities, such as the Brazilian community. The following recommendations have been suggested following the discussion on this item:
- That cross-council work on health inequalities is strengthened to develop a whole Council approach to further addressing health inequalities.
  - That appropriate Council officers are given training on intersectionality.
  - That neurological conditions (e.g. Dementia and Parkinsons) within the community are considered for inclusions as part of Brent Health Matter's work.
  - That healthcare resources are allocated to areas of Brent with greater need and deprivation, so that more targeted work can be done in those areas.
- 3.9 The second item reviewed Local Healthcare Resources Overview focused on funding and recruitment. Councillor Nerva introduced the report which detailed how local health service resources were allocated. The paper highlighted the challenges within the system regarding how Brent ensured community services were reaching people as early as possible and how that could be maximised. Tom Shakespeare (Managing Director, Brent ICP) informed the Committee that the starting position in Brent was challenging both in terms of workforce and funding relative to other NWL boroughs. He explained that Brent ICP was using every opportunity to maximise workforce, such as establishing a training hub. In relation to funding, the Committee heard that the starting position in Brent

was behind other NWL boroughs. Robyn Doran (Director of Transformation, Central and North West London (CNWL) NHS Foundation and Brent ICP Director) highlighted that a challenge for Brent was the NHS inner and outer London salary weighting, where inner London employees receive more than outer London employees. The Committee asked for further details regarding the £2,500 one-off bonus payment for health visitors detailed in the report and questioned what impact Brent ICP expected from that. Robyn Doran explained one-off bonus payments were a short term incentive and not enough to maintain people long term. The Committee asked how other boroughs falling within the same pay bracket as Brent were performing with recruitment and retention in comparison. The Committee were advised that both Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust and CNWL had shared all information with Harrow, Brent and Hillingdon because the trusts cross borders, therefore measures being applied in Brent were also taking place in those outer boroughs. The following recommendations have been suggested following the discussion on this item:

- That North West London ICB colleagues are invited for further discussions relating funding settlements for Brent in relation to North West London.
- That work to address the inner and outer London pay gap is further escalated, and that bolder solutions are utilised.
- That the Brent ICP advocates for further levelling up funding for children's mental health services in the borough.
- That the North West London ICB commits to a timescale to address the historical underfunding compared with other North West London boroughs and to equalise levels of expenditure.
- That a collaborative approach is taken with staff, the community and managers to co-produce solutions for retention.
- That the proposed induction for all staff working in Brent should include attending a Brent Health Matters community event.
- That Brent continues to advocate for healthcare funding being allocated by need, rather than population.

3.10 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is due to meet on 21 September 2023 for its second meeting of the municipal year. Here the committee will review three items:

- The outcome of Brent's 2023 Ofsted ILACS and ongoing improvement activity within the organisation. The report will focus on detailing what score Brent achieved and what measures it has put in place to improve its children's services in response to any recommendations put forward.
- The second paper will report on the SEND strategy and its readiness for a joint Ofsted/CQC inspection.
- The final item will focus on Adult Social Care CQC Assurance. The paper will provide detail on the ASC local account for the committee to review, provide details of what aspects of ASC will be inspected by the CQC as part of its new single assessment framework and provide detail on the ongoing work the council has undertaken to prepare for a potential CQC inspection of its adult social services.

## The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC)

- 3.11 Since the last report to Full Council the NWL JHOSC met at the London Borough of Hillingdon on 18 July 2023 for its first meeting of the municipal year. Councillor Ketan Sheth has been re-elected to continue as chair of the committee for the 2023/24 municipal year. At this meeting the Committee reviewed 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.
- 3.12 The Chief Executive at North West London Integrated Care System (NWL ICS), presented a report on the NWL ICS strategy for the provision of acute beds and the impact that the Government's decision to postpone delivery of three 'new' hospitals in NWL would have on this. The objective had been to increase care for patients in their own homes where appropriate rather than increase the number of hospital beds to address inappropriate demand. The overall strategy was not to continue with the current acute bed situation in NWL but to respond to varying demand pressures as they arose throughout the year. There had been some issues raised as most hospitals were currently often running at capacity. Concern was expressed in relation to acute beds regularly being at 100% capacity rather than at the 92% target and it was queried how the ICS planned to reduce the total beds used. The following recommendations were made following this discussion:
- NWL ICS provide regular updates to Harrow in relation to the achievement of the 92% bed capacity target at Northwick Park Hospital
  - The Committee be provided with an update on the progress of the implementation of the NWL ICS strategy for the provision of acute beds.
  - Further information on vertical and horizontal integration be provided at a future meeting.
- 3.13 The second item focused on the standardisation of adult and paediatric ophthalmology services across NWL. The committee were advised that the current practice for the provision of adult and paediatric ophthalmology services across NWL needed to be standardised to make it easier for residents and communities to navigate. It was noted that paediatric ophthalmology would move immediately into acute hospitals which would provide patients with choice as to which hospital they preferred. Members queried the NWL performance against national benchmarks and requested more information in relation to health inequalities. It was confirmed that NWL had been benchmarked nationally and that the committee would be provided with baseline data on the current performance. The following recommendations were made following this discussion:
- That results are shared of the targeted work that had been undertaken in Hammersmith and Fulham
  - NWL ICS to provide the Committee with baseline data on the current performance in NWL (broken down to NWL and London level if possible)

3.14 The final item focused on the development of musculoskeletal services across NWL. The Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) of Musculoskeletal Services at NWL ICS advised that he had been working across the eight NWL boroughs to look at standardising musculoskeletal (MSK) services. Working over such a large area was deemed by some to be ambitious but the project was only in year one of a five-year programme. During this initial year, work had been undertaken to understand the variations in delivery and to look at the inequalities agenda. Members queried how better joined working could be encouraged between Hammersmith & Fulham and Brentford whilst also improving access. Members also queried how the service model would impact on service provision as, even though the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) had been leading the way, residents were still having to wait 6-8 months for an appointment. The following recommendations were made following this discussion:

- The Committee be presented with baseline access and diagnostics information and detail of how it was proposed the situation be moved forward.
- To establish whether anticipatory pathways were being included for those with functional disabilities.

#### **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

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

4.2 Councillors will discuss this report at the Council meeting.

#### **5.0 Financial Considerations**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Legal Considerations**

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

7.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

#### **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

8.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

#### **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

#### **10.0 Communication Considerations**

10.1 There are no communication implications arising from this report.

**Report sign off:**

**Zahur Khan**

Corporate Director, Communities and  
Regeneration

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## Appendix 1: 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

**21 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) (40 minutes)	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 (40 minutes)	Councillor Gwen Grahl, Lead Member, Children, Young People & Schools	Nigel Chapman, Corporate Director Children and Young People	TBC	TBC
Adult Social Care CQC assurance (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	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 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		

### 30 January 2024

Agenda Item	Leader/Deputy Leader/Cabinet Members	Chief Executive / Corporate Directors	External Organisations	External Participants
Brent's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children (Considered annually) (40 minutes)	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


#### 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>Full Council</b> 18 September 2023
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director of Communities &amp; Regeneration</b>
<b>Resources and Public Realm Committee Chair's Update Report</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>List of Appendices:</b>	Two: Appendix 1: Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2024 Appendix 2: Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Jason Sigba, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk">Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk</a>  Tom Pickup, Policy Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk">Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</a>  Janet Latinwo, Head of Strategy and Partnerships 020 8937 4104 <a href="mailto:Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk">Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 To present Full Council with a report providing updates on the meetings and activities of the Resources and Public Realm Committee since the last Full Council meeting on 10 July 2023.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the updates from the Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

### **3.0 Detail**

#### **3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context**

- 3.2. The work of the Committee contributes to the delivery of all of the strategic priorities set out in the Borough Plan 2023-2027. It seeks to ensure Council decision-making remains transparent, accountable and open, resulting in improved policies and services.

#### **3.3 Background**

- 3.4. 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).
- 3.5. A scrutiny committee can look at anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit.
- 3.6. 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

- 3.7. 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.*

- 3.8. 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.

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

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s123308/Part%202%20April%202022%20Procedural%20Rules.pdf>

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

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s123310/Part%204%20May%202022%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20.pdf>



- 3.9. Since the last update to Full Council on 10 July 2023 the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee has met two times (19 July 2023 and 6 September 2023).  
19 July 2023
- 3.10. The scrutiny work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year was formally agreed by the Committee (please see Appendix 1). The programme itself is a living document, responsive to the needs of Brent residents, which will be regularly reviewed and updated accordingly where necessary. In practice, this means planned agenda items could be subject to change.
- 3.11. The Committee heard from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Finances, Resources and Reform, Councillor Mili Patel, and received a report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources on Brent's overall financial position. Detailed information was provided regarding the financial outturn position for 2022/23, the Q1 financial forecast for 2023/24, and the medium-term financial outlook. Based on budget assumptions, the report highlighted the uncertainties and risks with regards to budget setting for years 2024/25 and 2025/26. These relate to factors such as high levels of inflation, rising interest rates, increased demand for key services, and uncertainty in central government funding. Looking ahead to 2024/25 and 2025/26, besides general inflation, pay awards and contractual indexation, it was stressed that it was imperative for the Council to provide growth for unavoidable demographic and demand-led service pressures. Thus, the current working assumption is that £8m worth of savings would need to be made over years 2024/25 and 2025/26 in addition to the £4.5m of 2023/24 savings carried into 2024/25 to enable the Council to set a balanced budget as required by law. At the end of the discussion, the Committee proposed priority protection areas for the upcoming two-year draft budget (2024/25 and 2025/26), and made the following recommendations and suggestions for improvement:

#### Recommendations to Cabinet

1. Continue to lobby central government for additional 'levelling up' investment in Brent to offset the impact of future budget proposals.
2. Invite the scrutiny chairs to informal cabinet meetings (as appropriate) when budget challenges/complexities (and any other relevant matters) arise.

#### Suggestions for improvement made to Finance & Resources

1. Provide benchmarking data to accompany figures/statistics provided in all future scrutiny committee reports.
2. Draft future scrutiny committee reports in lay man language, avoiding jargon where possible.
3. In relation to the development of the Council's Budget for 2024/25, and 2025/26:

- a. Ensure that each budget proposal is categorised as one of: Cut; Income generation; Service transformation; Efficiency; or Investment for transparency purposes. This language should also be used in Council communications in order for residents to distinguish between the proposals which are cuts/service reductions, those which are investments, and those which are efficiencies/service transformation.
  - b. Ensure that the Council's vision, mission, and strategic priorities (as outlined in the borough plan) are communicated clearly when consulting residents, partners, and businesses on the Draft Budget for 2024-25, and 2025-26. This should be inclusive of any current/planned activity to support the most vulnerable/marginalised residents in the borough.
  - c. Explore further opportunities for investment/income generation to offset the impact that many of the upcoming proposals will have on vital council services.
  - d. Set budgets based on realistic levels of growth in demand for services and inflation as well as realistic mitigations to contain overspends.
- 3.12. All suggestions for improvement have been accepted in full (please see Appendix 2); the Committee is awaiting full responses from the Cabinet on the recommendations made and will be able to update Full Council at the next meeting.
- 3.13. Members also received an update on the Shared Technology Services' (STS) operational performance and on the Council's progress in implementing the Brent and STS cyber security strategies. The Committee questioned the robustness of the cyber security training currently offered to members and staff, as well as the soundness of the Council's risk management plan and response/recovery plans should a successful cyber attack take place. This discussion involved delving into cyber security good practice and lessons learnt from successful cyber attacks at other local authorities. Additionally, the Committee questioned the effectiveness of processes/systems in place to ensure third party suppliers adhere to council cyber security standards and requirements. At the end of the discussion, the following suggestions for improvement were made, all of which have now received full responses from the relevant departments (please see Appendix 2):
1. Involve the Committee in testing the Council's cyber-resilience plans.
  2. Deliver bespoke (in-person) cyber security training to all members in addition to the standard yearly training provided.
  3. Improve internal and external communications, sharing more widely good practice studies relating to the Council's cyber security activities.

### 6 September 2023

- 3.14. Committee members agreed the establishment of a Scrutiny Budget Task and Finish Group, consisting of members from both the Resources and Public Realm and Community and Wellbeing committees, to review the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2024/25 and 2025/26. The confirmed members of the group are Councillor Rita Conneely (Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Committee), Councillor Ketan Sheth (Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Committee), Councillor Jayanti Patel, Councillor Anthony Molloy, and Councillor Tazi Smith. It was noted that the Task Group would bring an evidence-based recommendations report on the Cabinet's draft budget proposals to the Resources and Public Realm Committee meeting on 24 January 2024 to then be discussed and agreed by the Committee. A report from the Committee would then be presented to Cabinet for consideration in February 2024, alongside the report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources on final budget proposals for 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- 3.15. The Committee heard from the Cabinet member for Customers, Communities, and Culture, Councillor Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, and received a report from the Corporate Director of Communities and Regeneration on the development of a Community Engagement Framework. The Committee sought clarity on the proposed principles and themes that had been identified for the Framework, and questioned how and when the Framework would be embedded in Council operations. Members also raised concerns about the engagement planned (i.e. workshops) with external stakeholders, and whether this was representative enough of the diversity that existed in the borough. This led the Committee to question the outsourcing of the development of the Framework (including engagement) to a third-party organisation, based on the view that Brent officers knew the borough and our diverse communities better. Officers stressed that the list of stakeholders identified in the report was an initial list and would be added to significantly after consulting committee members on who they think should be engaged as part of the process. At the end of the discussion, the Committee made the following suggestions for improvement:
1. Revisit the current format of Brent Connects meetings; this should include a review of how agendas can be co-designed and driven by residents. Additionally, how the Council can address the gaps in engagement caused by the current geographical boundaries of Brent Connects areas. For instance, residents being assigned to areas which do not necessarily reflect what they consider their neighbourhoods.
  2. As an initial list, include the following groups in consultation and engagement activities:
    - a. Carers, including young carers
    - b. Young people
    - c. Brazilian communities
    - d. Goan communities
    - e. Any other emerging communities identified
    - f. Neighbourhood forums
    - g. Trade Unions (in line with HR compliance)

h. Businesses

3. Undertake a member survey to engage councillors on the development of the Framework, including stakeholders the Council should be engaging as part of this work.
  4. Pending the results of the survey suggested above, explore delivering a workshop to engage councillors on the development of the Framework, including stakeholders the Council should be engaging as part of this work.
  5. Work with departments to make improvements to Brent's online consultation platform and to the general approach to consultations:
    - a. Where residents are clearly informed of the timescales related to the initiatives/policies/strategies they are being consulted on and;
    - b. Where consultation feedback/results are made readily available to residents/partners in one central place.
  6. Liaise with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other relevant external bodies to identify good practice to inform the upcoming Community Engagement Framework.
  7. As far as possible, review Council documents (including the new Community Engagement Framework) for jargon and update accordingly.
- 3.16. Members also heard from the Cabinet member for Safer Communities and Public Protection, Councillor Harbi Farah, and received a report on Brent's Planning Enforcement process, including on how this area of work is resourced. The Committee's main concerns were around the heavy backlogs that existed within the service and the impact that this had on the resident experience. Members explored the issues causing backlogs in the service and questioned officers on the interventions in place to mitigate the impacts of such backlogs. The Committee also raised concerns around the lack of communication with residents during the planning enforcement process, specifically the failure to provide regular progress updates to residents with regards to the planning breaches they report. Members explained that this created a perception that no further action is taken when planning breaches are reported, creating a real risk of reputational harm for the Council. Officers appeased members' concerns, explaining the challenges of providing regular progress updates, and providing the Committee with detail on how residents' expectations relating to planning enforcement timescales/milestones are managed in the current process. At the end of the discussion, the following cabinet recommendations and suggestions for improvement were made:

Recommendations to Cabinet:

1. Work more closely with London Councils to identify effective ways of collecting/collating planning enforcement performance data from all London authorities; and to identify practical solutions to common challenges (e.g. backlogs).

### Suggestions for improvement made to Communities & Regeneration

1. Where possible, include benchmarking data to accompany figures/statistics provided in all future scrutiny committee reports. In the absence of benchmarking data, provide context behind figures/data provided in reports e.g. percentages.
2. To avoid unnecessary back and forth dialogue between officers and residents, improve communications around the standard of evidence required to proceed with planning breach complaints. This should include public education, and improvements to the planning enforcement webpage including the reporting mechanism.
3. Review the effectiveness of the Planning Enforcement Investigation Guide to better manage residents' expectations of the planning enforcement process (e.g. providing clarity on planning enforcement timescales).
4. Undertake an audit to determine the wards with the highest amount of planning breach complaints, and the wards with the highest amount of enforcement activity. This intelligence should be used to develop a targeted strategy to prevent planning breaches e.g. targeted planning education and/or communications campaigns etc. The Audit should also categorise the types of breaches receiving enforcement notices.
5. Explore additional ways to increase staffing capacity in the Planning Enforcement team to address backlogs.

### Next meeting: 7 November 2023

- 3.17. The next meeting of the Resources and Public Realm Committee will be held on 7 November 2023. As it currently stands, members will review the following papers:
1. Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2022/23
  2. Complaints Annual Report 2022/23

## **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

- 4.1 Councillors will discuss this report at the Council meeting.

## **5.0 Financial Considerations**

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

## **6.0 Legal Considerations**

- 6.1 There are no legal considerations arising from this report.

## **7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

7.1 There are no EDI considerations arising from this report.

## **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

8.1 There are no climate change and environmental considerations arising from this report.

## **9.0 Communication Considerations**

9.1 There are no communication considerations arising from this report.

**Report sign off:**

**Zahur Khan**

Corporate Director, Communities  
and Regeneration

## Appendix 1

### Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023-2024

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 Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection	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	

**7 November 2023**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Non-Executive Member</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Corporate Director</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>
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**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Non-Executive Member</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Corporate Director</b>	<b>External Organisations</b>
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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## Appendix 2

### Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (RPRSC) Scrutiny Tracker 2023-24

These tables are to track the progress of scrutiny recommendations to Cabinet, suggestions for improvement, and information requests made by the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, with details provided by the relevant lead departments. It is a standing item on the Committee's agendas, so that the Committee can keep track of the recommendations, suggestions for improvement and information requests it has made, alongside the related decisions made and implementation status. The tracker lists the recommendations, suggestions for improvement and information requests made by the Committee throughout a municipal year and any recommendations not fully implemented from previous years.

The tracker documents the scrutiny recommendations made to Cabinet, the dates when they were made, the decision maker who can make each decision in respect of the recommendations, the date the decision was made and the actual decision taken. The executive decision taken may be the same as the scrutiny recommendation (e.g. the recommendation was "agreed") or it may be a different decision, which should be clarified here. The tracker also asks if the respective executive decisions have been implemented and this should be updated accordingly throughout the year.

Scrutiny Task Group report recommendations should be included here but referenced collectively (e.g. the name of the scrutiny inquiry and date of the agreement of the scrutiny report and recommendations by the scrutiny committee, along with the respective dates when the decision maker(s) considered and responded to the report and recommendations. The Committee should generally review the implementation of scrutiny task group report recommendations separately with stand-alone agenda items at relevant junctures – e.g. the Executive Response to a scrutiny report and after six months or a year, or upon expected implementation of the agreed recommendation of report. The "Expected Implementation Date" should provide an indication of a suitable time for review.

#### Key:

**Date of scrutiny committee meeting** - For each table, the date of the scrutiny committee meeting when the recommendation was made is provided in the subtitle header.

**Subject** – this is the item title on the Committee's agenda; the subject being considered.

**Scrutiny Recommendation** – This is the text of the scrutiny recommendation as it appears on the minutes – **in bold**.

**Decision Maker** – the decision maker for the recommendation, (**in bold**), e.g. the Cabinet (for Council executive decisions), Full Council (for Council policy and budgetary decisions), or an NHS executive body for recommendations to the NHS. In brackets, (date), the date on which the Executive Response was made.

**Executive Response** – The response of the decision maker (e.g. Cabinet decision) for the recommendation. This should be the executive decision as recorded in the minutes. The Executive Response should provide details of what, if anything, the executive will do in response to the scrutiny recommendation. Ideally, the Executive Response will include a decision to either agree/reject/or amend the scrutiny recommendation and where the scrutiny recommendation is rejected, provide an explanation of why. In brackets, provide the date of Cabinet/executive meeting that considered the scrutiny recommendation and made the decision.

**Department** – the Council directorate (and/or external agencies) that are responsible for implementation of the agreed executive decision/response. Also provided, for reference only, the relevant Cabinet Member and Corporate Director.

**Implementation Status** – This is the progress of any implementation of the agreed Executive Response against key milestones. This may cross reference to any specific actions and deadlines that may be provided in the Executive Response. This should be as specific and quantifiable as possible. This should also provide, as far as possible, any evidenced outcomes or improvements resulting from implementation.

**Review Date** - This is the expected date when the agreed Executive Response should be fully implemented and when the scrutiny committee may usefully review the implementation and any evidenced outcomes (e.g. service improvements). (Note: this is the implementation of the agreed Executive Response, which may not be the same as the scrutiny recommendation).

## Recommendations to Cabinet from RPRSC

Subject	Scrutiny Recommendation	Cabinet Member, Lead Officer, and Department	Executive Response	Review date
24 Jan 2023 – <b>Budget Scrutiny Task Group Findings 2023/24</b>	<b>Borough Plan Alignment:</b> The Council more clearly demonstrates how public money is being spent in line with the democratically agreed strategic priorities for the borough.	Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council  Cllr Shama Tatler- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform  Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	To follow.	07/11/23
	<b>Proposal Categorations:</b> Each budget proposal is categorised as one of: Cut; Income generation; Service transformation; Efficiency; or Investment for transparency purposes. This language should also be used in Council communications in order for residents to distinguish between the proposals which are cuts/service reductions, those which are investments, and those which are efficiencies/service transformation.	Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council  Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform  Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	To follow.	07/11/23
	<b>Income Generation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase parking fees/charges to a more comparable rate charged by surrounding boroughs to secure safe movement of traffic and adequate parking and;</li> <li>• Utilise our parks to generate additional income – as part of this process, the Council should draw</li> </ul>	Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council  Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform	To follow.	07/11/23

	comparisons with other local authorities to learn from good practice.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources		
	<p><b>Additional Financial Support for Residents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase funding and review the eligibility criteria for both the Council Tax Support scheme and the Resident Support Fund, should the financial modelling process allow and;</li> <li>• Explore options to provide additional support to children to tackle food poverty, such as extending universal free school meals provision.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources</p>	To follow.	07/11/23
	<p><b>Additional Advice &amp; Support for our Voluntary Sector partners:</b></p> <p>To assist in building voluntary sector resilience, develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An approach to increase the value of the commissioned contracts offered to the VCS to help them navigate the current volatile economic environment. The Council could also use this as an opportunity to tighten and improve its contract monitoring process to ensure further robustness and transparency in achieving outcomes.</li> <li>• A collaborative strategy with the VCS to enable these organisations to identify and secure new income streams. This should also include scope for increased opportunities to make joint bids for grant funding.</li> <li>• A transparent policy for distributing Council community assets to our voluntary partners in need of space. Specifically, offering capped</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources</p>	To follow.	07/11/23

	peppercorn rents to the sector to expand their operations.			
	<b>Equal Access for All Residents:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed automated services (e.g. chat bots) are tested by residents ahead of implementation, especially by those who have accessibility needs to ensure that all residents have equal access to services and;</li> <li>Additional advice and support is provided to disabled residents and those cohorts of residents with other access needs (e.g. literacy needs/English not a first language etc.) to navigate digital-form filling so they can maximise the benefits/grants they are eligible for and entitled to.</li> </ul>	Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council  Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform  Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	To follow.	07/11/23
	<b>Improving Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include an evidence base/rationale section in the EIA for each proposal where it has been deemed that there are no potential or likely impact on service users and employees with protected characteristics (e.g. how the Council arrived at such decisions) and;</li> <li>Undertake a cumulative equality impact assessment of the budget decisions since 2018 to understand fully the medium and long-term impacts of its financial decisions. It is recommended a cumulative EqIA is completed during financial year 2023/24 and is included in the final budget report 2024/25.</li> </ul>	Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council  Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform  Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	To follow.	07/11/23
	<b>Increased Collaboration:</b> To ensure a holistic approach to residents' care, specifically 'those with complex needs':	Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council	To follow.	07/11/23

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a collaborative mechanism between the Council, NHS, and other relevant stakeholders to agree discharges/step down plans. If possible, this should be considered as part of the review process currently taking place with Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) in the Integrated Care Partnership and;</li> <li>• Leverage sufficient financial contributions from the NHS (and other relevant anchor institutions) to improve the Health &amp; Social Care function in Brent.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Shama Tatler- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources</p>		
	<p><b>Lobbying:</b> Work closely with neighbouring local authorities, London Councils, and the Local Government Association (LGA) to seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional funding in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), notably the High Needs Block of the DSG which is currently in deficit. Although the Task Group is pleased with the activity 5 undertaken to manage the deficit and despite the fact that the Council will see increased funding from central government, there is still a need for additional financial support to meet rising demand.</li> <li>• Powers to levy proportionate charges on parked motorcycles/mopeds. If successful, this would enable the Council to expand the parking permit system in the borough to include other forms of vehicles.</li> <li>• Local Government funding reform, including reform of regressive taxes such as Council Tax.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources</p>	To follow.	07/11/23



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to gambling legislation and regulations that enable local authorities to generate additional income from gambling licensing fees. This money could then be used to reinvest in vital Council services.</li> <li>• The introduction of 'Short Term Letting' legislation that will allow local authorities to establish licensing schemes for 'Air B&amp;B' accommodation in their respective boroughs. This would enable the Council to generate additional income from 'Air B&amp;B' businesses in Brent that could then be reinvested back into services for the benefit of residents.</li> </ul>			
	<p><b>Phased Reduction to Care Packages Provision:</b></p> <p>Utilise a proportion of the additional funding from the Local Government Finance Settlement to enable the Council to defer a proportion of the savings in proposal CYP03 to financial year 24/25. This is to ensure changes in provision are implemented in a phased way.</p>	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources</p>	To follow.	07/11/23
	<p><b>Review Areas of Focus for Town Centre Management Function:</b></p> <p>The Task Group recommend reviewing the areas of focus for the town centre management function, whereby resource can be balanced against need; and work duplication prevented.</p>	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources</p>	To follow.	07/11/23

	<p><b>Mitigate the impact of reducing the library stock budget:</b></p> <p>Explore external options to leverage additional resources for our most vulnerable residents, such as the promotion of schemes (e.g. Letterbox Club run by BookTrust) offering free books to vulnerable and disadvantaged children. This could help offset the impact of the proposal on disadvantaged residents and children; and could assist with ensuring children in Brent have equal access to a broad range of reading material.</p>	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources</p>	To follow.	07/11/23
	<p><b>Mitigate the impact of reducing the Corporate Learning and Training budget:</b></p> <p>Be guided by staff satisfaction surveys when deciding what training courses to discontinue as part of the reduction to the Corporate Learning and Training budget (proposal GOV03).</p>	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources</p>	To follow.	07/11/23
19 July 2023– <b>Budget Update - Medium Term Financial Strategy</b>	Continue to lobby central government for additional 'levelling up' investment in Brent to offset the impact of future budget proposals.	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources</p>	To follow.	07/11/23

	Invite the scrutiny chairs to informal cabinet meetings (as appropriate) when budget challenges/complexities (and any other relevant matters) arise.	<p>Cllr Muhammed Butt – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Shama Tatler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform</p> <p>Alex Freeman – Head of the Leader's Office, Executive &amp; Member Services</p>	To follow.	07/11/23
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**Suggestions for improvement from RPRSC to Council departments/partners**

Meeting date and agenda item	Suggestions for improvement	Council Department/External Partner	Response / Status
19 July 2023– <b>Budget Update - Medium Term Financial Strategy</b>	Provide benchmarking data to accompany figures/statistics provided in all future scrutiny committee reports.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	Where possible, we will seek to include benchmarking data.
	Draft future scrutiny committee reports in lay man language, avoiding jargon where possible.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	Budget reports are drafted in a particular manner and format to meet statutory responsibilities such as demonstrating a legally balanced budget, value for money, financial resilience and sustainability etc. However, the recommendation is accepted to ensure reports can be understood by the general public and particularly the diverse communities in Brent.

	<p>In relation to the development of the Council's Budget for 2024-25, and 2025-26:</p> <p>a. Ensure that each budget proposal is categorised as one of: Cut; Income generation; Service transformation; Efficiency; or Investment for transparency purposes. This language should also be used in Council communications in order for residents to distinguish between the proposals which are cuts/service reductions, those which are investments, and those which are efficiencies/service transformation.</p> <p>b. Ensure that the Council's vision, mission, and strategic priorities (as outlined in the borough plan) are communicated clearly when consulting residents, partners, and businesses on the Draft Budget for 2024-25, and 2025-26. This should be inclusive of any current/planned activity to support the most vulnerable/marginalised residents in the borough.</p> <p>c. Explore further opportunities for investment/income generation to offset the impact that many of the upcoming proposals will have on vital council services.</p> <p>d. Set budgets based on realistic levels of growth in demand for services and inflation as well as</p>	<p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance &amp; Resources</p>	<p>These recommendations are accepted in full.</p>
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	realistic mitigations to contain overspends.		
19 July 2023– <b>Shared Service Performance &amp; Cyber Security</b>	Involve the Committee in testing the Council's cyber-resilience plans.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	We will be conducting a cyber exercise later in the year which we will include members to participate or oversee. Learning and outcomes will be shared.
	Deliver bespoke (in-person) cyber security training to all members in addition to the standard yearly training provided.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	We will carry out specific members development sessions and bespoke face to face training on Cyber Security, including responsibilities that members have to carry out for their roles.
	Improve internal and external communications, sharing more widely good practice studies relating to the Council's cyber security activities.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	Where able to we will share learning with staff to ensure that they are educated on cyber issues.

**Information requests from RPRSC to Council departments/partners**

Meeting date and agenda item	Information requests	Council Department/External Partner	Responses / Status
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15 Dec 2022 – <b>Redefining Local Services: Update on the Integrated Street Cleansing, Waste Collections and Winter Maintenance Services Contract Procurement Programme</b>	Provide additional information on the small percentage of residents who will be impacted by the proposed changes to the eligibility criteria in the bulky waste free collection policy from April 2024.  <i>**this additional request was made at a later Committee meeting on 22 February 2023.</i>	Chris Whyte – Director of Environment & Leisure, Resident Services	Response to be provided by 01/09/2023.
19 July 2023– <b>Budget Update - Medium Term Financial Strategy</b>	Provide analysis of savings made since 2018, specifically a breakdown of the savings made which equate to service reductions.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	This recommendation is accepted and will be shared with the Committee in November 2023.
	Provide progress update on activities to reduce overspends in the Children & Young People's directorate.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources  Nigel Chapman– Corporate Director, Children & Young People	This recommendation is accepted and will be shared with the Committee as part of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group review.
19 July 2023– <b>Shared Service Performance &amp; Cyber Security</b>	Provide RAG rated version of the Brent Cyber Security Strategy 2022-2026: Implementation Plan for the Committee to understand progress made so far.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	We will provide an update with the RAG status by the end of September 2023.

	Provide further detail on how the Council is ensuring third party suppliers are adhering to Brent's cyber security strategy and requirements. This should be inclusive of the findings from the third-party supplier survey currently underway.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	We have developed a third-party assurance framework and security board who will oversee deployment and actions coming out of the framework, an assessment report will be shared with the Committee in six months' time.
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	<b>Full Council</b> 18 September 2023
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources</b>
<b>Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – Vice Chair’s Update Report</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>List 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>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Council’s Audit and Standards Advisory Committee and the Audit and Standards Committee since the start of the municipal year.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

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

## 3.0 Detail

### 3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 The Council’s Audit and Standards Advisory Committee (ASAC) and the Audit and Standards Committee (ASC) play an important role in ensuring the good governance of the Council. The committees are a key component of the Council’s governance framework. They contribute to the overall success of the Council by providing an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements to provide assurance and confidence to those charged with governance.

- 3.1.2 The ASAC is responsible for considering and advising the relevant council bodies on various governance matters relating to audit activity, the council's regulatory framework, and members' standards of conduct. The ASC is responsible for various governance matters including reviewing and approving the Annual Statement of Accounts, adopting the council's Annual Governance Statement and promoting high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members.

## **3.2 Background**

- 3.2.1 The ASAC has met twice this municipal year (to date), and the ASC has met once. A summary of the items discussed and considered at these meetings is set out below.

### **3.2.2 Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

#### **a. Chairs' Annual Report**

This was the first annual report of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee and the Audit and Standards Committee. The report summarised the work of both committees for the municipal year 2022-23 and sought to meet the requirements and principles as set out within CIPFA's Position Statement regarding Audit Committees.

#### **b. Annual Governance Statement 2022-23**

This report set out the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2022-23 as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The AGS was presented to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee for consideration, prior to formal approval by the Audit and Standards Committee.

#### **c. Standards Report (including gifts and hospitality)**

The purpose of this report was to update the committee on gifts and hospitality registered by Members, and the attendance record for Members in relation to mandatory training sessions.

#### **d. Statement of Accounts 2022-23 Update**

The Committee received an update on the Council's Draft Annual Statement of Accounts. The Committee noted the delay to the publication of the draft accounts for 2022-23 due to a number of external challenges, including the delayed completion of the 2021-22 audit. The Committee noted that the deadline for publishing the accounts was 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023, and that the Council expected to publish the accounts by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

#### **e. Enquiries of Management**

This report provided the Committee with the opportunity review the responses provided by management to the external auditors Enquiries of Management for the council and the pension fund. This was in order to meet the expectations of the Financial Reporting Council.

f. Internal Audit Annual Report 2022-23

This report outlined the work undertaken by Internal Audit in respect of delivery of the 2022-23 Internal Audit Plan. It also included the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the Council's system of internal control.

g. Counter Fraud Annual Report 2022-23

The Committee received a report summarising the counter fraud activity undertaken in 2022-23 across a number of fraud types, including internal fraud, housing tenancy, Blue Badge, and external fraud.

h. External Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

The Committee received a verbal update on progress in delivering Grant Thornton's responsibilities as the Council's external auditors, along with a summary of emerging national issues and developments that are relevant to Brent as a local authority.

3.2.3 Audit and Standards Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023

a. Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

The Committee formally approved the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23, following its consideration at the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee meeting.

3.2.4 Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023

a. Statement of Accounts 2022-23 Update

This report presented the Council's draft Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2022-23. The Committee was advised that the accounts had now been published, following the delay as reported to the Committee on 6 June 2023.

3.2.5 Forward Plan Items

The following items are due to be presented to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee at its next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

1. External Audit Progress Report
2. Review of the governance arrangements for i4B and First Wave Housing companies.
3. Strategic Risk Update

- 4. Standards Report
- 5. Complaints and Code of Conduct

#### **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

4.1 None.

#### **5.0 Financial Considerations**

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

#### **6.0 Legal Considerations**

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

#### **7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

7.1 None.

#### **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

8.1 None

#### **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

9.1 None

#### **10.0 Communication Considerations**

10.1 None

#### **Report sign off:**

***Minesh Patel***

Corporate Director of Finance and Resources



## Full Council – 18 September 2023

### Motion for Non-Cabinet Member debate

#### **Provision of support to deal with cases of RAAC Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete in Brent Schools**

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

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) is a lightweight form of concrete pioneered in Sweden whose use swept across Europe particularly in schools, colleges, and other building construction from the 1950's until the mid-1990s. Used in flat roofing, floors, and walls it offered a cheaper alternative to standard concrete, but its short lifespan means its use in permanent buildings has caused problems. The Secretary of State for Education has clarified, out of 22,500 schools in England, 156 have been confirmed to have RAAC and 52 of these have already got mitigations in place and are dealing with repairs.

To date, it has been identified that one Brent school, an Academy that is not the responsibility of the Council, has RAAC. St. Gregory's Catholic Science College discovered it had RAAC in its Maths block in November 2022. Safety measures were introduced, and work is under way which should be completed by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September. The Council was informed by the school's CEO/Headteacher in January 2023 of the discovery of RAAC. There is no current financial impact to the Council as the school affected is not a community school, therefore the local authority is not the responsible body.

Upon notification in January 2023, DfE have supported the school in arranging surveys and discussing the management of RAAC. Since the summer, a dedicated case officer has been assigned to the school from the DfE to manage the next steps of removing RAAC from the school with all costs to be reimbursed by the DfE.

When Brent residents apply for rear building extensions, building control officers demand high quality materials be used. If this RAAC was known to have a recommended 30-year lifespan there must be question as to why it was approved in long term school and civic developments and what reviews were put in place by Building Control to undertake regular checks on its safety?

Let's also not get carried away with the way the news of RAAC has been reported. We all remember Gordon Brown's comments about a Rochdale constituent calling her a "bigoted woman" and who later went on to deliver a personal grovelling apology. Never has it been so evident that the journalists of this country lead and dictate the

news agenda, something the Secretary of State for Education should have learnt from her predecessors.

**As a result, this Council recognises:**

- That successive Governments of different political persuasions since the 1980s have all colluded in neglecting capital and infrastructure investment to service insatiable public demand for increased revenue spending. People a century ago were truly building schools for the future; today's squabbles are much more about 'Patching Schools for the Present'. The uncomfortable truth is that this really, if anything, has been a pass-the-parcel problem by successive governments, putting at risk school children and staff.
- That whilst Labour may cite the Building Schools for the Future Programme, there was criticism of the scheme in a National Audit Office (NAO) report and a review of the scheme - commissioned by the government, which found the allocation of funding for school buildings had been "complex, time-consuming, expensive and opaque".
- Covid has taught us so many things and lead us to deal with issues that we thought would never be achieved. We will also deal with this.
- Whilst global events continue, there is also a need to recognise that the safety of our children comes first. The issue of RAAC has been missed by successive governments of all colours, including the coalition, for over 30 years. In 2002 the Labour government first became aware of the deterioration and risks of RAAC via a BRE (Building Research Establishment) report. In 2018 Conservative Minister Damian Hinds ordered an urgent and comprehensive review of RAAC in all schools. It is because of these inspections that we know the extent of the current risks.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

- To pledge to support, guide and advise Brent schools currently affected with RAAC and any schools which may become known in future.
- To recognise that school requests for planning permission and other compliance issues from the council should be dealt with expeditiously.
- To work cross party to expedite planning permissions where required for the temporary classrooms and Portacabins schools may require and should they go down this route, to house the classrooms on site or alternatively assist in finding suitable accommodation across the borough. For example, when schools ask for planning permission there should be no complacency in recognising any defects and dealing with them quickly.
- To communicate with the affected schools should they need help with contractors for remedial works.

- In the case of schools which are affected by RAAC but are not the council's responsibility, if the schools are short of funds to remedy the defects the Council to consider providing financial support recognising that the DfE has already committed to refund all costs associated with RAAC.
- To continue closely monitoring through building control functions all schools for cases of unsafe materials.

Cllr Kanta Mistry  
Queensbury Ward

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**Full Council – 18 September 2023****Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Motion for the  
Non Cabinet Member Debate**

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

**Provision of support to deal with cases of RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) in Brent Schools****This Council notes:**

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) is a lightweight form of concrete pioneered in Sweden whose use swept across Europe particularly in schools, colleges, and other building construction from the 1950's until the mid-1990s. Used in flat roofing, floors, and walls it offered a cheaper alternative to standard concrete, but its short lifespan means its use in permanent buildings has caused problems. The Secretary of State for Education has clarified, out of 22,500 schools in England, 156 have been confirmed to have RAAC and 52 of these have already got mitigations in place and are dealing with repairs.

To date, it has been identified that **only** one Brent school, although not maintained by the Council, has RAAC. St. Gregory's Catholic Science College discovered it had RAAC in its Maths block in November 2022. Safety measures were introduced, and ~~work is under way which~~ **was completed by Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September** ~~should be completed by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September~~. The Council was informed by the school's CEO/Headteacher in January 2023 of the discovery of RAAC. There is no current financial impact to the Council as the school affected is **operated by an academy trust** ~~not a community school~~, therefore the local authority is not the responsible body.

Upon notification in January 2023, DfE have supported the school in arranging surveys and discussing the management of RAAC. Since the summer, a dedicated case officer has been assigned to the school from the DfE to manage the next steps of removing RAAC from the school with all costs to be reimbursed by the DfE **as it rightfully should**.

When Brent residents apply for rear building extensions, building control officers demand high quality materials be used. If this RAAC was known to have a recommended 30-year lifespan there must be question as to why it was approved in long term school and civic developments and what reviews were put in place by Building Control to undertake regular checks on its safety?

~~Let's also not get carried away with the way~~ Parents, teachers and pupils across the country have been rightly concerned about the news of RAAC and this has been reflected in how it has been reported. ~~We all remember Gordon Brown's comments about a Rochdale constituent calling her a "bigoted woman" and who later went on to deliver a personal grovelling apology. Never has it been so evident that the journalists of this country lead and dictate the news agenda, something the Secretary of State for Education Gillian Keegan MP should have learnt from~~ is the tenth Conservative Secretary of State for Education since 2010 and showed no sympathy for parents' concerns across the UK in her highly unprofessional behaviour when she was being interviewed by ITV news.

**As a result, this Council recognises:**

- That ~~the Conservative successive Governments of different political persuasions since in the 1980s have all colluded in neglecting capital and infrastructure investment to service~~ despite insatiable public demand for increased revenue spending on vital public services. This has been worsened by the effects of Austerity which decimated the country's public services and de-funded buildings provided for our nation's schoolchildren. People a century ago were truly building schools for the future; today's squabbles are much more about 'Patching Schools for the Present'. The uncomfortable truth is that this really, if anything, has been a pass-the-parcel problem ~~by successive~~ made worse by the current Conservative governments, putting at risk school children and staff.
- ~~That whilst It was a Labour Government that launched may cite the Building Schools for the Future Programme, which was the biggest school building programme since the Victorian times allocating £55billion to rebuild every secondary school in the country. In the first months of the Conservative-led Coalition Government in 2010, then Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove scrapped the scheme and offered no replacement. Gove has later called the cancellation of this programme his biggest mistake in office. there was criticism of the scheme in a National Audit Office (NAO) report and a review of the scheme – commissioned by the government, which found the allocation of funding for school buildings had been "complex, time-consuming, expensive and opaque".~~
- Covid has taught us so many things and lead us to deal with issues that we thought would never be achieved. We will also deal with this: and learn the valuable lesson of investing in our public services to ensure good practice and safety for all of our residents.
- Whilst global events continue, there is also a need to recognise that the safety of our children comes first. The issue of RAAC has been missed ~~by successive governments of all colours, including the coalition,~~ for over 30 years. In 2002 the Labour government first became aware of the deterioration and risks of RAAC via a BRE (Building Research Establishment) report. In 2018 Conservative Minister Damian Hinds ordered an urgent and comprehensive review of RAAC in all schools. It is because of these inspections that we know the extent of the current risks. Senior officials at the Department of Education told the treasury while Rishi Sunak was Chancellor at the time that there was a need to rebuild

300 to 400 schools a year in England, Sunak only allowed funding for 100 schools which was then halved to 50.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

- To request the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools writes to the Secretary of State for Education to call for urgent additional funding to be secured for buildings affected by RAAC in Brent and across the UK, and for her to outline what measures the Government is doing to ensure the safety of our schoolchildren.
- To pledge to support, ~~in any way we can guide and advise~~ St Gregory's Catholic Science College, which is the only Brent schools currently affected with RAAC while also noting that there are limitations to how we as a Council can assist as the school is operated by an Academy and we pledge to support, guide and advise any schools which may become known in future.
- To recognise that school requests for planning permission and other compliance issues from the council should be dealt with expeditiously- ~~while following the planning and safety legislation that underpins all planning decisions.~~
- To work cross party to expedite planning permissions where required for the temporary classrooms and Portacabins schools may require and should they go down this route, to house the classrooms on site or alternatively assist in finding suitable accommodation across the borough. For example, when schools ask for planning permission there should be no complacency in recognising any defects and dealing with them quickly.
- To communicate with the affected schools should they need help with contractors for remedial works.
- In the case of schools which are affected by RAAC but are not the council's responsibility, if the schools are short of funds to remedy the defects the Council to ~~call on the Government to provide the necessary funding and not rely on already stretched Local Government budgets. consider providing financial support recognising that the DfE has already committed to refund all costs associated with RAAC.~~
- To continue closely monitoring through building control functions all schools for cases of unsafe materials.

Councillor Gwen Grahl  
Cricklewood & Mapesbury ward

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	<p align="center"><b>Council</b> 18 September 2023</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Report from the Corporate Director of Children and Young People</b></p>
	<p align="center"><b>Lead Cabinet Member – Schools. Children &amp; Young People (Councillor Grahl)</b></p>
<p><b>Brent Youth Justice Plan 2023-24</b></p>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	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>List of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1: Brent Youth Justice Plan 2023/24
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Youth justice plans: guidance for youth justice services updated 17 March 2023:  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services</a>
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Serita Kwofie, Head of Early Help <a href="mailto:Serita.Kwofie@brent.gov.uk">Serita.Kwofie@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit, to the Youth Justice Board (YJB), an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Updated guidance to youth justice services, published in March 2023, confirmed that plans must be signed off by the full council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'.
- 1.2 This report explains the rationale for creating the Brent Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 which includes an overview of local youth justice progress and priorities and arrangements for monitoring performance. In line with agreed

regulations the plan was submitted to the YJB in July 2023, with the approval of the Board Chair, with confirmation of full sign off to be submitted at a later date. The 'sign off' by the Chair indicates that the wider management board have approved the submitted plan and all sections outlined in the Youth Justice Plan Structure have been covered.

## **2.0 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 Subject to any comments submitted following consideration by Cabinet on 11 September 2023 Council is asked to approve formal sign off and adoption of the Brent Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 (see Appendix: Brent Youth Justice Plan 2023/24).

## **3.0 Detail**

### **3.1 Cabinet Member Foreword**

- 3.1.1 I am pleased to share the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 and celebrate the commitment and achievements of our Youth Justice Service (YJS) within CYP and the wider partnership to support children and young people who are risk of or have entered the youth justice system. Performance remains strong overall, particularly in respect of the reduction in young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time and very low numbers of young people in custody. This is due to the strong focus on prevention and engagement with children and young people so that their views are heard and interventions personalised to their needs and environment to get the best out of them. The Covid-19 pandemic has increased risks in some areas such as serious youth violence, drug related offences, and children and young people involved in criminal exploitation/gang activity. Work on reducing the disproportionate number of young people in the criminal justice system from Black backgrounds continues with rigour and pace.
- 3.1.2 I am heartened by the feedback of the voice of the young people through surveys and individual engagement and wish to highlight these areas:
- Most children and young people (96%) surveyed felt that the YJS had supported them to prevent further offending / re-offending, which is an increase of 7% from the last survey of 89%.
  - 100% of parents / carers stated that they felt that they were listened to by their child's case manager and could speak to them about any issues and concerns.
  - There were high scores over the previous both years: 95% in 2021, 98% in 2020, regarding contact between children and young people and case managers. This means that at the agreed date and time set for their appointments children and practitioners did what they said that they would do.
- 3.1.3 A YJS Youth Panel was formed, supported by a YJS Participation Officer, where young people communicated their views to members of the YJS

Management Board via a range of multi-media platforms including podcasts and short films.

- 3.1.4 I would like to thank all the staff working for our Youth Justice Service for their hard work, diligence and innovation supporting young people, in what has been a challenging time for all.

## **3.2 Background**

- 3.2.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. These plans set out how youth justice services are funded, operate, and function. They provide an opportunity to review performance and developments over a single year period and plan for the next year. This allows services to be able to respond to any changes that have taken place in the previous year, including new legislation, demographic changes, delivery of key performance indicators and developments in service delivery.

- 3.2.2 Content in the Brent Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 is presented in line with Youth Justice Board (YJB) guidance. This information is analysed by the YJB to ensure compliance with statutory and financial requirements. Youth Justice Plans also serve to identify good practice capable of being replicated regionally and nationally.

- 3.2.3 This year's plan contains statistical information about children in Brent, with a specific focus on those children within, or at risk of entering, the youth justice system. It also outlines progress and forward planning in relation to key priorities. These include:

- Promoting evidence-based child-focused approaches as the best means of reducing impact on victims, promoting public protection, keeping communities safe and supporting children towards positive outcomes.
- Continuing to build a YJS partnership culture that encourages diversity in its workforce and in its thinking; is inclusive and supportive, encourages personal responsibility and is delivery focused.
- Embedding ten new additional Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) introduced by the YJB.
- Supporting the Police and Violence Reduction Unit in their oversight of the new Serious Violence Duty to establish a strategic needs assessment that identifies the drivers of serious violence and those people most at risk or most affected by serious violence.
- Ensuring that the Brent Youth Justice Service (YJS) is prepared for the next round of HMIP Inspections scheduled to commence in 2024.
- Refreshing the Brent YJS Disproportionality Action Plan.
- Overseeing and managing the Turnaround project introduced in 2022.

- 3.2.4 The CYP Director of Integration and Improved Outcomes chairs the YJS Management Board. The Board meets quarterly and has representation across the partnership at senior levels.

- 3.2.5 The YJS Management Board provides strategic direction and support for the YJS. This includes monitoring progress to ensure the effective delivery of effective youth justice services that aim to reduce re-offending and safeguard children and young people.
- 3.2.6 The Brent Youth Justice Service is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency service that works with children and young people aged 10-17 years and their families. Brent YJS provides support in relation to out of court disposals, court work, bail and remand, the assessment of children and young people who offend, the provision of court reports, the planning and delivery of community interventions, and custody and resettlement. The YJS sits within the Children and Young People's Department and is managed by the Head of Early Help.
- 3.2.7 A summary of the achievements and ambitions detailed within the Brent Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 is provided by the Management Board Chair (Appendix, page 2, *Vision: View from the Chair of the YJS Management Board – 'Our continuous drive to be the best we can be'*)
- 3.2.8 Specific areas of strong performance during 2022/23 were noted as follows:
- **Reoffending**  
The rate of reoffending is currently 15% for the eligible cohort (January – March 2021). This compares favourably to the previous period (January – March 2020) when it was 39.6%.
  - **Custody**  
Two young people are currently serving custodial sentences. This is an historical low which is linked to work on disproportionality, the implementation of a constructive resettlement approach, and multi-agency 'At Risk of Custody' meetings.
  - **First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System**  
Whilst this has increased slightly, numbers are low overall and reflect the good interventions offered by the Out of Court Disposal team.
  - **Out Of Court Disposal Scheme**  
Procedures and processes have been strengthened to highlight the voice of the victim, enhance a restorative justice focus and develop a more holistic and inclusive service.
  - **Disproportionality**  
A Disproportionality Action Plan is central to the work undertaken and is regularly monitored at the YJS Management Board.
  - **Violence and Gangs**  
The Brent YJS is committed to safeguarding young people affected by gangs and violence by understanding their challenges through a trauma informed lens. Safety mapping is undertaken to better understand the nature of exploitation some children and young people are subject to, and preventative support is offered by a commissioned voluntary sector



provider (St. Giles Trust).

- **Restorative Justice**

A clear focus on supporting victims through direct and indirect mediation, underpinned by an effective Restorative Justice Policy.

- **Participation**

The voices of children and their families are used to develop and shape service provision. Funding from MOPAC has enabled the service to participate with increasing creativity. This includes the use of short films and podcasts.

- **Partnership and joint working**

The growing proportion of high-risk children and young people on caseloads has resulted in a growing reliance on good partnership work and close collaboration with wider Council and other local services.

3.2.9 Areas of focus for 2023/24 are set out within the plan and are described in paragraph 3.2.3 above.

3.2.10 Approving the Brent Youth Justice Plan will enable the Council to fully comply with new guidance and will ensure that there is no delay or uncertainty in receiving the annual funding from the YJB.

#### **4.0 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities and Strategic Context**

4.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 is closely aligned to three priorities within the Borough Plan 2023-27:

##### **4.1.1 Thriving Communities**

Brent Youth Justice Service is working closely with community partners to make Brent safer. This includes delivering preventative work in partnership with the local voluntary sector and establishing positive recreational activities for young people within the youth justice system at Family Wellbeing Centres.

##### **4.1.2 The Best Start in Life**

Young people within the Brent Youth Justice system are seen and heard. A trauma informed approach to supporting children is embedded within the Youth Justice Service. In 2022 the Youth Justice service revised its methodology for youth participation. MOPAC funding was obtained to develop more interactive and creative approaches to including children in decision making and planning. Supported by a YJS Participation Officer, children aim to communicate with members of the YJS Management Board via a range of multi-media platforms including podcasts and short films.

##### **4.1.3 A Healthier Brent**

Young people known to criminal justice services often have poor access to mental health provision. A National Health Service funded Youth Liaison and Diversion Officer, based within the Youth Justice Service offers mental health screening to children who attend police custody. A newly appointed CAMHS Mental Health Practitioner offers a range of support to children known to the Youth Justice Service and refers those with more complex needs for specialist CAMHS support. Children with substance misuse needs are supported by the Westminster Drug Project and EACH Counselling Services.

## **5.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

- 5.1 Members of the Youth Justice Service Management Board were involved in the drafting of the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24. During the Board's meeting on the 20 July 2023, a final draft was agreed by the Board ready for submission to Full Council.

## **6.0 Financial Considerations**

- 6.1 The YJB Partnership budget for 2023/24 is a total of £1.729m of which the Council contributes £0.723m from the general fund, the YJB provides a grant of £0.571m, Brent schools contribute £0.114m via the Dedicated Schools Grant and MOPAC and the National Probation service contribute £50k. There are also some contributions which are in-kind from other partners such as the Police, Health and National Probation service which amounts to £0.27m.
- 6.2 In 2023/24 the YJB introduced a new funding condition, requiring Youth Justice Plans to receive Full Council sign off. Prior to this Youth Justice Plans only required sign off by a Youth Justice Service Management Board.

## **7.0 Legal Considerations**

- 7.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced a requirement that all local authorities must establish a Youth Offending Team (YOT) comprising members from the police, social services, probation, health and education. Most local authorities, including Brent, have renamed YOT provision as Youth Justice Services.
- 7.2 The Act also created the Youth Justice Board to oversee and monitor youth justice services in England and Wales. One of the YJB's key functions is to provide local authorities with funding to enable YOTs to deliver statutory services.
- 7.3 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on local authorities to submit an annual youth justice plan.

## **8.0 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

- 8.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 monitors inequalities within the Brent Youth Justice System. It outlines work undertaken to reduce the overrepresentation of children from black heritage groups.

## **9.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

- 9.1 The Brent Youth Justice Plan details efforts to encourage young people within the youth justice system to share their views and opinions on issues of most relevance to them.
- 9.2 Youth participation and coproduction is an evolving initiative within the Youth Justice Service. This work is aligned to the Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-2030, aimed to equip children and young people with the skills and opportunities needed to take action to protect the environment and tackle climate change.

## **10.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

None applicable

## **11.0 Communication Considerations**

- 11.1 The Brent Youth Justice Plan will be shared with all services and organisations represented on the Youth Justice Service Management Board.

### **Report sign off:**

***Nigel Chapman***

Corporate Director; Children and Young People

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# BRENT YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN **2023/2024**



## 1.0 Introduction

The Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 is a statutory requirement under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 relating to the provision of youth justice services. This annual plan sets out how the Brent Youth Justice Service (YJS) operates, functions and is funded within Brent.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- i. That the Brent YJS Management Board supports, enables and monitors delivery of the Brent Youth Justice Plan 2023/24.
- ii. Youth Justice Partner organisations support the Brent Youth Justice Service to achieve the aims outlined in the Plan.

## 3.0 Vision: View from the Chair of the YJS Management Board – ‘Our continuous drive to be the best we can be’

We hope you will enjoy reading our review of the last year and our plans for this year in the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 which outlines our work with children and young people, and our response to their personalised needs. We are proud of our achievements which include successful community projects, actions to reduce reoffending and serious youth violence, and addressing disproportionality.

Whilst less affected this past year by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are aware of its lasting impact for children and families, as well as the new challenges posed by cost of living increases. These issues are taken into consideration within our assessments and shape the personalised services we deliver.

The ongoing development of Brent YJS in line with effective practice helps to strengthen our partnership focus and improve the lives of children within the youth justice system. To this end we have made improvements in quality assurance tools, and applied learning from audits, to improve practice and management oversight.

In terms of our workforce development, it is important we recruit the right staff who will go the extra mile and fully understand risk and safeguarding practices. We are therefore fully aligned to the strategic intentions in the Youth Justice Board Business Plan 2021-24 by providing a supportive, compassionate and positive working environment that nurtures talent, values all contributions equally and strives for excellence where everyone is accountable for the delivery of their work.

We also share the Youth Justice Board’s ambition to build a resilient and continuing learning youth justice service that employs a child first approach to treat children as children, whilst supporting them to achieve excellent outcomes.

During 2022/23, we performed strongly across several key areas:

- **Reoffending**

The binary rate of reoffending is currently 14.9% for the cohort (January – March 2021). This compares favourably to January – March 2020 (39.6%).

- **Custody**

Two young people are currently serving custodial sentences. This is a historical low which -to a real extent is linked to our work on disproportionality, the implementation of the constructive resettlement approach, and multi-agency At Risk of Custody meetings.

- **First Time Entrants**

Whilst this has increased slightly, numbers are low overall and reflect the good interventions offered by the Out of Court Disposal team.

- **Out Of Court Disposal Scheme**

Our procedures and processes have been strengthened to highlight the voice of the victim, enhance our restorative justice focus and develop a more holistic and inclusive service.

- **Disproportionality**

Our Disproportionality Action Plan covers virtually everything we do. It is regularly monitored at the YJS Management Board,

- **Violence and Gangs**

We are committed to safeguarding young people affected by gangs and violence by understanding their challenges through a trauma informed lens. Safety mapping is undertaken to better understand the nature of exploitation some children and young people are subject to and preventative support is offered by our colleagues at the St. Giles Trust.

- **Restorative Justice**

Our determination to support victims through direct and indirect mediation is underpinned by our Restorative Justice Policy.

- **Participation**

The voices of children and their families are used to develop and shape service provision. Funding from MOPAC has enabled us to interact with increasing creativity. This includes -the use of short films and podcasts which will be shared with the YJS Management Board.

- **Partnership and joint working**

The growing proportion of high-risk children and young people on our caseloads has resulted in a growing reliance on good partnership work and close collaborations with wider Council services.

Our vision and strategy has remained broadly similar in its focus since the introduction of Youth Offending Teams (Crime and Disorder Act 1998). This required each local authority in England and Wales to deliver youth justice services in line with a statutory framework that outlines YOT responsibilities in relation to out of court disposals, court work, bail and remand, the assessment of children and young people who offend, the provision of court reports, the delivery of community interventions, and custody and resettlement.

Our principal aims are to reduce the likelihood of children offending or re-offending, protect children and young people, protect the public and ensure that sentences are served. We will adapt in line with changes around good practice and our wider partnership approach. More specifically, we will focus on the ten new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) introduced by the YJB this year. This will include paying particular attention to those highlighted by Damian Hinds, Minister for Prisons and Probation, who has urged Youth Justice Services to:

- i. Reduce crime committed by children.
- ii. Ensure that those children who enter the justice system are kept safe, and treated fairly and with care, whilst always remembering they are still children.
- iii. Prevent child offenders becoming adult offenders.

The YJS Management Board will focus on the following in 2023/24

- **Children's Social Care**  
Safeguarding children and young people from serious youth violence and contextual harm.
- **Public Health**  
Supporting the physical and emotional health of children who are missing or excluded from school
- **Courts**  
Tackling disproportionality and improving the system to be more proactive around bail packages. Enabling children to better understand what will happen at court and facilitating their active participation in the process.
- **Police**  
Drive child-centred policing to ensure the safety of children and better protect the public.
- **Probation**  
Identifying speech and language resources for young adults.
- **Voluntary Sector**  
Continued sharing of sector wide knowledge, including that relating to contextual safeguarding, deprivation and the quality and sufficiency of safe spaces and activities for children and young people.
- **Community Protection**  
Supporting services to combat antisocial behaviour, serious youth violence, knife crime and county lines.



- **Education**  
Increasing participation and engagement issues. Whilst working with partners to address knife crime and violence, online exploitation, and substance misuse.
- **CAMHS**  
Recruiting a seconded YJS / CAMHS worker to improve access to mental health provision, including those from black heritage groups where existing access is poor.
- **Police**  
As part of the Serious Violence Duty, facilitate the establishment of a 'strategic needs assessment' that identifies the drivers of serious violence in the local area and the cohort of people most at risk or most affected by serious violence.

Priorities and plans will continue to be guided by good practice outlined in the *YJB Business Plan 2023/24: Using evidence and oversight to make communities safer*, HMIP Inspections - particularly *Thematic Inspection: The experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system (October 2021)*, and the *HMIP Annual Report: inspection of youth justice services (March 2022)*. As ever we will continue to learn from case audits, and through engagement with children, young people, and their families.

Our knowledge of the Brent youth justice cohort helps to drive our resourcing and focus. We believe that comments made in 2020 by HMIP in our inspection report still apply: '...overall, Board members know how their service contributes to the work of the YJS and can judge if their service's contribution is effective'. It is my view that this Plan provides the Brent Youth justice partnership with the clarity needed to work together to achieve good outcomes for children, it also provides a very clear framework to provide strategic oversight, guidance and the support needed to improve the lives of children and young people who enter the criminal justice system.

**Palvinder Kudhail Director – Integration and Improved Outcomes Children and Young People London Borough of Brent**

## 4.0 Local Context: Brent Children and Young People

### 4.1 Children and Young People Profile (2023)

- 339,818 people live in Brent. It is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest Borough in London<sup>1</sup>
- Brent is one of the most diverse local authority areas in the country with 78% of the total population consisting of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic heritage groups<sup>2</sup>.
- Brent's child population aged 0-17 years based on Census 2021 is 73,056 with a 10-17 years population projection of 32,249.
- Brent's child population (0-17) represents 22% of the total Brent population.
- Brent's population aged 10-17 represents 10% of the total Brent population.
- Brent's child population (0-17) represents 4% of the 0-17 London population.
- Brent's population aged 10-17 represents 4% of the 10-17 London population.

### 4.2 GLA Population Projection for 2021:

	Projected Population 2021	
	Brent	London
Aged 0-19	81,300	2,085,300
Aged 10-19	41,500	1,024,800
All Ages	339,818	8,799,800

In 2022/23 the YOS cohort consisted of 211 young people. This is 0.6% of the Brent 10-17 population.

<sup>1</sup> ONS 2021 Census

<sup>2</sup> GLA Population Projections 2022, published 2016.

### 4.3 Looked After Children in Brent

In January 2023 there were 308 Looked After Children (LAC), decreasing by 42 compared to 350 in January 2022. Brent has a smaller LAC cohort than its statistical neighbours and less than the national average. In January 2023, Brent had a rate of 37.8 LAC per 10,000 children under 19-years.

### 4.4 The LAC / YJS Cohort

Within an overall YJS open caseload of 81 children and young people in June 2023, there were 11 LAC young people supervised by the YOS, compared with 14 LAC in June 2022. It remains one of the most vulnerable groups across the whole of the department with many children experiencing high levels of harm and exploitation. Analysis of this cohort shows:

- 76% were male,
- 64% were aged 16 or 17 years,
- 62% were of Black African or Black Caribbean Heritage (44% in February 2022, 50% in February 2021, 64% in April 2020 and 63% in January 2019)
- 83% had committed a violent offence (72% in February 2022, 37% in February 2021, 76% in April 2020 and 46% in January 2019)
- 17% a drugs offence (39% in February 2022, 23% in February 2021, 32% in April 2020 and 58% in January 2019) and
- 33% committed a robbery offence (39% in February 2022, 9% in February 2021, 24% in April 2020 and 27% in October 2019).

### 4.5 Substance Misuse

Analysis of 113 children and young people supported by YJS between January and August 2022 was limited to those children with an Asset Plus assessment. It did not include those who were assessed using a Rapid Assessment by the Out of Court Disposal Team. Findings included:

- 84 (74%) children had an issue with substance misuse,
- 27 of those children had committed a drugs offence with 21 (78%) of the offence type being possession.
- 96 children were male - 17 children were female.
- 64 children were from a black heritage background, 15 were from a white background, and 19 were of mixed heritage.

- Cannabis was the predominant substance 82 (73%).
- 72% had concerns around physical health.
- 57% had mental health concerns.
- 21% had a special educational need.
- 43% had some difficulty with speech and language.
- 11% had been or currently were in LA care • 59% were previously or currently subject to a CIN.
- 39% were previously or currently subject to CP.

#### **4.6 YJS cohort – all children and young people**

In February 2023 there were 77 children and young people known to the YJS for having received court sentence or police disposal, or taking part in the Triage and Community Resolution early intervention programmes – this includes children and young people being caretaken by Brent YJS and those placed out of borough.

- 64% were aged 16 or 17 years compared to 64% in February 2022, 57% in February 2021, 53% in February 2020 and 58% in February 2019
- 87% were male compared to 78% in February 2022, 86% in February 2021, 84% in February 2020 and 90% in February 2019
- 46% of children and young people were from a Black Caribbean or other Black Heritage Group compared to 48% in February 2022, 46% in February 2021, 63% in February 2020 and 60% in February 2019.
- 21%, inclusive of caretaking cases, were Looked After Children (LAC).
- 29% were NEET (in academic years 12 and 13 and including children and young people residing out of Brent) compared to 39% in February 22, 24% in February 2021, 29% in February 2020 and 23% in February 2019.
- 6% of the caseload were recorded as having an EHCP or Statement of SEN compared to 5% in February 2022, 12% in February 2021, 8% of the caseload in February 2020 and 7% in February 2019.
- The YOS cohort is spread across Brent. Those wards with higher percentages are within Harlesden, Willesden Green, Tokyngton, Barnhill and Stonebridge. Children and young people residing in these wards represent over 40% of the cohort. A significant proportion (almost a fifth) reside outside of Brent.

#### 4.7 Brent YJS 2022//23 case level data:

Brent YJS 2022/23 Case-level data															
Offences	Disposals					Offending population by ethnicity						Offending population by gender			
Total Offences	No. of Pre-court disposals	No. of First-tier disposals	No. of Community disposals	No. of Custody disposals	Total Disposals	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Chinese or Other	Unknown	Female	Male	Unknown	
236	33	78	26	3	140	18 (17.3%)	11 (10.50%)	13 (12.5%)	53 (51%)	9 (8.7%)	0 (0%)	13 (12.5%)	91 (87.5%)	0 (0.0%)	104

#### 4.8 Reducing caseloads and increasing complexity

The reduction in caseloads in recent years masks the growing number of challenges within the youth justice system - particularly with regards to risk of harm, safety and wellbeing. In recent years, the proportion of young people assessed as posing a high or very high risk has increased - especially amongst 16 to 18-year-olds. Inspection data taken from the *HMIP Annual Report March 2022*, showed that 'nearly 80 per cent of children sentenced to a court order were assessed as presenting some form of risk to others, and 30 per cent were considered to present a high or very high risk of harm'.

In Brent, the most prolific types of youth crime are offences of violence against the person, drug possession and supply, robbery, and motoring offences. Serious youth violence (often with links to gangs, drugs and county lines) is a persistent problem and has increased the amount of statutory provision children and young people receive.

## **5.0 Child First**

### **5.1 Brent YJS delivers services to children and young people in accordance with *Child First principles*.**

This requires services to prioritise the best interests of children and recognise their needs, capacities, rights, and potential. All work is childfocused and recognises structural barriers to full participation. The importance of really understanding our children and young people has become a key theme for Brent. This is reflected in the CYP training offer which includes anti-racist, social GRACES, and cultural competency training. Furthermore, YJS practice development sessions are delivered regularly and frequently make use of YJB effective practice resources to enhance the skill with which practitioners consider the importance of structural inequalities, racial discrimination, and the impact of trauma. YJS Assessments are commenced after a young person's, and their parent / carer's self-assessments, have been completed.

Brent YJS also promotes a child's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society. Brent's continued focus on trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in our work with children and young people assists practitioners to identify those at higher risk of harm. Specific work can then be identified where the young person has complex issues, is 'stuck' or where there is high anxiety within the professional network. Joint 'signs of safety' group supervision with social work colleagues helps workers understand risk and the importance of the joint planning process. Trauma continues to be part of the supervision process with the trauma triangle embedded into the YJS staff supervision template.

### **5.2 Encouraging children's active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion.**

YJS strives to form meaningful collaborations with children. Information obtained from user surveys and case has shown that children from Black heritage groups would like music and creative activities to form part of the YJS offer. As a result of this, all YJS young people can attend music recording and production courses delivered by our community partner Street Fusion. Furthermore, an extensive range of MOPAC funded music, sport and creative activities will be hosted at Family Well-being Centres for young men and women supported by YJS. All programmes have been designed to respond more specifically to children's needs and provide an open space for self-awareness.

### **5.3 Promoting a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion, and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system**

Since August 2021, Brent children and young people arrested for the possession of cannabis have been given a community resolution, thus diverting them from the youth justice System. Possession of cannabis represents approximately 70% of First Time Entrants. Cases are subject to a Rapid assessment and interventions based upon need, risk, and choice. These interventions have included referrals to EACH (substance misuse) the COVID-19 Pathfinder, and Youth Justice Liaison and Diversion (mental health screening).

The work of the Brent Out of Court Disposal Joint Decision-Making Panel includes healthy debate on mitigating factors for children who have offended. The panel considers the personalised needs of the child, the ACPO gravity scoring and the wishes of the victim. Relevant professionals such as CAMHS workers, social workers; education workers and mentors attend to contribute to a multi-agency understanding of a child's background, any trauma, learning needs or mental health issues. This enables the Panel to take a child focused decision to ensure the child is not unnecessarily criminalised when they have broken the law. Children on an OOD who experience difficulties in school or have issues with their school place are referred to an Inclusions Officer who works closely with YJS so the child and their family can receive advice and specialist support. This includes managed moves, being home educated, and obtaining school places.

## **6.0 Voice of the Child**

### **6.1 Brent YJS listens to children and young people.**

Our case managers routinely bring back to team meetings and supervision sessions what children and young people are saying and how our offer to them might change to meet differing needs. This has been particularly relevant since we came out of the pandemic period. During 2020 and 2021 we conducted an annual survey to gain feedback more consistently on children and young people's views of the YJS, their knowledge of the order they were on and the staff they interact with. Children and parents were contacted to participate in this survey by staff who are not working directly with them to try to ensure impartiality and to alleviate any power imbalance they may feel when responding to questions. 57 children and young people completed the survey in 2021 compared to 47 in 2020.

In 2022 YJS revised its methodology for youth participation. MOPAC funding was obtained to develop more interactive and creative approaches, moving beyond hearing their views to young people being more included in the decision making and planning. A YJS Youth Panel was formed. Supported by a YJS Participation Officer, members aim to communicate with members of the YJS Management Board via a range of multi-media platforms including podcasts and short films.

User surveys have been completed by around two-thirds of YJS young people in 2023. The survey remains open until the end of summer. Findings will be analysed and presented to the YJS Management Board

## **6.2 Key Findings 2020 – 2021**

## **6.3 Contacts & Communication**

- There were high scores over both years: 95% in 2021, 98% in 2020, regarding contact between children and young people and case managers. This means that at the agreed date and time set for their appointments children and practitioners did what they said that they would do.
- 78% stated that their preferred method of contact was over the phone. This seemed to relate to it being more convenient and saving time and money.
- Most children and young people (96%) surveyed felt that the YOS had supported them to prevent further offending / re-offending, which is an increase of 7% from last year's 89%.

## **6.4 Understanding the Court Process.**

- On a scale of 0-10 where 10 means that they totally understood the process 51% rated 10. There were 11% who rated five or below.
- This is broadly consistent with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists research which has shown that 66-90% of children in youth justice have low language skills, with 46-67 % of these being poor or very poor range. (Bryan - 2007).

## **6.5 Planning**

- 73% of children and young people had been involved in creating their intervention plan down 18% on last year's figure of 91%.



## 6.6 Interventions

- A range of 27 options were listed and children and young people could select as many options as possible, which were applicable to them. Work on my offending and substance misuse (43%) scoring the highest, then victim awareness 41% (2020 less than 20%), followed by peer pressure, 1:1 session with the police and reparation all scoring 22%.
- In 2020 the intervention that was most selected by children and young people was consequential thinking (27) and decision making (20), followed by general discussion (18), then substance misuse (16). Education and training applications, peers / friendship work and working on my offence were selected 11 times greater than this year possibly because of the lockdown.

## 6.7 Education

- Out of 56 children surveyed 32 (57%) felt that their experience accessing education was positive. Eight children were not in education (NEET) at the time this survey was undertaken. The rest were mixed responses where 5 expressed that they were experiencing difficulties, stating that they found it harder to access online learning, due to issues with technology, how to study at home and felt that they had slipped behind due to online learning.

## 6.8 Mental health

- Impact on children and young people during Lockdown: 21.4% were impacted; feeling depressed, stressed due to the loss of freedom, activities, and motivation.
- Some stated that they had too much time to think.

## 6.9 Parent / Carer Survey

- 100% of parents / carers stated that they felt that they were listened to by their child's case manager and could speak to them about any issues and concerns.
- 78% stated that they were invited to a review meeting, however only 44.4% were provided a copy of their child's intervention plan. Again 78% (69% in 2020) stated that they received regular updates from the case manager about their child's case.
- 56% stated that they had *received support for themselves* - this was support from Early Help Family Solutions.

#### 6.10 Comments from Parents and Carers: *What can be done to improve the Brent Youth Justice Service?*

- Providing parents an accredited course to help promote a better wellbeing and better understanding about what is the trend for Children.
- Help with children on the streets – around understanding and responding to searches.
- Help from authorities not to take away children but offer more help and support.
- It would be good to have compulsory activities after the age of 16 as kids need to do something. As there are no youth centres, they are out with friends and are doing nothing.

#### 6.11 Developmental areas

- Increasing the number of parents involved. Offering more parents support would help and reviewing the offer to them.
- Ensuring that parents are fully involved in their child/children's YJS intervention, by not only inviting them to CPRM's, reviews meetings, but by actively seeking their views and opinions.
- Actively review the parent/carer self-assessment to be clear if parental help is necessary.
- Providing parents with a copy of the intervention plan and being updated by with the Case Manager.
- Creating parent information session(s) where parent(s) can be informed about how to support their child/ren. Sessions could also be delivered by our key partners like the police.
- Offer support and signposting to parent's and promote positive parenting – and be clear about our offer. Targeted Information workshops – to improve attendance and participation.

### 7. Governance, Guidance, and Partnership Arrangements

- 7.1** The Brent Youth Justice Service (YJS) is a multidisciplinary, multiagency service that works with children and young people aged 10-17 years and their families. Brent YJS provides support in relation to out of court disposals, court work, bail and remand, the assessment of children and young people who offend, the provision of court reports, the planning and delivery of community interventions, and custody and resettlement.

The YJS sits within the Children and Young People's Department and is managed by the Head of Early Help. The Director of Integration, and Improved Outcomes, chairs the YJS Management Board. The Board provides strategic direction and support for the YJS, ensuring that planning is undertaken to deliver effective youth justice services - which firstly aim to reduce re-offending and safeguard children and young people. Secondly, the Board are informed by an understanding of the type and level of risks to children and young people and ensure proportionality in disposals for all children and young people in Brent.

- 7.2** The YJS Management Board has representation across the partnership at senior levels and has maintained a stable and engaged membership with a growing awareness and knowledge of the children and young people's cohort. All Board members have been encouraged to observe practice. The Court representative provides feedback on six Pre-Sentence Reports every 6 months. A case study is presented by a member of the YJS at each Management Board meeting.
- 7.3** A review of the YJS Management Board's Terms of Reference - informed by YJB guidance - took place in January 2023 and was approved by the YJS Management Board. The YOS Board Induction Guidance had previously been reviewed to ensure alignment with the Youth Justice Board's guidance on service governance and leadership (December 2021). The YJB's revised Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) which was introduced in England from April 2023 was also approved by the Board in January 2023. This stated that the existing four current KPIs: binary reoffending rate, frequency of reoffending, first time entrants and use of custody will continue to be used in conjunction with ten new KPIs. These are accommodation, education, training and employment, SEND/additional learning needs, mental health and emotional wellbeing, substance misuse, out of court disposals, management board attendance, wider services, serious youth violence, and victims. The Board have started conversations around data collection to support the local and YJB aim for local partners to work together to minimise the barriers to children's success, prevent offending and protect the public.
- 7.4** Our intention alongside other YOTs nationally is also to align with the Youth justice board oversight framework. This framework - informed by the YJB's vision - and linked to its 'Sense of Purpose' was issued by the YJB in April 2023. It will monitor the youth justice system performance: oversight, assurance, and compliance and will highlight the YJB's two specific monitoring functions: operation of the youth justice system and the provision of youth justice services and the extent to which the system aims are being achieved and any such standards met. This framework provides clarity on how the YJB's monitoring function is fulfilled, outlining how oversight of local youth justice services (YJS') is undertaken and delivery across the wider system is understood. This YJB framework will take effect within the 2023/24 business year. It will involve a new way of working for the YJB in overseeing the performance of YJS' involving challenge and support and will be reviewed following a period of three years, allowing for the systems and practices to be embedded. Our continued good relations with the YJB – who attend our Board meetings – will continue and benefit from their supportive and challenging approach.
- 7.5** The Brent YJS Youth Justice Plan is informed by and linked to The Brent Borough Plan – 2019 – 2023 – 'Building a Better Brent'.

## **8.0 Resourcing and Services including staff and workforce development**

- 8.1** Brent YJS benefit from partner staffing contributions equivalent to 10.6 FTE within the YJS and senior members from those agencies at Board level. The YJS is compliant with the minimum staffing requirement set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – with multi agency staff from Education, Health, Probation, and the Police.
- 8.2** Brent Police continue to provide a continuous staffing contribution that exceeds the minimum statutory requirement of 1.0 FTE. There are four Police Officers (1 post is a job share).
- 8.3** There are two mental health practitioners within the YJS, A seconded CAMHS practitioner and a NHSE funded Youth Justice and Liaison and Diversion Worker who undertakes mental health screening. Both officers offer children and young people 1:1 sessions, develop staff knowledge around emotional wellbeing, and support the wider professional network.
- 8.4** A 0.6 FTE National Probation Service officer is seconded to YJS.
- 8.5** Since the formation of YOTs in 2001, Education fulfilled their statutory requirement to support YJS via annual financial contributions.
- 8.6** Reporting to the Head of Early Help, the Youth and Youth Justice Manager has overall management oversight of 25.5 FTE staff members.
- 8.7** The YJB Workforce Development Strategy for the Youth Justice System (2023-25) highlights the importance of staff who work across youth justice settings needing further support in response to the interplay of poverty, trauma, and exploitation with effective and resilient ways of working.
- 8.8** Brent YJS has maintained a stable workforce of largely permanently employed staff. All staff have accessed training through the Brent Council CYP training programme and INSET training delivered through the Youth Justice Board. The team have received more specialist training this year such as, Restorative Justice Practice, Youth Justice Legal Training, Cultural Competency Training, and anti-racist training. YJS monthly practice development sessions have provided a wide and comprehensive focus upon case practice issues including restorative justice, understanding the new YJB KPIs and recording practice, bail and remand practice development, Pre-Panel work practice, desistance approaches, planning and reviewing, effective PSR writing, and Brent's parent and family offer.

- 8.9** The YJS will continue to develop its practice in line with the personalised needs of children and young people during 2023/24. This will include building upon our understanding of cultural competency and anti-racist training, especially around the journey of the child. In addition, YJS will increase its awareness of the social GRACES, which will include the development of an effective practice booklet,
- 8.10** YJS case managers will have access to a range of one to one and group work YJS interventions, which cover a range of themes. There has been a list of resources developed for one-to-one work and these are available in the resources area on the 3rd Floor of the Brent Civic Centre as well as on the YJS Shared Drive / Share point. These include offending behaviour, risk and safety interventions, victim awareness, decision and problem solving, anger and emotional management, and weapon and knives interventions.
- 8.11** The YJS have participated in the Your Choice programme which is funded via the Youth Endowment Fund and London Councils and involves the training and delivery of CBT focused interventions for children and their families.
- 8.12** The YJS benefits from well-established partnerships with **agencies within the voluntary sector** including:
- 8.13     Brent EACH**
- EACH is a counselling and support agency that delivers high quality counselling services and support for YJS children and young people receiving Triage and community resolution (no further action) outcomes. As part of 'whole family working', parents, carer(s), and siblings are also offered support. Two EACH staff members have delivered services in Brent YJS since 2006.
- 8.14     Westminster Drug Project (WDP)**
- WDP are a drug and alcohol charity. They contribute the equivalent of 1.0 FTE advice, assessment and treatment support for Brent children and young people who are known to the youth justice system and affected by drug and alcohol problems. Services are delivered at the Brent Civic Centre, and within the local community.
- 8.15     Brent Centre for Young People (BCYP)**
- BCYP offers a range of psychotherapeutic mental health interventions, designed specifically for children and young people who offend and who often struggle to engage with mental health services. Like EACH they have delivered services within the YJS since 2006.

### 8.16 St. Giles Trust

St. Giles offer gang affected mentoring for children and young people involved in or at risk of criminal exploitation.

### 8.17 Young Brent Foundation (YBF)

YBF are an umbrella organisation for local voluntary organisations and community groups. They provided mentors from across member organisations to match young people with mentors best suited to support them. The work, support and guidance they provide to YJS is informed and guided by their extensive community knowledge.

### 8.18 Multi-agency Panels

Brent YJS leads or contributes to a wide range of multi-agency Panels with specific strategic and operational functions These

include: • **Resettlement & Aftercare panel**

This monthly panel discusses all children in custody and ensures the accommodation and wider needs of children and young people due to be released from custody are identified and planned for in a timely and transparent fashion in line with the YJB's principles around constructive resettlement as well as providing senior oversight on bail and remand work. Regular panel members include Feltham YOI, the police, social care, Early Help, health staff, restorative justice workers, and the CYP Placement Service.

• **YJS and LAC Managers meeting**

Every quarter complex cases which require senior manager oversight and additional support are considered.

• **Strategy and Professionals meetings**

These meetings are convened as and whenever necessary to share risk, court outcomes, and other information needed to keep children and young people in the criminal justice system safe. Members include YJS, social care, police, health, and education.

- **Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel**

This Panel coordinates the sharing of information between partners about children and young people at risk of sexual or criminal exploitation, trafficking or modern slavery, and those that are missing, to ensure identified risks are appropriately managed.

- **YJS Risk, Safety and Wellbeing Multi-agency Management Risk Forum**

This Forum meets monthly to manage the risk, and safety and wellbeing of high-risk children and young people and provide senior management oversight.

- **YJS Transitions Panel**

Chaired by YJS with attendance from Probation, Police (IOM) and Leaving Care colleagues to discuss young people transitioning from the YJS to Probation in accordance with the new local protocol informed by the Joint National Protocol for transitions in England (June 2021)

- **Restorative Justice (RJ) Improvement Group**

This is a group comprised of Referral Panel members, YJS, Police and the Courts. The group considers meaningful reparation opportunities within the community that are beneficial for both the community and a young person. It also facilitates discussion and reflection about any issues of importance around RJ. The use of this community forum has already enabled children and young people to consider different ways to repair the harm caused by their offending, acquire the opportunity to reflect on their offence(s), and see the wider consequences for themselves and others.

- **NEET Working Group**

The NEET Working Group consist of the YJS, the Virtual School, Prospects and PLIAS (mentoring). It provides a child-focused consideration of NEET young people on a case-by-case basis, inclusive of planning work and educational initiatives to help young people engage in education and training.

## • Out of Court Disposals (OOCd) Decision Making Panel

This weekly Panel is chaired by YJS and attended by Police, Health, YJS, Social Care, Early Help staff and RJ workers to jointly consider and determine OOCd decisions. It additionally identifies young people who are eligible to attend the Turnaround project.

**8.19** A review of the various multi-agency panels that exist across CYP is currently being undertaken. The purpose of the review is to assess what is working well and what is not working well, identify any gaps in tracking activity and resource allocation, identify opportunities to streamline and be more efficient, determine what value the current arrangements are adding at each point of the child's journey, assess the quality of the support arrangements that are in place, and provide recommendations for change and improvement. The review is being led by the Children and Young People Department and will be cross cutting across partner agencies and council teams.

## 9.0 Progress on previous plan and ongoing work areas

**9.1** We are aware that across the youth justice system encouraging progress has been made over the last twelve years. Since 2012, the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system has fallen 78% and the number of children held in custody has fallen 77%. The year ending March 2022 saw the fourth consecutive year-on-year decrease in the number of knife or offensive weapons offences resulting in a caution or sentence. This statement in the annual strategic steer from the Minister for Prisons and Probation in February 2023 highlighted the progress made but recognised the need to reduce victims, maintain public protection, keep communities safe and support children towards positive outcomes.

**9.2** As highlighted by the Chair of the YJS Management Board (see *3.0: Vision: View from the Chair of the YJS Management Board*) considerable progress was made in several of the areas in last year's plan. Brent YJS will build upon these successes in 2023/24.

### 9.3 Reducing reoffending

Work in this area has benefitted from the continued use of the YJB live reoffending tracker to analyse data at the level of individual young people. YJS has also created the YJS Transitions Panel to manage various transitions (often a vulnerable time for children and young people), listened to the voice of the child, responded to substance misuse and disproportionality issues, and conducted several 'deep dive' case audits. More learning will take place around case audits and case studies and increasing creative capacity to meet the range and variety of individual needs.

### 9.4 Reducing serious youth violence.



**9.5** We are acutely aware of the challenges in tackling serious youth violence (SYV), Our involvement in multi-agency panels and attendance at daily police briefings has ensured a continued focus upon SYV and related themes around county lines, drug possession and supply, and child exploitation. There has been a concerted and joined up effort across the partnership to manage ‘violence and tensions’ within Brent. During 2022 this involved event planning (carnival weekend), the provision of various outreach activities responding to local needs, utilising peer mapping, and communicating with neighbouring boroughs and courts. The YJS also employs safety mapping to identify risks and keep children safe.

**9.6** The Youth Engagement Fund Report: *Children, Violence and Vulnerability (2022)*, included a survey of 2,025 children and young people. It also features a review of national statistics (undertaken by Crest Advisory) to explore the ways in which violence – and fear of violence – is shaping children’s lives. Key findings are worrying and remind us of the task and challenges ahead.

### **9.7 Survey Findings**

- 14% of teenage children had been a victim of violence in the last 12 months.
- 39% of teens had been a victim or witness of violence in the last 12 months.
- 55% of teens said they’d seen real life acts of violence on social media in the last 12 months. 24% said they’d seen children carrying, promoting, or using weapons.
- 65% of teens said they’d changed their behaviour to keep themselves safe from violence in the last 12 months. 14% had been absent from school out of fear. A further 14% said it caused them to lose concentration, because of worry. 16% avoided going to a social event. And 2% even said that their fear had led to them carrying a weapon.
- 26% want to see changes to policing (such as more patrols) to address violence, alongside more youth clubs and activities (15%) and drug and alcohol services (10%).

### **9.8 Review of National Crime Statistics:**

- Violence was down in the years before the Covid-19 pandemic. 0-17 knife related hospital admissions fell 7% between 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- During the pandemic, violence fell; robberies decreased by 34%, homicides by 20% and 0-17 hospital knife related hospital admissions by 14% between 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- As restrictions eased, some forms of violence have returned to pre-pandemic rates while others haven’t. Robberies remain 27% below the rate in 2019/20 but homicides of 13-17-year-olds in London are higher in 2021 than in 2019.
- Black Heritage group children are increasingly overrepresented in the criminal justice system. These children make up 4% of all 10–17-year-olds, but are subject to 15% of arrests, 18% of children stopped and searched and 29% of children in custody – up from 17% in 2011/12

**9.9** During the current year our focus and resolve will involve listening to the voices of young people to guide and shape our future service delivery. The YJS Risk Policy has been updated to include robust transfer processes (when children and young people move in or out of Brent) - this was a recommendation from the Serious Case Report on Child K.

**9.10** It is worrying that almost all offences were committed by children who have been victims of exploitation. The high proportion of victims, many of whom were children themselves, is of equal concern. We will continue to use the Youth Justice Board Serious Youth Violence toolkit and Community Safety Team data to help our analysis of patterns and trends to improve and develop provision.

### **9.11 Serious Violence**

As part of the new Serious Violence Duty (SNA) 2023, Brent will collaborate with other local authorities and criminal justice agencies, to produce a 'strategic needs assessment (SNA) by January 2024. The SNA will identify the local drivers of serious violence and the cohort of people most at risk or most affected by serious violence. Quantitative data to be considered in the strategic needs assessment will include His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection of police handling of serious violence committed by children, the Children Commissioners report into police strip-searching children, and HMIP research on black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system. In parallel to this, a youth participation approach will be employed to coproduce a youth led qualitative assessment of serious youth violence.

### **9.12 Knife Crime**

From 2017/18 until 2021/22, there has been a mixed picture in terms of knife crime. There were 38 knife offences committed by young people in 2022/23. This compares to 55 knife offences in 2017/18, 65 in 2018/19, 54 in 2019/20, 39 in 2020/21, and 41 in 2021/22. Although it is encouraging to note a downward trajectory in recent years, it is difficult to know the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic played a part in suppressing knife enabled crime. Brent has worked hard in terms of addressing aspects of serious youth violence including the introduction of Knife Crime Prevention Orders, multi -agency daily briefings, summer projects, planning across multi-agency panels, and routine referrals to the Brent Front Door when children and young people have been released under police investigation and are at risk of contextual safeguarding harm. Furthermore, young people at risk, or known to involved in serious youth violence, are offered mentoring support via the Community Protection coordinated Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel.

### **9.13 Reducing Disproportionality amongst over-represented children – especially Black heritage children and young people**

Reducing disproportionality continues to be a central thread running through all YJS work. It is a highly challenging priority, as has been highlighted in an extensive report released by the YJB in April 2023. Nearly all the children interviewed as part of 'Understanding ethnic disparity in reoffending rates in the youth justice system - Child and practitioner perspectives report', had been excluded from

school. This was contrary to the wishes of most children, who wanted greater educational opportunities to help them gain skills for the future. The report also places emphasis on poverty and social class and how this contributes to children from ethnic minority heritage groups being overpoliced and under protected.

## 9:14 Key findings

Among other things, the YJB found there is:

### Bias among individuals and organisations:

- It was felt that children from ethnic minority backgrounds involved in crime are often treated as adults.
- When children are treated as adults, it can mean they are not being safeguarded properly.
- This research found that racism within different institutions can result in ethnic minority children being treated differently to their white peers.
- A lack of diversity among the people who work in the criminal justice system was thought to contribute to systemic racism.
- Children from ethnic minority backgrounds were more likely than their white peers to be stopped and searched by the police.

### Weaknesses in prevention and support:

- Children respond best to support when they can build strong, trusting relationships with practitioners.
- Practitioners are not always able to spend time developing strong relationships with children, due to time and budget issues.
- Reoffending is more likely to occur when there is a lack of additional support services available to children, such as mental health services.
- Children said they had negative experiences of police custody and legal representation in court.
- Children said they were rarely given information about what was happening next or about their rights. □ When children are sentenced, their needs and experiences are not always fully considered.

Children and youth justice practitioners stressed that ethnic disparities in reoffending must be understood through an intersectional lens and how wider social inequalities and marginalisation from other support systems play a key role. They also emphasised their experiences that systemic and institutional prejudices impact on the likelihood of a child re-entering the youth justice system and even influence the treatment they receive once there.

### 9.15 Disproportionality in the Brent Youth Justice System

The failure to achieve equity of treatment for all children in the youth justice system can also be found in Brent when using the Summary Ethnic Disparity Tool to analyse children aged 10 to 17 years in Brent. This is particularly evident amongst Black African and Caribbean children and young people who are significantly overrepresented in the youth justice system. Overall, Black heritage group children represented 51% of the Brent YJS cohort in March 2023. This compares unfavourably to the 32% of all children and young people from these mixed heritage groups living in Brent according to the mid-year 2021 census.

Ethnic group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Percentage change year ending March 2016 to March 2022(1)	Percentage change year ending March 2021 to March 2022(1)	2021 midyear 10-17 population by ethnic group
Asian	21	17	11	11	19	13	13	▼ -38%	0	10,324
Black	144	133	114	106	92	70	53	▼ -63%	▼ -24%	7,981
Mixed	23	22	17	13	14	10	11	▼ -52%	▲ +10%	2,763
Other	28	29	23	13	17	9	9	N/A	N/A	4,288

Ethnic minority groups (5)	216	201	165	143	142	102	86	▼ -60%	▼ -17%	25,356
White	42	37	46	26	26	22	18	▼ -57%	▼ -18%	7,893
Unknown	11	11	7	6	0	2	0	N/A	N/A	-
<b>Total (2)</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>▼ -61%</b>	<b>▼ -17%</b>	<b>33,249</b>

## Percentage point change (1)

Share of total (3)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Point change from year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2022	% point change from year ending March 2021 to year ending March 2022	2021 midyear 10-17 population by ethnic group
Asian	8%	7%	5%	7%	11%	10%	12%	▲ 4.5 pp	▲ 2.5 pp	31%
Black	56%	56%	54%	63%	55%	56%	51%	▼ -5.0 pp	▼ -5.0 pp	24%
Mixed	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	11%	▲ 1.5 pp	▼ -2.5 pp	8%
Other	11%	12%	11%	8%	10%	7%	9%	n/a	n/a	13%

Ethnic minority groups (4)	84 %	84 %	78 %	85 %	85 %	82 %	83%	▼ -1.3 pp	▲ 0.7 pp	76%
White	16 %	16 %	22 %	15 %	15 %	18 %	17%	▲ 1.3 pp	▼ -0.7 pp	24%

**9.16** Throughout 2023/24, Brent was proactive in exploring ways to address the overrepresentation of Black heritage group children and young people within the youth justice system. This included:

#### **9.17 Increased understanding of YJS Management Board members**

Board members recognise the importance of supporting the whole family, not just the young person. It additionally recognises how the early identification of neurodevelopmental disorders and help in education at an early stage could combat the entry of Black heritage group children into the criminal justice system. CAMHS have worked hard to recruit a new seconded health professional to the YJS who will join the service in July 2023. As well as increasing access to therapeutic support, this appointment will enrich the ability of YJS practitioners to tell the story behind the crime within the pre-sentence reports and the wider assessment process. This includes explaining the experiences of children who have been adversely impacted by gang exploitation or have suffered trauma.

#### **9.18 Improving prevention and diversion opportunities:**

The delivery of good preventative services is key to redressing inequalities. Brent YJS works closely with partner in delivering a range of initiatives including:

#### **9.19 Turnaround**

Developed by the Ministry of Justice, Turnaround is based on similar principles to those underlying the Supporting Families programme, including the view that children on the cusp of offending often have complex needs that should be supported.

Brent has received Turnaround grant funding from the Ministry of justice amounting to:

- £57,557 in 22/23
- £148,624 in 23/24

- £148,542 in 24/25,

Turnaround extends support offered through the Out of Court Disposal Team to 117 young people aged 10 to 17 years who are:

- subject to a No Further Action (NFA) decision
- those who are subject to a Community Resolution
- those receiving a first-time youth caution
- released under investigation (RUI) or those subject to pre-charge bail (PCB)
- those discharged by a court
- those acquitted at court
- those fined by a court

Family support is an integral element of the programme. A fulltime Family Support Worker will be employed to complement assessment, planning and intervention work undertaken by the YJS Out of Court Disposal Team.

## **9.20 Disproportionality Challenge Fund**

Brent successfully bid for 149,000 from MOPAC to establish a 12 month project, from November 2022, tackling disproportionality within the youth justice system. There are essentially two components to the programme The first of these is delivered by the Young Brent Foundation and seeks to make systems change through the offer of cultural competency training to professionals. The other element consists of supporting YJS young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Heritage groups to coproduce activities within Family Wellbeing Centres. Supported by a Youth Participation Office, 12 young people to date are forming a Youth Panel that will advise the YJS Management Board as to their personal experience of the YJS as well as making recommendations for service improvements.

## **9:21 Engage**

Engage is a MOPAC Funded project providing the NW BCU with a grant to establish and provide an Early Help Youth Focused Intervention for Young People within Brent, Barnet.

The project is due to become operational in July 2023. Barnet are the lead borough and are recruiting youth workers who will be based in the Wembley and Colindale custody suites. Youth workers will meet young people in custody and offered a further two meetings post custody. During this time, they will be given information, advice and signposting to Brent Early Help and Youth Justice Service interventions. Engage will be open from 8am to 8pm weekdays with a reduced level of cover over weekends. Engage will be funded until the end of 2024-25.

## 9.22 COVID-19 Brent Pathfinder for Overrepresented Children

The “Pathfinder” was a three-year YJB funded programme delivered by Brent YJS and voluntary sector partners including the Young Brent Foundation and Brent EACH Counselling. The project supported young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic heritage groups who had been adversely affected by COVID-19. In 2022, members of the Pathfinder Youth Panel identified the following as the initiatives most needed to expedite COVID-19 recovery.

Youth Recommended Initiatives	Pathfinder Response.
“A safe space – youth club – youth hub environment”.	Family Wellbeing Centres have offered premises and facilities for youth activities.
“Mental health support where we can express our feelings.”	EACH counselling support has assisted Pathfinder children and young people to increase their resilience, feel positive about their future, and ease the trauma and pain caused by the pandemic.
“Putting together projects that will help and hear our voices being heard”.	Panel member podcasts and videography has been shared within the Council and is now available on the Council’s YouTube page.
“Prepare the next generation of public speakers”.	Panel members are offered podcast training. They have interviewed police, substance misuse practitioners and other professionals.

## 9.23 Your Choice

The Your Choice programme provides training in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) techniques to youth practitioners working with young people (aged 11-17 years) at medium to high risk of harm. The CBT technique is used during interventions / interactions with



the young people on the programme. To date this programme has been offered within the Accelerated Support team (AST), the Youth Justice Service and the Looked After Children and Permanency Service (LAC).

## **9.24 Youth and Youth Justice Services**

In August 2022, the then YOS Management Board agreed a proposal to bring together the Youth Offending Service (YOS) with the responsibility held for coordinating and monitoring the Brent Youth Strategy, and additionally to lead on developing a small team to maximise youth activities working closely with the Family Wellbeing Centres (FWC). The rationale for change was that closer alignment of these two areas of work would strengthen the offer of Early Help preventative services, enable stronger links with schools, and offer positive early intervention opportunities to reduce exclusions and entry in the criminal justice system. It also enables further integration with the FWC and other providers ensuring the most vulnerable young people are targeted. Work undertaken to date includes using outreach work to the youth offer for Brent Young People, refreshing the Brent Youth Strategy, and supporting FWCs to expand their half term and summer holiday youth provision.

### **9.24 Increasing Training and developing Resources to prevent reoffending:**

YJS have received Cultural Competency, Anti-Racism and Unconscious Bias training. A practice development session took place on Social GRACES in April 2022. Actions to develop resources to work with children on identity and lived experiences as well as discrimination will be shared across Brent and CYP with an increased emphasis on ways to assess and explore diversity presenting this more comprehensively in Asset Plus assessments and reports.

### **9.25 Improving trust**

Police offer 1:1 session to children and young people who have had a negative experience of stop and search. Additionally, four workshops were delivered to students at Alperton School in May 2022 on topics including stop and search and police mistrust. Student feedback included concerns that children were being stopped and searched daily after school – with no arrests made. This was shared with the Head teacher, and the school's police and the gangs' prevention team. More sessions are planned over 2023 at Roundwood Community school and Creswell Academy.

### **9.26 Preventing school exclusions**

In Brent, School Exclusion Annual Reports, and the Brent Education Recovery Plan, provide the strategic direction that has reduced school exclusions for young people from Black heritage groups. Although there has been an increase in exclusion rates for children

and young people of Black or Black British Dual Heritage children in some secondary schools, CYP is working closely with schools to achieve the outcomes expressed within the Brent Black Community Action Plan. Brent YJS has developed a range of workshops for schools to work with children in high-risk groups. This was rolled out with Brent River College PRU in 2021 and Alperton School in 2022. The positive impact of these sessions demonstrates the many benefits that can be gained by increasing awareness amongst children and staff about stop and search, gangs, crime and Black Lives Matter.

#### **9.27 Reduce disproportionality in custodial outcomes including remands and sentencing.**

In 2022, a workshop with defence lawyers, CPS, and the court representatives on anti-racist legal representation (Just for Kids Law) occurred with important messaging regarding the role of defence lawyers to advocate for children and addressing the trust deficit within Black heritage groups towards lawyers and Court Services. A Magistrates workshop took place with excellent feedback from Magistrates and District Judges' during 2022 - 30 Magistrates and 1 Judge attended the session. The 'Understand the Journey' message was well received by attendees. More recent sessions with magistrates have included restorative justice practice across the YJS and working with young people on Court Orders.

#### **9.28 Listen to children's voices**

Feedback from children led to the YJS commissioning music providers Street Fusion to deliver a music recording and audio production pilot programme. Eight children were involved during the spring and summer of 2022. This has proven to be highly successful, especially with young men from Black heritage groups. It also provides a safe space which is conducive to discussing sensitive discussions around themes such as emotional wellbeing, contextual safeguarding, and desistance from offending. The MOPAC funded Brent YJS Youth Forum will present its first film, covering lived experiences in the youth justice system to YJS Board members this summer.

#### **9.29 Provision of parent workshops**

These workshops are popular with parents who appreciate meeting other parents in a blame free environment and learn about a range and variety of themes such as online grooming, county lines drug dealing, parenting styles and the negative impact of social media. These workshops have been a response to *the Children Commissioners report on Young Lives (April 2022)*, that found families

often do not know where they can get help and then feel blamed when engaging in programmes. Brent YJS has an ongoing commitment to providing parent workshops as well as offering the Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities Programme SFSC, (which is focused specifically on parents who have concerns about youth violence). The extent to which parent workshops are valued by attendees was described by one mother as:

*'I learnt a lot more awareness and safety tips - I would like to continue with these meetings so I can get a more detailed understanding about our children today. Overall, the meeting was a blessing because i came out knowing more than i did going in'*

### **9.30 Embedding Resettlement Practice**

The 2021 *HMIP Annual Inspection report of youth justice services*, highlighted resettlement as an area across YOTs that needed improvement. This was reinforced by the YJB in its 2023/24 Business Plan, and in February 2023 the Minister for Prisons and Probation directed 'YOTs to work 'with the Youth Custody Service to ensure every child has a clear plan ahead of their release and can access the right education, healthcare and accommodation support'. Brent YJS updated its Resettlement Policy in March 2023 in response to this and continues to actively participate in the London Resettlement Partnership. Support is shaped by the five characteristics that have been identified as key to effective practice: • Constructive

- Co-created
- Customised
- Consistent
- Co-ordinated

The Brent Resettlement and Aftercare Panel is an effective forum for coordinating and reviewing resettlement planning. In 2022, it was observed by both the Chair of the YJS Management Board, and the Head of Looked After Children and Permanency. Feedback was positive and noted the importance of YJS and Children's Social Care collaborating closely and frequently. The Resettlement and Aftercare Panel will continue to review any safeguarding issues for children within the secure estate and ensure matters are escalated within the system.

### **9.31 Education**

Brent YJS understands that accessing good ETE provision, is crucial to the life chances of children under statutory supervision. It is consistently identified as one of the top three factors that need to be addressed by inspectors and the YJB. However, many children and young people have had negative educational experiences and a proportion are entrenched in lifestyles that are not conducive to participation in ETE. This is often because of exploitation, gang affiliation and disrupted educational history. In June 2022, a *HM*

*Inspectorate of Probation, Estyn, and Ofsted joint inspection of education, training, and employment services in youth offending teams, involving 180 children from six local authorities, highlighted many of the strengths and challenges of ETE provision from a youth justice perspective – Brent children had no involvement in the inspection.*

### **9.32 Strengths**

- YOT boards consistently prioritised ETE work in the delivery of services.
- Operational staff had enough time to deliver high quality work with children.
- Staff had good access to training in recognising children's ETE needs.
- YOTs delivering good ETE work had well-developed partnership arrangements, including specialist assessment and interventions.

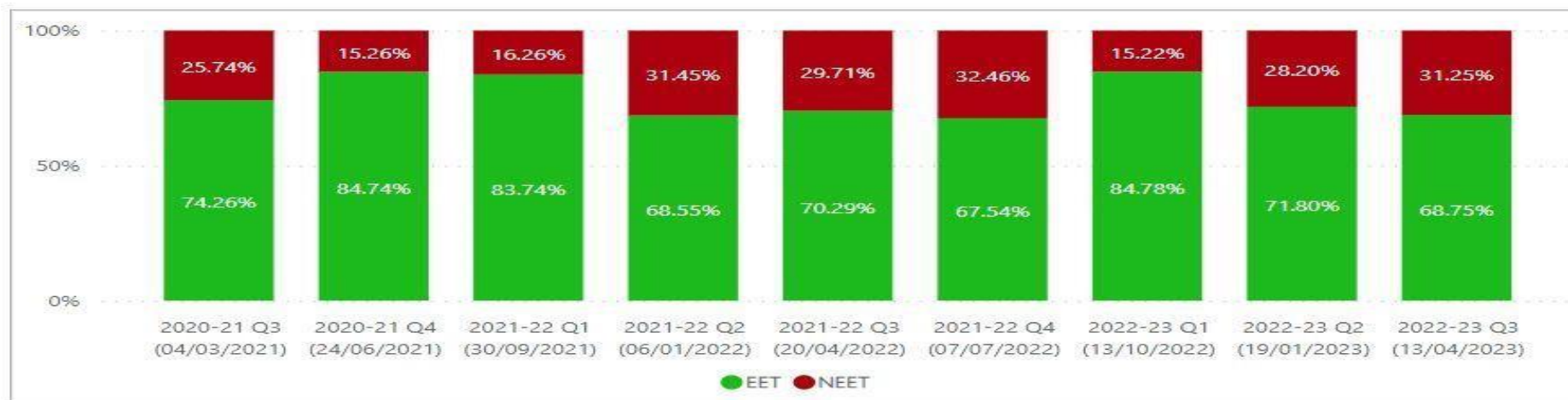
### **9.33 Areas for improvement**

- The quality of ETE work was poorest for those children who most needed it, and this was particularly evident when a child had an EHCP (in England)
- There are too many cases where children were not making progress and whose vulnerability was increasing because of low levels of engagement in positive work
- Boards were not monitoring key aspects of the children's engagement in ETE.
- There are significant barriers to participation.
- The quality of work was poorest for those children who most needed it.
- The support provided to the child to engage in ETE should be clear and reviewed regularly.

### **9.34 ETE in Brent YJS**

The characteristics of a strong YJS Partnership, as identified by HMIP and Ofsted, exist in Brent. The YJS Management Board scrutinizes the NEET cohort every quarter. This oversight has been extended to all children due to the national inclusion of education as a YJS Key Performance Indicator. The Board also ensures staffing levels are sufficient and there is access to a wide and varied training offer. Clear pathways between Brent YJS and mainstream and alternative education providers means that significant progress has been made towards making HMIP and Ofsted's recommended improvements. This includes increasing commitment to

participation work in schools and a new quality assurance regime which ensures all assessment and case actions are undertaken within agreed timescales. Operational work is monitored by a supportive Board that maintains tight oversight of the relatively small but challenging number of NEET young people known to Brent YJS.



Operationally, ETE is shaped by intensive joint working between YJS, commissioned ETE provider Prospects, and the Virtual School for Looked After Children. Staffing capacity has increased and there is greater emphasis on access, monitoring and quality of provision. This includes:

- A NEET working group which meets monthly to monitor vulnerable young people not in education and ensure that plans are in place.
- The provision of employment and training data from the YJS to Prospects on a fortnightly basis so that interventions are put in place at the earliest opportunity and any children who have no recorded provision are identified.
- Working closely with custodial units to ensure children and young people have a transition destination at the point of resettlement.
- Ensuring that Prospects advisors are working closely with parents and YJS case managers, other professionals, and families.
- Deploying additional staffing when children and young people are already receiving support from a generic Prospects Advisor.
- The NEET group has extended its scope to include a PLIAS employment adviser who can provide specialist support to those seeking employment and the construction CSCS card.
- EHCP work is now more comprehensively reflected in Asset Plus and PSRs.

- Close working with the Brent Inclusion Team. This includes the Inclusion Team Manager attending the Multi agency High-Risk Panel.
- YJS attendance at the CYP Children Missing Education Panel.

### **9.35 Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing: Liaison and Diversion**

The NHS England funded Youth Justice Liaison and Diversion scheme in Brent offers mental health screening to young people held in police custody at Wembley Police Station, or those young people referred to YJS for an Out of Court or Turnaround disposal. The CNWL employed Youth Justice Liaison and Diversion (YJLD) practitioner identifies any unmet mental health and neurodiversity needs a young person may have (ASD, ADHD, learning difficulties, or SALT) and refers on to appropriate health services. Children are risk assessed and seen at a range of locations including the Brent Civic Centre, school, home, care homes, or community facility. Engagement takes place with parents, schools, social services, and other agencies where necessary - especially when there are unmet needs that require attention. The YJLD worker also attends CP, CIN conferences, professionals' meetings, and other meetings to help meet a young person's additional needs.

During the period April 2022 to March 2023, the YJLD worker engaged 148 young people. One hundred and twenty-nine of these were males (87.2%) and 19 were females (12.8%). Sixty-two (41.9%) assessments were completed. The three key offences children accessing YJLD were charged with were drug possession, violence against the person, and possession of an offensive weapon.

### **9.36 Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing**

CAMHS Seconded Mental Health Practitioner supports those young people who have received a court ordered sentence with identified or unidentified emotional wellbeing and mental health needs. Children and young people who are assessed as meeting the tier three threshold are supported to be referred to CAMHS.

Brent YJS has historically encountered difficulties attracting suitably qualified and experienced candidates. After a series of unsuccessful recruitment campaigns spanning about a year, CAMHS have recruited a Mental Health Practitioner who will join the YJS in July 2023.

### **9.37 Restorative Justice (RJ) and Victims**

The following quotes are typical of many children and young people who took part in restorative justice in 2022/23:

*“I have learnt a lot of things from these offences. I’ve learnt that I should go down the right path. I should walk the other way and ignore negative friends,” 17-year-old male .*

*“Since the offence I have not been in any trouble and do not intend on getting into any trouble. I have learnt not to fight as it can affect many people including the victim, offender, community, and it can impact my future,” 17-year-old male.*

*“RJ has helped me look at the offence and my behaviour so I can put it in the past and get on with my life,” 16-year-old female.*

*“The main outcome for me was how an offence like this can truly affect the community. It really gave me a completely new angle on how to look at the crime from the perspective of someone that is a stranger to me and looks at the situation upon face value,” 18-year-old male.*

Through engagement with RJ, Brent YJS seeks to empower victims and reduce reoffending by developing empathy within our children and young people. The YJS Partnership has dedicated staff who are innovative and creative in encouraging wherever possible victim and perpetrator engagement in restorative justice approaches. The development of this work is greatly assisted by an extensive RJ training offer that is regularly accessed by the Police, Magistrates and YJS staff. Brent YJS revised its Restorative Justice and Victim Policy in 2022/23. Plans for 2023 include:

- Extending meaningful reparation opportunities that are beneficial for both the community and young person.
- Ensuring a dedicated RJ SPOC.
- Developing a digital victim satisfaction survey.
- Creating youth led and coproduced RJ resources for Brent young people. Applying for membership to the Restorative Justice Council.

### **9.38 Out of Court Disposals**

Out of Court Disposal provision is tightly monitored. In the last three-years the YJS Management Board has received a report examining practice, procedures, and performance on three occasions. Such high-level curiosity reflects Brent’s understanding of the clear links between intervening well early, and good outcomes. For instance, the Youth Engagement Fund toolkit shows that pre-court diversion nationally leads to greater reductions in reoffending (by 13%) than sentencing young people through Court Services. Furthermore, when children who have attended diversionary schemes do commit another offence, their offending is likely to be less serious.

The Brent YJS Out of Court Disposal Service offers effective early interventions to children and young people and their families. Its effectiveness is monitored by a Metropolitan Police led Multi-Agency Scrutiny Panel, comprised of senior representatives from the police, CPS, Court Services, Judiciary, MOPAC and the YJB. The Scrutiny Panel audited six OOC cases in November 2022 and further six cases in June 2023. On both occasions decision making was agreed as correct without any comment for five cases, and the remaining one case was agreed as correct with some comment about process.

In 2023/24 the OOC Team will focus on:

- Consistently recording the voice of children within the assessment and planning process.
- Recording use of the RJ screening tool.
- Undertaking comprehensive risk assessments.
- Recording for Health and Prospects staff is detailed and shows impact.
- Maintaining a high level of professional debate within the OOC Panel.

Interventions young people who receive OOCs are subject to reflect their specific needs. For those referred for drug related offences or where assessment has identified substance misuse, one-to-one sessions are offered by the EACH Counselling substance misuse team. Sessions include the law and drugs, county lines drug dealing, gang culture, criminal exploitation, abstinence and harm minimisation. Other sessions delivered in 2022/23 included decision making, peer pressure, making better choices, online safety, sexually harmful behaviour, knife crime, weapon awareness, victim awareness, police one to one sessions, crime presentations, police led group sessions, and safety mapping.

### **9.39 YJS Triage Programme**

Triage is a form of community resolution that is offered to young people who would otherwise be likely to receive a criminal justice disposal. It is offered to young people who admit guilt to low gravity offences. The most common offence committed by children who take part in the Triage programme is possession of cannabis. The service is currently funded by MOPAC and has been identified as the most significant cause of the steep decline in the number of young people from Brent entering the criminal justice system. Children who complete Triage receive the same level of multiagency risk management that young people within the youth justice system receive.



#### 9.40 Case Work Practice and Quality Assurance

The YJS audit framework has been shaped by revised case management guidance and HMIP lines of enquiry. Throughout 2022/23, YJS cases were subject to ongoing case audits. Among other things, these focussed on risk, safeguarding, education, mental health, trauma, cultural competency and diversity. Learning from case audits is now a standing agenda item at YJS Team Meetings. Overall, audit results show an upward trajectory of good practice - especially around the quality of recorded outcomes. The two main areas where performance has been inconsistent are management oversight, and enforcement. Practice development sessions led by the Quality Assurance & Practice Development Manager are delivered monthly.

The Chair of the Youth Bench at Willesden Youth Court undertook an audit of PSRs in January 2023. Findings included a good standard of information about a child's journey, their views, family background, offence analysis, a good understanding of trauma, and clear sentencing proposals. It was also found that work was required to improve the provision of information from schools, greater clarity was needed about how other agencies would support desistance, reoffending histories should always be given chronologically, and victim impact statements should be routinely provided.

Brent YJS has also incorporated elements of Enhanced Case Management (ECM) into case management practice. ECM is a trauma-informed, psychology-led approach to working with children in YJSs based on the Trauma Recovery Model (TRM), which is used to tailor interventions in line with children's developmental needs. In March 2023, the *Enhanced Case Management (ECM): Evaluation Phase One Report - Opinion Research Services*, provided tentative findings on the benefits of ECM in a range of psychosocial outcomes. This included improved coping skills, and that children were better able to understand the impact of their behaviour. Improvements in children's aspirations, and goals were also reported. It also helped some children's engagement with the YJS and other agencies. The report showed that trauma-informed practice was now more embedded throughout Youth Justice sector and is starting to become embedded within partner agencies. Case managers were using ECM tools and techniques with their wider caseload, which reflects wider embedding of the approach. The child-focused, individually tailored nature of ECM was reported to have strengthened case manager's relationships with children.

Since 2017, the YJS has submitted ten Critical Learning Reviews (CLRs) to the Youth Justice Board on children and young people who have committed serious offences whilst under YOS supervision. Themes include housing issues, social media concerns, non-school attendance, escalating risks during period of transitions, practice issues within case management and the experiences of children impacted by the COVID pandemic. CLR's have taken place on two cases in 2022 highlighting the need for the impact of COVID 19 to be evidenced at the assessment and case planning stages. CLRs are discussed in team meetings and practice development sessions.

#### **9.41 Radicalisation or extremist activity**

In April 2023 the Youth Justice Board issued practice advice for youth justice services around the management of children at risk of engaging with or involvement in terrorist-related activity. The practice advice was developed to support youth justice services in the identification and management of children at risk of, or involved in, terrorist-related activity. This includes dealing with children posing a terrorist risk and those arrested and convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT).

During 2022, one Brent YJS young person, with strong Islamic fundamentalist views, was referred to the police and subsequently managed at level 2 within the local MAPPA scheme.

### **10.0 Performance Priorities**

In 2022/23, Brent YJS performed strongly in relation to its key performance indicators: reducing youth re-offending, the number of first-time entrants to the justice system and the use of youth custody. Continued good performance is central to our future priorities as well as recording and reporting the ten additional KPIs introduced from April 2023.

#### **10.1 Reoffending**

The binary rate of reoffending is the official measure of reoffending and the proportion of 'reoffenders' who make up the total cohort. Brent's overall trend appears to be that of a significantly fluctuating reoffending rate: 50% in January to March 2017, 62.2% in January to March 2018, 32.6% in January to March 2019, 39.6% in January to March 2020, and 14.9% in January to March 2021. When a longer term 12-month average is used the rate tends to remain below 50% and suggests a downward trend in rates of reoffending in recent years.

#### **10.2 First Time Entrants (FTEs)**

The long-term trend for FTEs is that of a fall in first time entrants, although between 2007/08 and 2018/19 Brent saw the lowest reduction in FTEs nationally. Brent's rate currently stands at 166 (October 2021 to September 2022) compared to 220 in the period October 2020 to September 2021.

### 10.3 Custody

Despite continued serious youth violence and gang involvement, the number of Brent young people sentenced to custody has reduced from a high of 54 in 2013/14, to six in the twelve-month period ending January 2021 to December 2021, to three in the latest period (January 22 to December 2022).

Remands	2020/21 Remands	2021/2022 Remands	Current Remands
Black	9 (60%)	1 (25%)	2 (100%)
Other BAME	4 (26.6%)	3 (75%)	0 (0%)
Total BAME	13 (86.6%)	4 (100%)	2(100%)
White	2 (13.3%)	0 (0%)	0(0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

Brent YJS is proactive when dealing with remands to custody through the preparation of written bail packages and applications. This includes management oversight and quality assurance of all bail and remand decisions, changing the bail template to include a narrative on the child's history, lived experience and trauma, and having a default approach that 'children will be given bail' in most instances. At Risk of Custody, meetings are held regularly to help avoid the unnecessary use of custody. In March 2023, two of these three children were remanded in custody.

**10.4 Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation:** The Youth Justice Board produces a quarterly Serious Youth Violence (SYV) Data Tool. The tool shows trends in SYV offences, which are defined as any drug, robbery or violence against the person offence that has a gravity score of five or more. The latest version (January 2023) contains (provisional) data up to December 2022. The tool indicates that serious youth violence has increased in the year ending December 2022 compared with the previous year. The tool also indicates that drug offences have increased significantly in the year ending December 2022 compared to the previous year.

Children and young people who committed SYV offences were predominantly from Black heritage groups in 2021 (49%) and 2022 (53%). Although this is a significant overrepresentation it represents a reduction when compared to 2020 (77%), and 2019 (72%). Males make up the biggest proportion of children and young people committing SYV offences. In the year ending December 2022, 96% of the cohort were Male compared to 82% in 2021 and 77% in 2020.

## 10.5 Education

The Brent School Exclusion Annual Report (October 2022) revealed that both permanent and fixed term exclusions from Secondary and Primary schools in Brent reduced in the 2021/22 academic year. There has also been a decline in both the number of fixed term exclusions that were for boys of Black Caribbean heritage – when comparing 2021/22 (129) to 2018/19 (199) - the academic year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020/21, 22 pupils were permanently excluded from Brent secondary schools – five of these were non-Brent residents. Additionally, nine Brent resident pupils were permanently excluded from schools located in neighbouring authorities.

## 10.6 National Standards Audit and Subsequent Reviews

The Youth Justice Board required YJS to assess how well they complied with 2019 National Standards. The review in Brent took place between November 2019 and March 2020, across five new Youth Justice National Standards themes. Members of the YJS Management Board led the review. They were supported by YJS Managers and operational staff to form one small working group for each standard. The review covered strategic and operational practice.

All five National Standards: Out of court disposals, at Court, the Community, in Secure Settings, and Transitions, were rated good for both the strategic and operational self-assessments. Results mirrored the good practice identified within the HMIP Inspection of Brent Youth Justice Services in September 2019. Reports on progress made against improvement recommendations were presented to the YJS Management Board in June 2020, October 2020, April 2021 and July 2021. YOS Team managers have been trained to audit national standards. A review of the Court National Standard will commence in July 2023.

## 11.0 Challenges and Risks and Issues

The current cost of living crisis will provide significant challenges for children, young people, and their families. It will exacerbate tensions within the home, affect mental health and produce poor ETE outcomes. Similarly, the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for children and for many there will be legacy issues. For example, many children have been exposed to hardships that have affected their physical and mental health, experienced increased poverty and social deprivation, and experienced loneliness and a loss of support networks. For children from Black and Minority Ethnic communities, the impact of loss has been comparatively greater. To respond successfully to these challenges there may well be resource and capacity concerns within the YJS in the years ahead. The effects of these socio-economic factors in Brent cannot be fully predicted but it is possible for example, that robbery and other forms of acquisitional crime may increase.

Strong leadership, good governance, and a committed and determined workforce provide Brent with good reason to feel confident about achieving our ambitions for 2023/24. We trust our stakeholders and partners provide the support needed to ensure we respond effectively to the challenges that accompany the introduction of ten new performance KPIs. Brent's commitment to ongoing youth justice improvement and innovation is nonetheless resource dependent. Brent has worked creatively and flexibly to protect and improve frontline service provision. However, unanticipated reductions to funding contributions in 2023/24 would pose a risk to the current concerted partnership effort to reduce serious youth violence, reoffending and improve outcomes for children and young people in the criminal justice system.

## 12.0 Service Improvement Plan and Looking Forward 2023-24

Brent is committed to the priorities outlined in the YJB Business Plan 2023-24, and instructions given by Government Ministers. In keeping with this, the following are the principal aims and commitments that will shape the Brent YJS partnership in the year ahead.

- Promote evidence-based Child First approaches as the best means to reducing victims, promoting public protection, keeping communities safe and supporting children towards positive outcomes
- Continue to build a YJS partnership culture that encourages diversity in its workforce and in its thinking; is inclusive and supportive, encourages personal responsibility and is delivery focused.
- Embed the ten new additional KPIs introduced by the YJB - with help from partners to produce the required data on a quarterly basis.
- Support Police and Crime Commissioners and Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in their oversight of the Serious Violence Duty: to work together with specified authorities to establish a 'strategic needs assessment that identifies the drivers of serious violence in the local area and the cohort of people most at risk or most affected by serious violence.
- Ensure the YJS partnership is prepared for the next round of HMIP Inspection starting in 2024, through a YJS focussed programme of case file audits, and thematic Practice Development sessions.
- Implement and develop the Brent YJS Disproportionality Action Plan, and provide updates to the YJS Management Board
- Oversee and manage the Turnaround project introduced in 2022. Ensure that interventions show outcomes and impact, are evidenced based and delivered to high quality standards – and that Turnaround funding is used effectively to meet the aims and outcomes of the programme.
- Block the use of TikTok on any corporate devices used to access MoJ data.

The above aims and actions will be included within the annual Brent Youth Justice Improvement Plan 2023/24. Activity will continue to focus upon our key themes to improve our performance, tackle serious youth violence, strengthen our partnership culture, improve

our prevention offer, strengthen our staff and workforce, become more evidenced based and creative in our practice, and be inspection ready.

### **13.0 Evidence-based Practice and Innovation**

Brent has learnt much from evidence-based practice and will seek to adopt any new approach that has the potential to improve outcomes for Brent residents. To this end Brent will closely monitor research commissioned by the Youth Engagement Fund via their research toolkit, which provides access to many promising approaches to addressing offending behaviour - and in particular methods that prevent serious youth violence. This includes mentoring which according to research reduces violence by 21%, all offending by 14%, and reoffending by 19%.

Work with community organisations to identify alternative forms of engagement with young people will also be explored. This will include coproduction and participation methods, such as the use of podcasts and multimedia, that enable young people to learn and express their views about offending and its impact upon their communities.

YJS will continue to extend access to the Brent Your Choice programme across the CYP Directorate. Funded by the Youth Endowment Fund, it has shown promising signs that the use of CBT techniques, as part of a 12-week programme, can achieve positive results with children and young people confronting complex challenges. Brent is currently comparing data from the Treated Group (those receiving CBT) to the Controlled Group (those that have not) to ascertain whether providing CBT sessions produces better outcomes than traditional YJS interventions.

#### 14.YJS Partnership Budget 2023/24

Brent uses Youth Justice Board funding exclusively for the delivery of a range and variety of youth justice provision, aligned to effective practice and the achievement of the youth justice core outcomes.

Agency	Cash	In-Kind Contributions	Partnership Funding	Total
Brent Council	£723,290	-	-	£723,290
Police	-	£120,000	-	£120,000
National Probation	£5,000	£50,000	-	£55,000
Health Service	-	£100,000	-	£100,000
MOPAC	£45,000	-	-	£45,000
Youth Justice Board	£571,452	-	-	£571,452
Other Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	£114,000	-	-	£114,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,458,742</b>	<b>£270,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£1,728,742</b>

**Sign off, submission and approval**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Kudhail', with a small horizontal line underneath.

**Signed**

**Palvinder Kudhail**

**Chair of the Brent Youth and Youth Justice Service**

**Management Board**



## Appendix 1 YJS Management Board Membership

Name	Job Title	Sector / Partnership Area
Nigel Chapman	Corporate Director	CYP Brent Council
Palvinder Kudhail	Director – Integration and Improved Outcomes	CYP Brent Council
Serita Kwofie	Head of Early Help	CYP Brent Council
Vivien Dean	Head Teacher of Brent River College	Education
Kathryn Hunt	Head of Probation Delivery Unit	Probation Service
John Beckles	Clinical Commissioning Manager	CCG – Health
Andy Brown	Head of Substance Misuse	Public Health
DI Cheryl Frost	Detective Inspector North West Borough Command Unit Metropolitan Police	Metropolitan Police
Kelli Eboji	Head of Looked After Children and Permanency	CYP Brent Council
Stephen Gordon	Head of Localities	CYP Brent Council
Rachel Summerfield	Magistrate – Chair of the Youth Bench	Willesden Magistrates Court
James Salter	Youth and Youth Justice Manager	CYP Brent Council
Catherine Williams-Baffoe	Deputy Youth Justice Manager	CYP Brent Council
Antoinette Morgan	Quality Assurance & Practice Development Manager	CYP Brent Council

Chris Murray	Chief Executive Young Brent Foundation	Young Brent Foundation – Voluntary Sector
Bhavita Gohel	Performance Advisor Youth Justice Board	Youth Justice Board

#### Dates of the YJS Management Board Meetings

Meetings 2023/24
28 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
19 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
19 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

#### Appendix 2: Staff Structure

The Youth and Youth Justice Manager reports to the Head of Early Help

YJS Staffing Structure 2023 – 24		
Post	FTE	Funding Source
Youth & Youth Justice Manager	1	YJB/Brent Council

Deputy Youth Justice Manager	1	YJB/Brent Council
Quality Assurance & Practice Development Manager	1	YJB/Brent Council
Team Managers	5	YJB/Brent Council
Restorative Justice Lead	1	YJB/Brent Council
Case Managers	13	YJB/Brent Council
Data Quality Officer	1	YJB/Brent Council
Family Support Key Worker 1	1	Turnaround / MoJ
Early intervention Officer – Triage	1	MOPAC
Reparations Worker	0.5	YJB/Brent Council
<b>Total</b>		<b>25.5</b>

The service wide YJS staff group of 25.5 FTE is supplemented by the following 10.6 FTE secondments and colocation arrangements:

<b>Post</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Police Officer	3.0
Seconded Probation Officer	0.6
Prospects Employment Advisor	1
CAMHS Practitioner	1
YJLD Liaison and Diversion (CNWL)	1
WDP Substance Misuse	1
EACH Counselling – family support	2

St Giles Gangs Mentor	1
<b>10.6</b>	

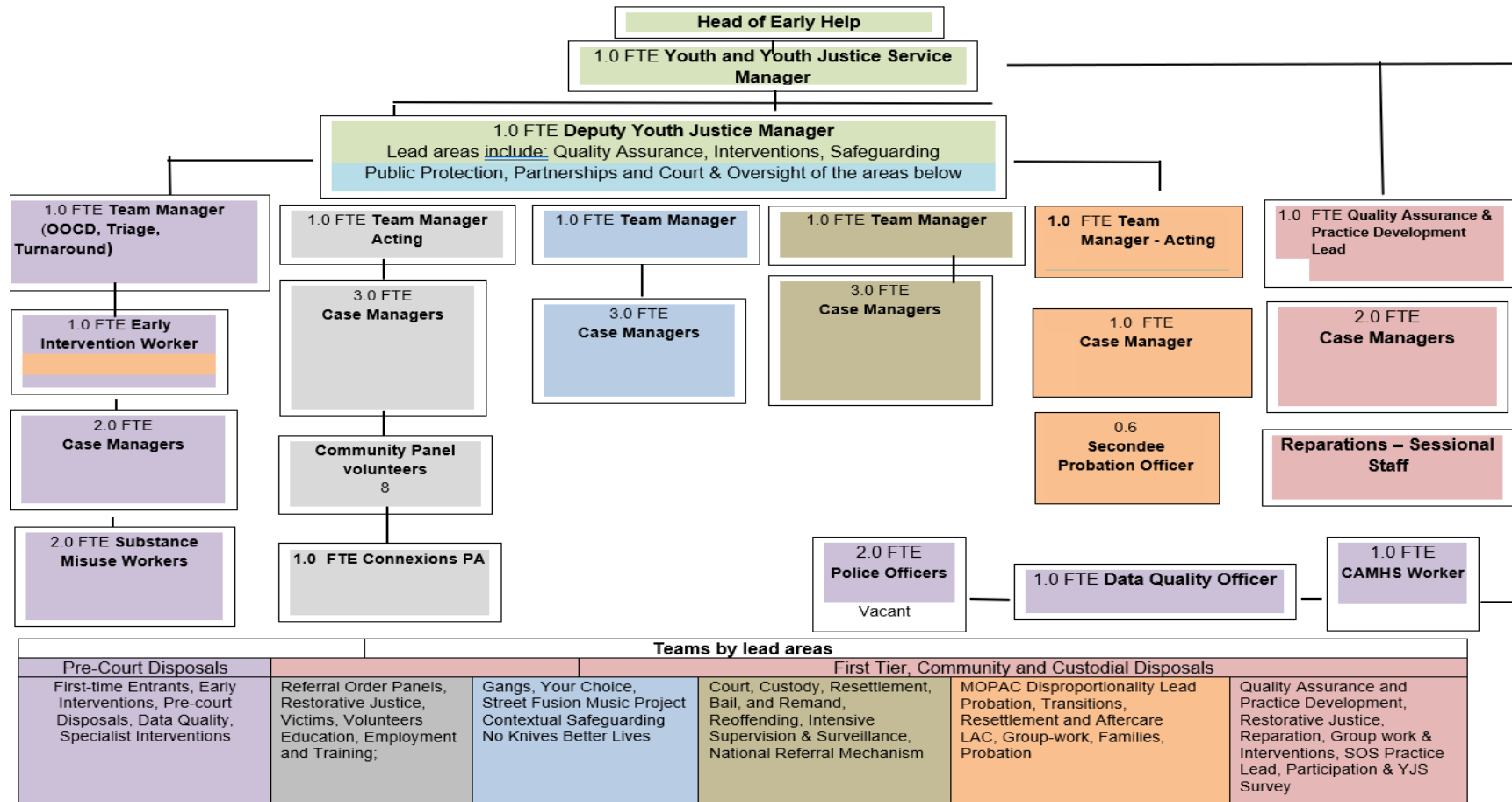
**Staff by gender and ethnicity** (There are no staff currently registered as disabled)

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Total</b>
Female	28
Male	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Total</b>
BAME	30
Prefer not to say	0
White	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>

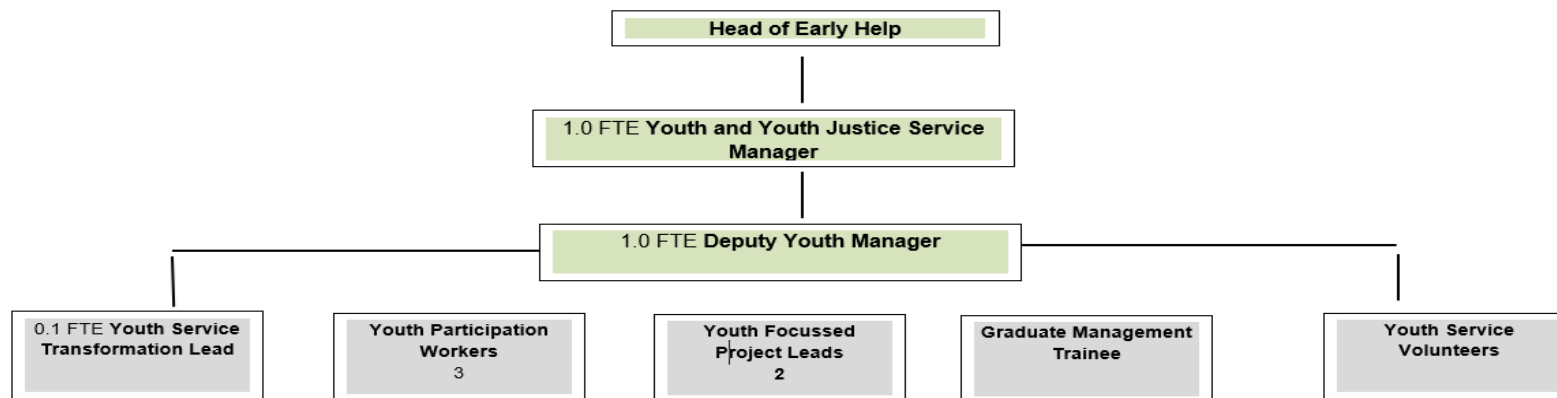
**Brent Youth Justice Service Staff Structure 2023/24**

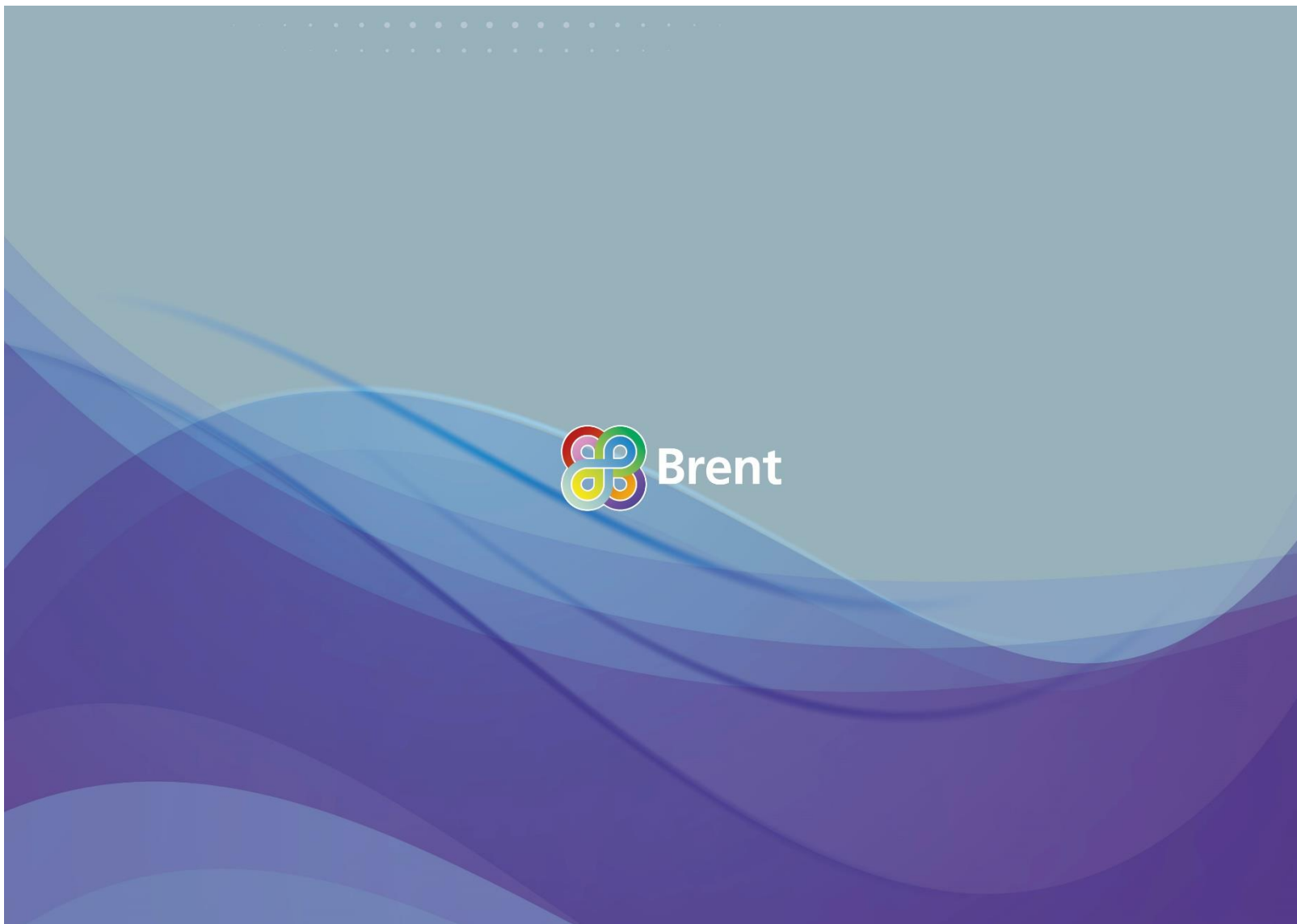
# Youth Justice Service Structure



## Brent Youth Service Staff Structure 2023/24


### Youth Justice Service Structure





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	<b>Council</b> 18 September 2023
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources</b>
	<b>Lead Cabinet Member – Finance, Resources &amp; Reform (Councillor Tatler)</b>
<b>Treasury Management Outturn Report 2022/23</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	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>List of Appendices:</b>	Six: Appendix 1: Debt and Investment Portfolio Appendix 2: Prudential Indicators Appendix 3: Internal Investments – Average Rate vs Credit Risk Appendix 4: MRP Strategy 2021/22 Appendix 5: MRP Strategy 2022/23 Appendix 6: MRP Strategy 2023/24
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Amanda Healy, Head of Finance Tel: 020 8937 5912 <a href="mailto:Amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk">Amanda.healy@brent.gov.uk</a>  Sacha Bakhtiar, Senior Finance Analyst Tel: 020 8937 4039 <a href="mailto:Sacha.bakhtiar@brent.gov.uk">Sacha.bakhtiar@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report updates members on Treasury Management activity and confirms that the Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2022/23.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to note and approve, following its consideration by Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 18 July 2023 and Cabinet on 11 September

2023 the 2022-23 Treasury Management outturn report and the MRP Strategies in Appendix 4-6, in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code).

- 2.2 Council is asked to note that for 2022 - 23 the Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators which were approved by Full Council on 22 February 2022 as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Capital Strategy Statement.

### **3.0 Detail**

#### **3.1 Cabinet Member Foreword**

- 3.1.1 The contribution of the Treasury Management function is critical to ensuring the Council's cash flow is adequately planned and managed. The function's activities underpin all Borough Plan priorities in providing cash management for all Council services and ensuring affordability for projects within the Capital Programme. The operations look to optimise the effect of borrowing costs and investment income whilst managing the risks associated with those activities in line with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy approved by Full Council in February 2022. The economic climate has been extremely volatile following the outbreak of war in Ukraine and the approach taken with the economy under the previous Prime Minister with rising inflation and interest rates. The report sets out details of how the function managed the Council's activities in accordance with the relevant professional codes and legislation during 2022/23.

#### **3.2 Background**

- 3.2.1 The Council's treasury management activity is underpinned by the CIPFA Code, which requires authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year for 22/23.
- 3.2.2 The Council has borrowed money over the long term to support investment in the Council's infrastructure and also invests cash balances held for short periods. It is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are central to the Council's treasury management strategy.
- 3.2.3 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report.

- 3.2.4 The 2021 Prudential Code includes a requirement for local authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The Council's Capital Strategy, complying with CIPFA's requirement, was approved by full Council on 24 February 2022.

## **4.0 Economic Background**

- 4.1 The war in Ukraine continued to keep global inflation above central bank targets and the UK economic outlook remained relatively weak with the chance of a mild recession. The economic backdrop during the January to March period continued to be characterised by high energy and commodity prices, high inflation, and the associated impact on household budgets and spending.
- 4.2 Central Bank rhetoric and actions remained consistent with combatting inflation. The Bank of England, US Federal Reserve, and European Central Bank all increased interest rates over the period, even in the face of potential economic slowdowns in those regions.
- 4.3 Starting the financial year at 5.5%, the annual CPI measure of UK inflation rose strongly to hit 10.1% in July and then 11.1% in October. Inflation remained high in subsequent months but appeared to be past the peak, before unexpectedly rising again in February. Annual headline CPI registered 10.4% in February, up from 10.1% in January, with the largest upward contributions coming from food and housing. RPI followed a similar pattern during the year, hitting 14.2% in October. In February RPI measured 13.8%, up from 13.4% in the previous month.
- 4.4 The labour market remained tight albeit with some ongoing evidence of potential loosening at the end of the period. The unemployment rate 3mth/year eased from 3.8% April-June to 3.6% in the following quarter, before picking up again to 3.7% between October-December. The most recent information for the period December-February showed an unemployment rate of 3.7%. The inactivity rate was 21.3% in the December-February quarter, slightly down from the 21.4% in the first quarter of the financial year. Nominal earnings were robust throughout the year, with earnings growth in December-February at as 5.7% for both total pay (including bonuses) and 6.5% for regular pay. Once adjusted for inflation, however, both measures were negative for that period and have been so throughout most of the year.
- 4.5 The Bank of England increased the official Bank Rate from 0.75% to 4.25% during the financial year. It has continued to increase, reaching 5.00% in June 2023 with expectations of further increases being necessary, possibly to 5.5% by September as the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) attempt to prevent higher inflation and wage growth becoming embedded in the economy.
- 4.6 The Bank's credibility issues mean that it can no longer afford to wait until the effect of past increases in Bank Rate affect activity. This suggests that further monetary tightening is necessary to have the desired immediate effect on inflation.

- 4.7 The lagged effect of aggressive monetary tightening will increasingly pressure economic activity. A recession appears inevitable. Household spending will be affected by increases in mortgage payments, while business investment/spending will fall back due to higher borrowing costs. Unemployment will increase.
- 4.8 Uncertainty continued to be a key driver of financial market sentiment and bond yields remained relatively volatile due to concerns over elevated inflation and higher interest rates, as well as the likelihood of the UK entering a recession and for how long the Bank of England would continue to tighten monetary policy. Towards the end of the period, fears around the health of the banking system following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in the US and purchase of Credit Suisse by UBS caused further volatility.
- 4.9 During 2022/23; the 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield rose from 1.41% to peak at 4.70% in September before ending the financial year at 3.36%. Over the same timeframe the 10-year gilt yield rose from 1.61% to peak at 4.51% before falling back to 3.49%, while the 20-year yield rose from 1.82% to 4.96% and then declined to 3.82%. The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 2.24% over the period.
- 4.10 Despite household budgets remaining under pressure, consumer confidence rose to -36 in March, following readings of -38 and -45 in the previous two months, and much improved compared to the record-low of -49 in September. Quarterly GDP was soft through the year, registering a 0.1% gain in the April-June period, before contracting by (an upwardly revised) -0.1% in the subsequent quarter. For the October-December period was revised upwards to 0.1% (from 0.0%), illustrating a resilient but weak economic picture. The annual growth rate in Q4 was 0.6%.
- 4.11 The UK economy has been resilient in the face of the dual headwinds of inflation and interest rates, albeit the majority rise in Bank Rate is yet to impact households. Government cost of living support, stronger wage growth and household savings have had an offsetting effect, while timing issues around mortgage resets have delayed the impact of monetary tightening.
- 4.12 Global bond yields remain volatile, although UK gilt yields have been more affected by its seemingly idiosyncratic inflation issues. The Federal Reserve and other central banks see persistently higher policy rates through 2023 as key to dampening domestic inflationary pressure.
- 4.13 After reaching 9.1% in June, annual US inflation slowed for eight consecutive months to 6% in February. The Federal Reserve continued raising interest rates over the period with consecutive increases at each Federal Open Market Committee meetings, taking policy rates to a range of 4.75%- 5.00% at the March meeting.
- 4.14 From the record-high of 10.6% in October, Eurozone CPI inflation fell steadily to 6.9% in March 2023. Energy prices fell, but upward pressure came from food,

alcohol, and tobacco. The European Central Bank continued increasing interest rates over the period, pushing rates up by 0.50% in March, taking the deposit facility rate to 3.0% and the main refinancing rate to 3.5%.

## **5.0 Revised CIPFA code and PWLB Lending guidance**

- 5.1 In May 2022, HM Treasury provided updated guidance to local authorities to ensure their capital plans would be compliant with ongoing access to the PWLB borrowing facility, building upon lending terms originally published in November 2020.
- 5.2 The revised guidance clarified that “The PWLB will not typically advance new loans if there is a more than negligible risk that the newly advanced PWLB loan will not be repaid without future government support”. However, the guidance goes on to comment that authorities following the Prudential Code would generally be adequately managing risk.
- 5.3 The existing guidance provided by HM Treasury includes examples of permitted and prohibited use of PWLB funds. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield will not be able to access the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management. The restrictions do not impact the Council as we have any commercial activities within the Capital Programme.
- 5.4 CIPFA published its revised Prudential Code for Capital Finance and Treasury Management Code on 20th December 2021. The key changes in the two codes are around permitted reasons to borrow, knowledge and skills, and the management of non-treasury investments.
- 5.5 The principles of the Prudential Code took immediate effect although local authorities could defer introducing the revised reporting requirements until the 2023/24 financial year. The Council chose to delay introducing the revised reporting requirements until the 2023/24 financial year.
- 5.6 In March 2023, the PWLB launched a further borrowing rate at gilt yields + 0.40% for borrowing within the Housing Revenue Account, which became available on 15 June 2023. However, given the significant move in base rates since the announcement, borrowing is still significantly more expensive, so it is unlikely to have a material impact on the Council’s future borrowing plans. For Example, a 20-year EIP loan for the HRA at the time of the Spring Budget announcement would have achieved a rate of 3.91% however at the time of the rate launch the rate that could be achieved was 4.83%.

## **6.0 Local Context**

- 6.1 On 31st March 2022, the Council had total borrowing of £684.6m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The Council’s underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing

Requirement (CFR) while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: CFR and Borrowing Summary**

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

	<b>31.3.23 Actual £m</b>
General Fund CFR	851.4
HRA CFR	294.9
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>1,146.4</b>
*Other debt liabilities	36.2
<b>Borrowing CFR</b>	<b>1,182.6</b>
External borrowing	781.0
<b>Internal (over) borrowing</b>	
Less: Usable reserves	(491.2)
Less: Working capital	(173.6)
<b>Investments (or new borrowing)</b>	<b>116.2</b>

\* finance leases, PFI liabilities and transferred debt that form part of the Council's total debt

- 6.2 Higher interest rates have increased the cost of short-term loans. The Council pursued its strategy of keeping external borrowing lower than its underlying level by temporarily using cash held for other purposes, known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and minimise the interest costs incurred from external borrowing.
- 6.3 The treasury management position at 31st March 2023 and the change during the year is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	<b>31.3.22 Balance £m</b>	<b>Movement £m</b>	<b>31.3.23 Balance £m</b>	<b>31.3.23 Rate %</b>
Long-term borrowing	566.4	128.9	695.3	3.80%
Short-term borrowing	124.2	(38.5)	85.7	0.38%
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>690.6</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>781.0</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents:*				
Money Market Funds	98.6	17.6	116.2	<b>0.06%</b>
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>116.2</b>	
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>592.0</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>664.8</b>	

\* This relates to our short term Treasury investments (Money Market Funds and DMA deposits). Cash balances held are not deemed an investment so are not included in the above total.

6.4 Cash and cash equivalent investments represent deposits which are readily convertible into cash at immediate notice. Included within this total are Money Market Funds (MMF's) which are mutual funds which invest in high-quality short-term debt. Also included is the Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility (DMADF), which provides fixed deposits and is managed by the Debt Management Agency, which is a part of HM Treasury.

6.5 Borrowing has increased in the past year, in order to meet the requirements of our long-term Capital investment programme as internal cash resources were utilised.

## 7.0 Borrowing Strategy

7.1 At 31st March 2023 the Council held £781.0m of loans, (an increase of £96.4m in year), as part of its strategy for funding previous and current years' capital programmes. Outstanding loans on 31st March are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Borrowing Position

	<b>31.3.22 Balance £m</b>	<b>Net Movement £m</b>	<b>31.3.23 Balance £m</b>	<b>31.3.23 Weighted Average Rate %</b>	<b>31.3.23 Weighted Average Maturity (years)</b>
Public Works Loan Board	407.1	135.9	543.0	3.92	27.34
LOBO loans	70.5	-	70.5	4.68	42.63
Fixed Rate Loans (LT)	95.0	-	95.0	2.56	22.88
Local Authority Loans (ST)	112.0	(42.0)	70.0	3.01	0.39
Fixed Rate Loans (ST)	-	2.5	2.5	0	1
<b>Total External Borrowing</b>	<b>684.6</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>781.0</b>		

7.2 The Council has continued to borrow where necessary over the past year to meet the funding requirements of the agreed capital programmes.

7.3 The Council's borrowing decisions are not predicated on any one outcome for interest rates. In year, the proportion of long-term debt has increased as the Council has borrowed to meet the requirements of its capital programme. Securing the long-term rates achieved in-year provides certainty for the development plans, allowing for predictable cashflows long into the future.

- 7.4 The Council has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme and an estimated borrowing requirement as determined by the Liability Benchmark, which also takes into account usable reserves and working capital. Having considered the appropriate duration and structure of borrowing based on realistic projections, it was decided to take a combination of both short-term borrowing and long-term repayment loans (with a mixture of both EIP and Maturity loan structures). Details around the new loans taken out in the current financial year are provided below.

<b>Loan-dated Loans borrowed</b>	<b>Amount (£m)</b>	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>Period to maturity (years)</b>
PWLB EIP Loan	20	3.18	20
PWLB Maturity Loan	40	3.15	50
PWLB Maturity Loan	20	4.1	50
PWLB Maturity Loan	40	3.87	50
PWLB EIP Loan	20	3.96	20

- 7.5 The Council has assessed all alternate options to PWLB and will continue to do so in the future, working closely with its Treasury advisor Arlingclose. Where there are possibilities to secure lower cost funding, these will be reviewed. In particular, there may be options to seek lower cost funding around the development of the low carbon heat network in South Kilburn; with a number of public and private bodies able to provide financing.
- 7.6 The Council continues to hold £70.5m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate as set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. No banks exercised their option during the year.
- 7.7 Due to the higher interest rate environment, there is an increased possibility that the options within our existing LOBO's will be exercised. Three LOBOs with a total value of £26m have options dates during 23/24. We will work closely with our Treasury advisers to identify and review the optimal solution if these options are exercised.

### **Minimum Revenue Provision**

- 7.8 The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is the charge to revenue made in respect of paying off the principal sum of the borrowing undertaken to finance the capital programme. The statutory guidance provides options for calculating



a charge that is considered prudent. The approach for this calculation is approved as part of the budget setting process each February by Full Council in the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement.

- 7.9 A review of the MRP calculation was undertaken following a recommendation from our external auditors which has resulted in a change in approach for assets acquired prior to 2008. The expected economic life of these assets has been revised downwards from 100 years to 49 years following the change in approach for calculating the economic life of land. The updated MRP statements for the years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 are included in Appendix 4-6.

## 8.0 Investment Activity

- 8.1 CIPFA published a revised Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes on 20th December 2021. These define treasury management investments as investments that arise from the organisation's cash flows or treasury risk management activity that ultimately represents balances that need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business.
- 8.2 The Council holds invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves. During the year, the Council's investment balances ranged between £72.7m and £159.5m due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position is shown in table 4 below.
- 8.3 The CIPFA Treasury Management Code requires local authorities to consider their counterparty policies in light of environmental, social and governance (ESG) information. The Council has regard to funds who have signed up to ESG related initiatives, including the UN Principles for responsible investment, the UK Stewardship Code and the Net-Zero Asset Managers Initiative.

Table 4: Treasury Investment Position

	31.3.22	Net	31.3.23	31.3.23	31.3.23
	Balance	Movement	Balance	Income Return	Weighted Average Maturity
	£m	£m	£m	%	days
Local authority deposit	-	-	-	2.77	30.76
Money Market Funds	98.6	17.6	116.2	2.16	1
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>116.2</b>		

- 8.4 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.
- 8.5 Increasing interest rates have led to improved returns on our short-dated holdings. At 31<sup>st</sup> March, the Council achieved circa 4.1% from MMF holdings, which compares to 0.6% a year earlier. Rates have increased throughout the year, notwithstanding the volatility around the time of the mini-budget.
- 8.6 Given the higher interest rate environment and the Council's need to hold cash for day-to-day requirements, deposits have been held in short term investments, providing the Council with improved liquidity. This has also led to increased investment income given the increased deposit rates that followed from changes in the Bank of England base rate. There was also a focus on holding funds with high credit ratings, providing increased security over the Council's investment portfolio.
- 8.7 The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in the extracts from Arlingclose's quarterly investment benchmarking in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Investment Benchmarking – Treasury investments managed in-house

	<b>Credit Score</b>	<b>Credit Rating</b>	<b>Bail-in Exposure</b>	<b>Weighted Average Maturity (days)</b>	<b>Rate of Return %</b>
31.03.2022	5.06	A+	100%	1	0.52%
31.03.2023	5.03	A+	100%	1	4.08%
<b>Similar LAs</b>	4.71	A+	61%	32	2.24%
<b>All LAs</b>	4.71	A+	<b>59%</b>	12	<b>1.59%</b>

\*Weighted average maturity

- 8.8 In light of Russia's invasion, Arlingclose contacted the fund managers of our MMF funds and confirmed no direct exposure to Russian or Belarusian assets had been identified.

### **Non-Treasury Investments**

- 8.9 The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised 2021 Treasury Management Code covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the Council holds primarily for financial return. Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e. management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes

(made explicitly to further service objectives) and or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return). The non-Treasury investments are held to further service objectives and are therefore categorised as for service purposes. The non-Treasury investments are classified under shareholdings to subsidiaries and loans to subsidiaries, detailed in 8.10 below. The Council received approximately £3m of gross income from commercial property during the year. Investment property of £14.1m was held at year end.

- 8.10 Investment Guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Welsh Government also broadens the definition of investments to include all such assets held partially or wholly for financial return.
- 8.11 The Council also held £256.3m of such investments in:
- Shareholding in subsidiaries £103.5m.
  - Loans to subsidiaries £152.8m.
- 8.12 I4B Holdings Limited is a company wholly owned by Brent Council that was incorporated on 16 December 2016. The primary purpose of the company is to deliver the housing options defined in the Temporary Accommodation reform plan. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the Council had provided funding of £182.1m to i4B (2021/22: £126.0m) which are secured against the company's properties. The Council received £5.2m (2021/22: £4.0m) in interest and fees for loans to I4B. The loans are secured against the properties held within the company.
- 8.13 First Wave Housing (FWH) is a registered provider of housing in Brent and is wholly owned by Brent Council. FWH was setup to manage properties previously owned by Brent Housing Partnership (BHP). The Council received £0.7m (2021/22: £1.1m) in interest for loans to FWH. As of 31 March 2023, there were outstanding loans to Brent Council totalling £34.7m (2021/22: £35.1m) which are secured against the properties held within the company.
- 8.14 These investments generated £5.9m (2021/22 £5.1m) of income for the Council in 2022/23. This investment income covers the borrowing cost of investing in housing through wholly owned subsidiaries. These borrowing costs would be incurred by the Council regardless of the method through which the Council develops new housing, however this is the vehicle of choice for such investments.

## **9.0 Compliance**

- 9.1 The Corporate Director for Finance and Resources reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the year complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy.
- 9.2 Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is demonstrated within Appendix 2 (Debt Limits).

## **10.0 Investment Training**

- 10.1 The needs of the Council's treasury management staff for training in investment management are kept under review. These are considered as part of the staff appraisal process and additionally when the responsibilities of individual members of staff change.

## **11.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

- 11.1 As a statutory report presenting the Council's Treasury Management activity from the year, this report has been reviewed by the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee with a recommendation for review by Cabinet.

## **12.0 Financial Considerations**

- 12.1 The financial implications are noted in the report.

## **13.0 Legal Considerations**

- 13.1 None identified.

## **14.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

- 14.1 There are no equality, diversity and inclusion considerations arising from this report.

## **15.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

- 15.1 As part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, the Council will ensure an assessment is made with regards to environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters for the council's long-term investments. There were no new long-term investments made during 2022/23.

## **16.0 Communication Considerations**

- 16.1 No additional communication strategies are required for this report.

Related documents for reference:

Full Council report 24 February 2022 - 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy

### **Report sign off:**

***Minesh Patel***

Corporate Director for Finance and Resources

## Appendix 1

### Debt and Portfolio Investment Position 31/03/2023

## Appendix 1

### Debt and Investment Portfolio 31/03/23

	Actual Portfolio £m 31/03/2023	Average Rate as at 31/03/2023 %
<b>External Borrowing:</b>		
PWLB - Maturity	378.9	5.4
PWLB - Equal Instalments	159.8	2.5
Fixed Rate Market Loans	95.0	2.8
LOBO Loans	70.5	4.5
Short-term Loans	70	6.5
Accrued interest and other loans	6.8	0.0
<b>Total External Borrowing</b>	<b>781.0</b>	
<b>Other Long Term Liabilities:</b>		
PFI	18.8	9.5
Finance Leases	7.7	4.1
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>26.5</b>	
<b>Total Gross External Debt</b>	<b>807.5</b>	
<b>Investments:</b>		
Money Market Funds	116.2	2.2
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>116.2</b>	
<b>Net Debt</b>	<b>691.3</b>	

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## Appendix 2

### Prudential Indicators

#### (a) Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

The Council's cumulative maximum external borrowing requirement for 2022/23 is shown in the table below.

<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>31/03/2023 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2023 Actual £m</b>
General Fund	813.6	851.4
HRA	312.0	294.9
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>1,125.6</b>	<b>1,146.4</b>

#### (b) Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

In order to ensure that over the medium term, debt will only be for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years. This is a key indicator of prudence.

<b>Debt</b>	<b>31/03/2023 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2023 Actual £m</b>	<b>31/03/2024 Forecast £m</b>	<b>31/03/2025 Forecast £m</b>	<b>31/03/2026 Forecast £m</b>
Borrowing	760.2	781.0	696.0	685.4	676.0
PFI Liabilities	18.8	18.8	18.8	16.7	14.8
Other	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	6.5
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>786.7</b>	<b>807.5</b>	<b>722.5</b>	<b>709.8</b>	<b>697.3</b>
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>1,125.6</b>	<b>1,146.4</b>	<b>1,332.2</b>	<b>1,537.3</b>	<b>1,604.9</b>
<b>Borrowing in excess of CFR?</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

#### (c) Authorised limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt

The Operational Boundary for External Debt is based on the Council's estimate of most likely i.e. prudent, but not worst case scenario for external debt. It links directly

to the Council's estimates of capital expenditure, the capital financing requirement and cash flow requirements and is a key management tool for in-year monitoring.

Other long-term liabilities comprise finance leases, Private Finance Initiative contracts and other liabilities that are not borrowing but form part of the Council's debt.

The Authorised Limit for External Debt is the affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003. It is the maximum amount of debt that the Council can legally owe. The authorised limit provides headroom over and above the operational boundary for unusual cash movements.

	<b>Operational Boundary £m</b>	<b>Authorised Limit £m</b>	<b>Actual External Debt £m 31/03/2023</b>
Borrowing	1,500.0	1,700.0	781.0
Other Long Term Liabilities			26.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500.0</b>	<b>1,700.0</b>	<b>807.5</b>

The Director of Finance confirms that there were no breaches to the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary during 2022/23.

**(d) Upper Limits on one-year revenue impact of a 1% movement in interest rates**

This indicators is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investment will be replaced at current rates.

	<b>2022/23 Approved Limits £m</b>	<b>31/03/2023 Actual £m</b>
<b>Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates</b> Compliance with limits:	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.9</b> Yes
<b>Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates</b> Compliance with limits:	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.9</b> Yes



### (e) Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing

This indicator is to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates. The Council uses the option date as the maturity date for its LOBO loans.

Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual Fixed Rate Borrowing at 31/3/2023	% of Fixed Rate Borrowing at 31/3/2023	Compliance with set limits?
	%	%	£m	%	Yes / No
Under 12 months	40%	0%	110.7	14%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	40%	0%	25.9	3%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%	52.7	7%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	60%	0%	51.8	7%	Yes
10 years and within 20 years	75%	0%	124.3	16%	Yes
20 years and within 30 years	75%	0%	121.3	16%	Yes
30 years and within 40 years	75%	0%	189.3	24%	Yes
40 years and within 50 years	75%	0%	105.0	13%	Yes
50 years and above	75%	0%	0	0%	Yes
			<b>781.0</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### (f) Capital Expenditure

The indicator is set to ensure that the level of proposed capital expenditure remains within sustainable limits and, in particular, to consider the impact on Council tax and in the case of the HRA, housing rent levels.

Capital Expenditure	31/03/2023 Estimate £m	31/03/2023 Actual £m
General Fund	173.0	147.4
HRA	59.4	45.2
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>232.4</b>	<b>192.6</b>

### **(g) Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream**

This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet financing costs, net of investment income.

<b>Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream</b>	<b>31/03/2023 Estimate</b>	<b>31/03/2023 Actual</b>
Financing costs Proportion of net revenue stream (%)	36.5 12.6%	29.7 7.8%

### **(h) Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code**

This indicator demonstrates that the Council adopted the principals of best practice.

Statement: The Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021.

### **(i) Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums invested over 364 Days**

The purpose of this limit is to contain exposure to the possibility of loss that may arise as a result of the Council having to seek early repayment of the sums invested.

<b>Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums Invested Over 364 Days</b>	<b>31/3/2023 Approved</b>	<b>31/3/2023 Actual</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Limit on principal invested beyond a year	50	0

### **(j) Security**

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

<b>Credit Risk Indicator</b>	<b>31/3/2023 Target</b>	<b>31/3/2023 Actual</b>
Portfolio average credit rating	A	A+

### **(k) Liquidity**

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing.

<b>Liquidity Risk Indicator</b>	<b>31/3/2023 Target £m</b>	<b>31/3/2023 Actual £m</b>
Total cash available within 3 months	20	116.2

### **(l) Investment Limits**

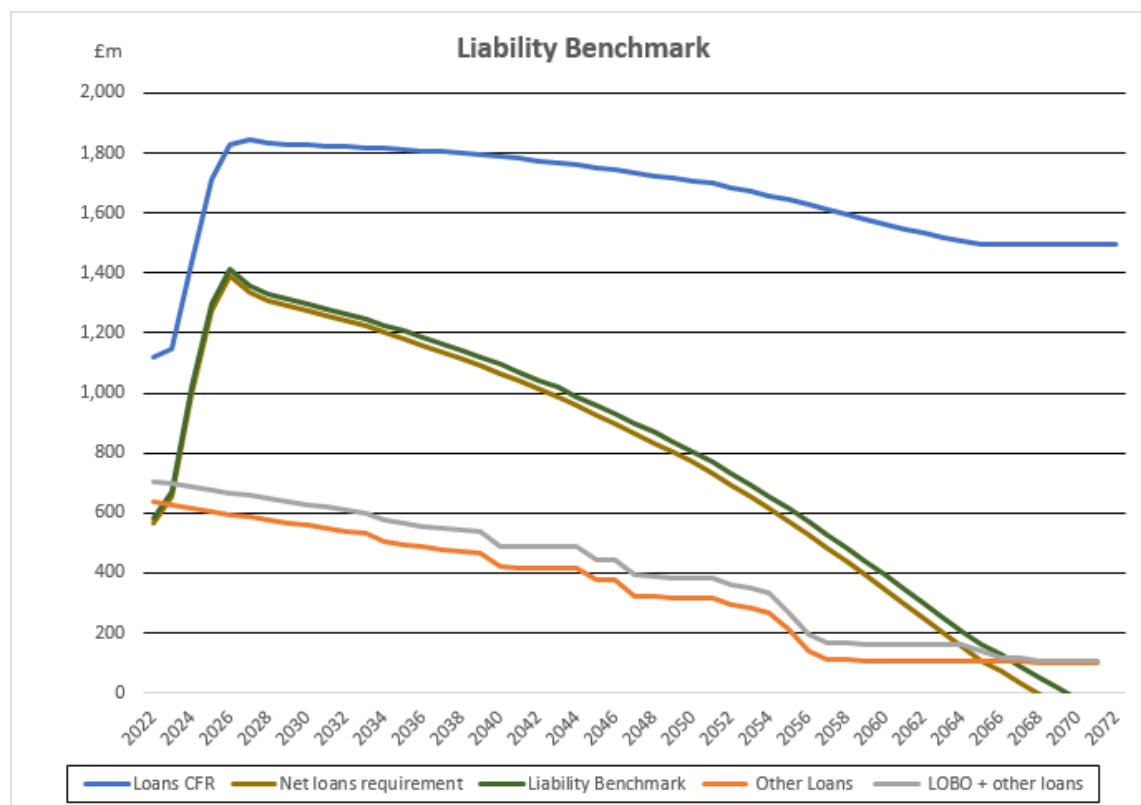
	<b>2022/23 Maximum £m</b>	<b>31/3/23 Actual £m</b>	<b>2022/23 Time Limit</b>	<b>Complied?</b>
Any single organisation, except the UK Government	20	-	n/a	Yes
UK Government	Unlimited	-	50 years	Yes
Local Authorities & Other Government Entities	Any	-	25 years	Yes
Banks (unsecured)	£20m	-	13 months	Yes
Building societies (unsecured)	£20m	-	13 months	Yes
Registered providers and registered social landlords	£20m	-	5 years	Yes
Secured investments	£20m	-	5 years	Yes

Money market funds	Lower of 5% of total net assets of the fund or £20m	£20m	n/a	Yes
Strategic pooled funds	£20m	-	n/a	Yes
Real estate investment trusts	£20m	-	n/a	Yes
Other investments	£50m	-	n/a	Yes

#### (m) Debt Limits

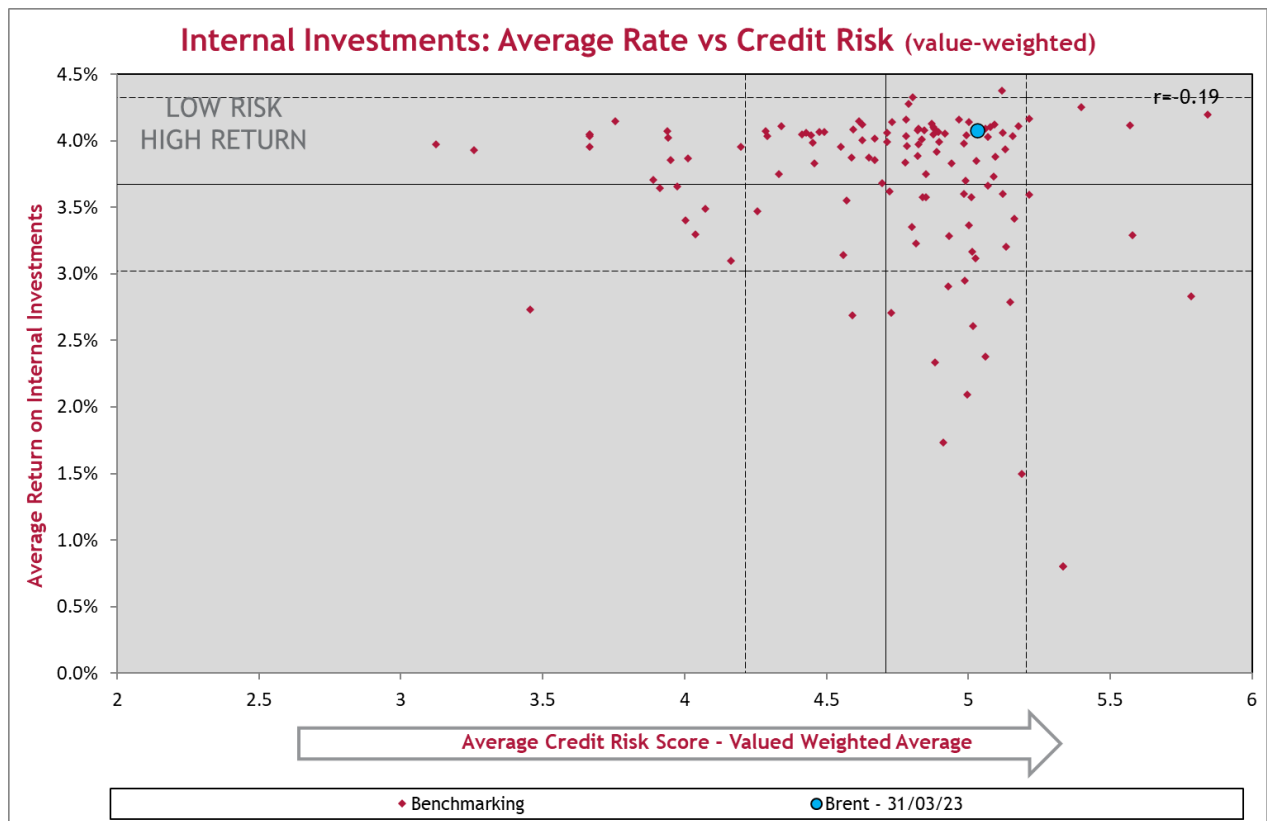
	2022/23 Maximum (£m)	31/3/23 Actual (£m)	2022/23 Operational Boundary (£m)	2022/23 Authorised Limit (£m)	Complied?
Total debt (including Other Long-term Liabilities)	1,500	807.5	1,500	1,700	Yes

#### (n) Liability Benchmark chart



## Appendix 3

### Internal Investments: Average Rate vs Credit Risk as at 31/03/2023



The Council measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities against similar Council's through benchmarking provided by Arlingclose.

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**Minimum Revenue Provision – 2021/22**

- 1.1. Where the Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to have regard to the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (the MHCLG Guidance) most recently issued in 2018.
- 1.2. The broad aim of the MHCLG Guidance is to ensure that capital expenditure is financed over a period that is either reasonable commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.
- 1.3. The Guidance requires Full Council (or a delegated body) to approve an MRP policy statement in advance of financial each year and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP.
- 1.4. In accordance with the current guidance for the calculation of MRP the following policy for non-HRA assets has been applied:
  - 1.4.1. For supported borrowing, the Council will use the asset life method (Option 3) and an 'annuity' approach for calculating repayments. Based on the useful economic lives of the council's assets, a single annuity has been calculated, which results in the outstanding principal being repaid over the course of forty-nine years.
  - 1.4.2. For prudential borrowing, the Council will adopt Option 3, 'the asset life method', and an 'annuity' approach for calculating repayments. This option allows provision for repayment of principal to be made over the estimated life of the asset. The use of the 'annuity' method is akin to a mortgage where the combined sum of principal and interest are equalised over the life of the asset.
  - 1.4.3. In line with the statutory guidance, MRP will be charged for finance leases at a rate equal to the amount that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.

- 1.4.4. MRP will include a charge equal to any capital lifecycle additions within the lease.
- 1.4.5. Where borrowing is undertaken for the construction of new assets, MRP will only become chargeable once such assets are completed and operational. Whilst this is not one of the options in the MHCLG Guidance, it is thought to be a prudent approach since it ensure that the capital expenditure incurred on the loan is fully funded over the life of those assets.
- 1.4.6. The Council reserve the right to charge a £nil MRP where the conditions set out in paragraph 26 of the statutory guidance have been met.
- 1.5. The asset lives which will be applied to different classes of assets are as shown in table 1, however the Council reserves the right to determine useful life periods and prudent MRP in exceptional circumstances where the recommendations of the guidance would not be appropriate.

**Table 1**

<b>Asset Type</b>	<b>Years</b>
Vehicles and equipment	5 to 15 years
Capital repairs to roads and buildings	15 to 25 years
Purchase of buildings	30 to 40 years
New construction	40 to 60 years
Purchase of land	50 to 100 years

- 1.6. Based on the Council's latest estimate of its capital financing requirement (CFR) on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, the MRP budget for 2021/22 has been set at £11.6m.



**Minimum Revenue Provision – 2022/23**

- 1.1. Where the Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to have regard to the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (the MHCLG Guidance) most recently issued in 2018.
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Purchase of buildings	30 to 40 years
New construction	40 to 60 years
Purchase of land	50 to 100 years

- 1.6. Based on the Council's latest estimate of its capital financing requirement (CFR) on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, the MRP budget for 2022/23 has been set at £14.5m.

**Minimum Revenue Provision – 2023/24**

- 1.1. Where the Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to have regard to the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (the MHCLG Guidance) most recently issued in 2018.
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Purchase of buildings	30 to 40 years
New construction	40 to 60 years
Purchase of land	50 to 100 years

- 1.6. Based on the Council's latest estimate of its capital financing requirement (CFR) on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the MRP budget for 2023/24 has been set at £15.2m.

	<b>Full council</b> 18 September 2023
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director of Governance</b>
<b>Changes to the Constitution</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>List of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1: Proposed amendments to the Constitution
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Debra Norman Corporate Director of Resources Tel: 020 8937 1578 Email: Debra.norman@brent.gov.uk

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report proposes changes to the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board and to the arrangements for withdrawal of Motions.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To agree the changes to the Constitution set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To authorise the Corporate Director of Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.
- 2.3 To note that, to the extent that the changes relate to executive functions of the Council, they have been approved by the Leader.

## 3.0 Detail

### **3.1 Contribution to the Borough Plan and Strategic Priorities**

- 3.1.1 Ensuring the Constitution is kept up to date and supportive of good governance contributes to the delivery of all of the strategic priorities within the Borough Plan by supporting and enhancing the Council's activity.

### **3.2 Background**

#### **3.2.1 Terms of Reference – Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)**

The HWB undertook an annual review of its terms of reference at its meeting on 25 July 2023 and agreed to propose some amendments. These relate to formatting, title corrections and the following three substantive changes:

- In Paragraph 4 - to formalise the current Vice Chair arrangements by specifying the GP representative of the North West London Integrated Care System will be the vice-chair.
- In Paragraph 6 - to specify the quorum for the HWB must include a member of the Brent Integrated Care Partnership.
- In Paragraph 7.10 – an amendment to reflect the delegation of the approval of the pharmaceutical needs assessment.

- 3.2.2 The proposed revised terms of reference are contained in the Appendix to this report.

#### **3.2.3 Withdrawal of Motions**

- 3.2.4 An issue arose at the last Council meeting about withdrawal of Motions which have been submitted under SO41.

- 3.2.5 Currently the rules for debate contained in Standing Order 42 only permit withdrawal or alteration of a Motion with the consent of the Council. The Standing Order does not distinguish between Motions which have already been formally moved and those which have not. There is therefore a lack of clarity about what happens in each circumstance and in particular about who can move the Motion if a Proposer no longer wishes to.

- 3.2.6 The most straightforward way to create a clear position is for Standing Order 42 to be amended to provide specifically for each situation. It is therefore proposed that Standing Orders be amended to permit a Motion to be withdrawn by the Proposer at any time up to it being moved, but to continue to require any alternation or withdrawal following that stage to be approved by Council.

### **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

- 4.1 None for the purposes of this report

### **5.0 Financial Considerations**

- 5.1 None

## **6.0 Legal Considerations**

6.1 These are contained in the body of the report.

## **7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

7.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council has a duty when exercising its functions to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not. This is the public sector equality duty. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

7.2 “Due regard” is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances. The weight to be attached to the effect is a matter for the council. As long as the council is properly aware of the effects and has taken them into account, the duty is discharged. Depending on the circumstances, regard should be had to the following:

- the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision;
- the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- the need to take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes taking account of disabled persons’ disabilities. There can be a positive duty to take action to help a disabled person. What matters is how they are affected, whatever proportion of the relevant group of people they might be;
- the need to encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life (or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low); and
- the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

7.3 No equalities implications arise directly from this report.

## **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

8.1 None

## **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

9.1 None

## 10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 None

**Report sign off:**

**Debra Norman**

Corporate Director of Governance



# Appendix 1

## PART 2 - Procedural Rules

### BRENT COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

.....

- 42 (l) A motion or amendment to a motion which has not been moved may be withdrawn ~~or altered~~ by the proposer of the motion or amendment, a motion of amendment to a motion which has been moved may be withdrawn or altered by the proposer of the motion or amendment with the consent of Full Council, which shall be signified without discussion by a show of hands and/or by a roll call. Where a motion is withdrawn there shall thereafter be no further debate on the item.

## PART 4 - MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

### Health and Wellbeing Board Membership

#### Membership

##### *Voting Membership*

- Five elected councillors to be nominated by the Leader of the Council. Four councillors will be Cabinet members from the majority party. The fifth member will be an opposition member. An elected councillor will chair the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Four representatives of ~~North West London~~Brent Integrated Care ~~System Executive (i.e. the Integrated Care Board)~~Partnership Executive
- A representative of Healthwatch
- A representative of the nursing and care home sector

##### *Non-voting Membership*

- Chief Executive, London Borough of Brent
- Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health
- Corporate Director, Children and Young People
- Director of Public Health
- Director of Adult Social Services

An elected councillor will chair the Health and Wellbeing Board.

At least one of the North West London Integrated Care System members shall be a GP. This member will also take on the role of Vice Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

All members of the Health and Wellbeing Board have voting rights, except council officers.

The quorum for the Health and Wellbeing Board is four voting members, with at least two councillors and two other voting members (one of which must be a

member of the Brent Integrated Care Partnership) present in order for a meeting to take place.

## Terms of Reference

Brent's Health and Wellbeing Board will:

1. Lead the improvement of health and wellbeing in Brent, undertaking duties required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
2. Lead the needs assessment of the local population and subsequent preparation of the borough's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It will ensure that both are updated at regular intervals and that integrated care strategies that are prepared by the Brent Integrated Care Partnership (Brent ICP) are taken into account in this process.
3. Oversee the implementation of the priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and other work to reduce health inequalities in Brent.
4. Promote integration and partnership working between health and the council, including social care and public health, across all ages by providing steer and oversight to the Brent ICP board to meet borough's health and wellbeing.
5. Develop initiatives between partners to maximise opportunities for early intervention and prevention.
6. Provide leadership to partner agencies on tackling health inequalities resulting from disparities in housing, education, climate emergency, air quality, physical activity, disability and poverty.
7. Review and respond with its opinion on the Forward Plans that are provided by the North West London Integrated Care System and if appropriate within its discretion, give its opinion on the Forward Plans to NHS England.
8. Contribute to the implementation of strategies developed by partners such as the council's Borough Plan, the NHS Long Term Plan and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.
9. Seek assurance of partner plans to responding to a health related emergency, e.g. pandemics.
10. Oversee and ensure publication of ~~Agree the~~ borough's ~~P~~pharmaceutical ~~N~~needs ~~A~~assessment, which is updated every three years.
11. Agree an annual work programme for the Board.
12. Consider representations from Brent Scrutiny Committees and Healthwatch Brent on matters within the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

13. To receive updates on partner investments into the local health and wellbeing system and make representations at local and national level on sufficiency of resources (e.g. finance, estates and workforce).

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## Item 18.1

**Full Council – 18 September 2023**

### **Conservative Group Motion**

#### **Management of Road and Utilities Work across the borough**

The Brent Conservative Group is concerned about the lack of coordination and management of the many road works, repairs and temporary traffic lights in our borough.

This Council have had numerous complaints from residents who whilst appreciating that these works need to be carried are very unhappy at the way they are managed and the traffic chaos that they cause.

As an example; it has been taking up to an hour to get through the temporary lights on East Lane in Wembley.

We are also concerned that the utility companies do not coordinate works so that they are carried out together and with minimal disruption.

There are numerous examples of roadworks being started, temporary traffic management put in place but nobody appears to be working for several days or even weeks. Stonebridge has had two sets of temporary lights working against each other for weeks, with no one working there, with disruption at Blackbird Hill, Preston Road, Watford Road near Northwick Park Hospital to give just a few further examples.

Council is therefore asked to note the following concerns:

- Roadworks, though essential, cause major traffic hold ups including in some cases gridlock, can lead to road rage and leads to an increase in pollution.
- There is no interaction between the various agencies who own the services beneath our streets.
- There is no coordination to ensure that roadworks are carried out in such a manner so they do not interact to cause further disruption.
- There 'appears' to be no measures to ensure that roadworks are timed and coordinated so as to cause the minimum disruption to road users.

As a result of the concerns highlighted the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action is asked to ensure:

- (1) That, with the exception of emergencies e.g. burst water mains, when a utility company applies for permission to carry out road works, the Council notifies all other utility companies to see if they need to carry out works so that it can all be done at the same time.
- (2) That roadworks are planned so that other roadworks are not carried out at the same time within ½ mile of the application.
- (3) That companies who apply for permission to carry out works must do so within a certain time frame and if not completed on time, should be fined by the local authority.

Councillor Michael Maurice  
Kenton Ward

**Full Council – 18 September 2023**

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

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

**Management of Road and Utilities Work across the borough**

~~The Brent Conservative Group is concerned about the lack of~~ **The** coordination and management of the many road works, repairs and temporary traffic lights in our borough. **continues to be of importance to Brent Council to ensure cohesion for our residents travelling around the borough.**

~~This~~ **The** Council have **listened to** ~~had numerous complaints~~ **concerns** from residents who whilst appreciating that these works need to be carried **are apprehensive about the potential disruption this can cause to them** ~~are very unhappy at the way they are managed and the traffic chaos that they cause.~~ **and continues to work with utility companies and meet with officials regularly to ensure disruption to residents during necessary major works is kept to a minimum.**

~~As an example; it has been taking up to an hour to get through the temporary lights on East Lane in Wembley.~~

**The Council's Network Management Team hold quarterly coordination meetings with** ~~We are also concerned that the utility companies do not~~ **in order to** coordinate works so that they are carried out together and with minimal **and minimize** disruption **however there are times when emergency works are required and this can unfortunately clash with other works near the location.**

~~There are numerous examples of roadworks being started, temporary traffic management put in place but nobody appears to be working for several days or even weeks. Stonebridge has had two sets of temporary lights working against each other for weeks, with no one working there, with disruption at Blackbird Hill, Preston Road, Watford Road near Northwick Park Hospital to give just a few further examples.~~

Council is therefore asked to note **that in relation to** the following concerns:

- Roadworks, though essential, **can** cause major traffic hold ups including in some cases gridlock, can lead to road rage and leads to an increase in pollution, **and**

the Council continues to work with utility companies to prevent major disruption arising from these major works.

- The lack of regular interaction between the various agencies who own services beneath our streets - There is ~~no~~ regular interaction between the various agencies ~~who own the services beneath our streets.~~ with quarterly coordination meetings between the Council and utility companies to discuss major works.
- The coordination of roadworks - There is ~~no~~ coordination to ensure that roadworks are carried out in such a manner so they do not interact to cause further disruption. The Council requires 10 days notice for major works and 3 days notice for minor works. The permitting software used will automatically identify clashes should two sets of works be programmed in close proximity to each other during the same time period.
- Disruption to road users - There ~~'appears' to be no~~ are measures put in place by the Council to ensure that roadworks are timed and coordinated so as to cause the minimum disruption to road users. However, there may be times where emergency and urgent works are required which may clash with other scheduled works.

Therefore, ~~As a result of the concerns highlighted~~ the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action is asked to ensure:

- (1) That, with the exception of emergencies e.g. burst water mains, when a utility company applies for permission to carry out road works, the Council ~~continues its work with~~ notifies all other utility companies to coordinate their planned works programme to ensure minimal disruption for residents across the borough. ~~see if they need to carry out works so that it can all be done at the same time.~~
- (2) That the Network Management Team continues to hold quarterly coordination meetings with utility representatives to discuss major works and assist in avoiding clashes. ~~That roadworks are planned so that other roadworks are not carried out at the same time within 1/2 mile of the application.~~
- (3) That companies ~~continue to who~~ apply for permission to carry out works and in line with the regulations of their permit if granted must do so within a certain time frame and if not completed on time, should be fined by the local authority in accordance with the current Government legislation, unless an extension is agreed.

Councillor Krupa Sheth  
Tokyngton Ward



**Full Council – 18 September 2023**

**Liberal Democrats Group Motion**

**Making our Borough Clean and Safe.**

**This Council notes:**

The general condition of our area is poor and residents are increasingly frustrated that their streets are full of rubbish and illegal fly tipping. As ward Councillors we are receiving daily updates from local people about dumping in the Borough, that is getting worse, not better.

This include large fly tips in hotspot locations that have been identified by the Council for considerable time, with limited proactive action taken to prevent further ongoing dumping at these sites.

In some areas of the borough 'paan spitting' continues to be a major problem local people are forced to contend with. The Council's campaigns to reduce unsightly, unhygienic mess caused by this bad habit have failed.

Rubbish on our streets contributes to how people view the area and can have a knock-on effect in terms of further Anti-Social Behaviour in the community.

Decisions made by this Labour Administration have negatively contributed to the problem, by making it harder for some people to dispose of waste in the proper manner and by not prioritising effective enforcement and education campaigns that would deter this illegal behaviour.

A key priority of this local authority must be to address to scourge of fly tipping and crack down forcefully on those who continue to disrespect our community.

The new Waste Service Contract with Veolia is in place, and it is crucial that the company are held to account in delivering the set-out terms of their contract, particularly around targets on street cleansing.

Making our borough clean will have a positive effect on the way people feel about where they live and how others who visit Brent view our area.

**Therefore, this Council believes:**

1. Keeping local streets clean and free of rubbish must be a renewed focus, particularly in light of increased dumping locally.
2. The best way to discourage illegal behaviour is by a programme of mass fining and a zero-tolerance approach to rubbish on our streets and in our open spaces and paan spitting.
3. The Brent Connects areas need to be reformed in order to ensure Enforcement Teams are not overly stretched and so that a targeted approach is deployed in hotspot fly tipping locations.
4. It is possible to change behaviours and educate people about how to treat our streets and opens spaces, through well run, targeted and engaging education campaigns.
5. Volunteers who spend hours every week trying to keep our borough clean and tidy must be commended for the work that they do and assisted wherever possible by the Council.

**This Council therefore resolves to call on the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action:**

1. Make the new Waste Service Contract with Veolia publicly available to enable effective scrutiny of the company and so that we can be confident that they are meeting the set-out terms of their contract with Brent.
2. Identify additional resource to assist the existing Waste Enforcement teams across the borough in delivering effective enforcement against those who continue to disrespect our area.
3. Scope the possibility of employing apprentices to work alongside Neighbourhood Managers and Enforcement Teams in fly tipping hotspot locations in the borough.
4. Working with the Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities & Culture undertake a review of the Brent Connects areas, particularly the Wembley Connects area, to see whether splitting them into smaller geographical areas can help with more effective, targeted waste enforcement work.
5. Develop an education campaign including door to door communications about the Council's renewed focus on dealing with rubbish dumping and fly tipping in the area, this will include details of fines individuals would face if caught not adhering to the law.
6. Explore the possibility of introducing a long await deposit scheme for cans and bottles, which would discourage dumping in our area.
7. Work with other London local authorities to gain insight on best practice around dealing with ongoing rubbish and fly tipping issues that are sadly prevalent in some areas in the capital.

8. Call on the Mayor of London to ensure areas in our borough under his jurisdiction are kept clean and safe, including TfL land.
9. Write to Government urging that they consider banning the sale of paan, or at the very least require businesses who sell it to have a License.
10. Write to Government about the ongoing fly tipping problems in Brent and request additional funding to support renewed efforts to get to grips with this issue.

Cllr Anton Georgiou  
Alperton Ward

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**Full Council – 18 September 2023**

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

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

**Making our Borough Clean and Safe.**

**This Council notes:**

~~A major issue that is of the upmost importance to Brent residents is the general condition of our area is poor and residents are increasingly frustrated that their streets are full of~~ **including concerns regarding** rubbish and illegal fly tipping. As ward Councillors we are ~~receiving~~ **receive** ~~daily updates~~ **enquiries** from local people about dumping in the Borough, ~~and we work tirelessly with Council Officers to resolve these enquiries for the best interests of our residents. that is getting worse, not better.~~

This includes ~~large fly tips in hotspot locations that have been identified by the Council for considerable time,~~ **with additional resources from the Enforcement Teams being deployed** ~~limited proactive action taken to prevent further ongoing dumping at these sites.~~

~~The good work by the Council's enforcements teams in some areas of the borough to tackle 'paan spitting' which continues to be~~ **is** a major problem local people are forced to contend with. The Council's campaigns to **work with businesses in problem areas and engage with affected communities to** reduce **this** unsightly, unhygienic mess caused by this bad habit ~~have failed.~~ **continue.**

Rubbish on our streets contributes to how people view the area and can have a knock-on effect in terms of further Anti-Social Behaviour in the community.

~~Decisions made by~~ **†This Labour Administration has worked tirelessly** ~~negatively contributed to~~ **tackle** the problem **of fly-tipping,** ~~by making it harder for some people to dispose of waste in the proper manner and by not prioritising effective enforcement and education campaigns that would deter this illegal behaviour.~~ **Maintaining street cleanliness and keeping our borough safe and clean remains a firm priority for this Council's Labour administration.**

A key priority of this local authority ~~must be to~~ **is addressing to the** scourge of fly tipping and **we will continue to** crack down forcefully on those who continue to disrespect our community.

The new Waste Service Contract with Veolia is in place, and it is crucial that the company ~~are held to account~~ **continues to work with the Council** in delivering the set-out terms of their contract, particularly around targets on street cleansing.

Making our borough clean will have a positive effect on the way people feel about where they live and how others who visit Brent view our area.

**Therefore, this Council believes:**

1. Keeping local streets clean and free of rubbish must **continue to be a priority for the Council** ~~renewed focus, particularly in light of increased dumping locally.~~
2. The best way to discourage illegal behaviour is by a programme of mass fining and a **to continue its** zero-tolerance approach to rubbish on our streets and in our open spaces and paan spitting.
3. The Brent Connects areas' ~~need to be reformed~~ **recent reforms** in order to ensure Enforcement Teams are not overly stretched **have been successful so far and ensured** and so that a targeted approach is deployed in **specific** hotspot fly tipping locations, **such as the deployment of additional resources in Wembley and Alperton.**
4. It is possible to change behaviours and educate people about how to treat our streets and opens spaces, through well run, targeted and engaging education campaigns **and continues to be an ongoing commitment for the Council.**
5. **An effective partnership between the Council and community is always the best means of controlling environmental blight and waste crime and** Volunteers who spend hours every week trying to keep our borough clean and tidy must be commended for the work that they do and assisted wherever possible by the Council.

**This Council therefore resolves to call on the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action to:**

1. **Work with Veolia to make a non-commercially sensitive version of** ~~Make the new Waste Service Contract with Veolia publicly available to enable effective scrutiny of~~ **to continue our successful partnership with** the company and ~~so that we can~~ **to continue to** be confident that they are meeting the set-out terms of their contract with Brent.
2. ~~Identify additional resource~~ **Continue to work with partners across the Council and with outside agencies** to assist the existing Waste Enforcement teams across the borough **to ensure they are properly coordinated, well managed, self-motivated and focused on the problems that need to be solved.** ~~in so that the~~

Council can continue to delivering effective enforcement against those who continue to disrespect our area.

3. Scope the possibility of employing apprentices to work alongside Neighbourhood Managers and Enforcement Teams in fly tipping hotspot locations in the borough **where there was an obvious need and where resources were available to support that deployment.**
4. **Build on the work the Council has already done** ~~Working with the Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities & Culture undertake a review of~~ **in reviewing** the Brent Connects areas, particularly the Wembley Connects area, to ~~see whether splitting them~~ **spilt them** into smaller geographical areas ~~can~~ **to help with** **continue with** more effective, targeted waste enforcement work. ~~subject to further engagement and consultation.~~
5. **Continue with our development of** ~~Develop~~ an education campaign including door to door communications about the Council's renewed focus on dealing with rubbish dumping and fly tipping in the area, **building on the success of the Council's high profile 'Wanted' campaign** ~~this will include details of fines individuals would face if caught not adhering to the law.~~
6. **Chase the UK Government on its current impending national scheme** ~~Explore the possibility of introducing a long awaited~~ **deposit** scheme for cans and bottles, which would discourage dumping in our area.
7. **Continue our** work with other London local authorities ~~to gain~~ **where** insight on best practice around dealing with ongoing rubbish and fly tipping issues that are sadly prevalent in some areas in the capital **are routinely discussed and shared.**
8. **Continue our work and co-operation with** ~~Call on~~ the Mayor of London to ensure areas in our borough under his jurisdiction are kept clean and safe, including TfL land.
9. **Continue to work with local businesses and affected communities to curb the damaging blight of paan spitting.** ~~Write to Government urging that they consider banning the sale of paan, or at the very least require businesses who sell it to have a License.~~
10. Write to Government about the ~~ongoing~~ fly tipping problems in Brent and **across the UK** and request additional funding to support renewed efforts to get to grips with this issue.

Councillor Krupa Sheth  
Tokyngton Ward

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**Full Council – 18 September 2023**

**Labour Group Motion**

**Rogue Landlords**

**This Council notes:**

- The important contribution the Private Rented Sector (PRS) makes to the provision of housing in the borough, with renters of private accommodation making up the largest proportion of occupants in our borough.
- The majority of private landlords renting out properties in Brent are good landlords who work in close partnership with the Council.
- However, this is not the case for all landlords and the Council is fully committed to ensure that no private rented sector tenant is living in substandard accommodation. We believe everyone should live in a warm and dry home.
- A recent survey by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) showing that of those officers working on housing enforcement in the private rented sector, nine out of ten had encountered landlords engaging in harassment or illegal eviction, and 78% had dealt with landlords who persistently refuse to maintain their property to a safe condition.
- That rogue landlords can have a devastating impact on vulnerable tenants and the wider community.

**This Council further notes:**

- The Labour Administration's commitment to take a zero tolerance approach to rogue landlords and to use the full range of tools and powers at its disposal to tackle rogue landlords.
- The case of Jaydipkumar Valand, who was found guilty of raking in £360,000 by packing up to 40 tenants in to a four bed semi-detached home in Napier Road, Wembley, back in 2018. Due to the hard work of Brent enforcement officers, Valand was issued with Brent Council's first ever banning order which now prevents him from letting out any houses in England or engaging in any sort of property management work in the country for the next five years.

- The new selective licensing scheme that the Council introduced on 1 August to protect renters' rights and secure a decent standard of living for all residents. Landlords who rent out properties in Dollis Hill, Harlesden & Kensal Green and Willesden Green are now legally required to have a property licence.

**This Council resolves:**

- To do more to publicise successful legal action against landlords and lettings agents, which will act as a deterrent to bad landlords and raise awareness of landlords duties and responsibilities.
- Request that the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security calls on the Secretary of State for Housing, Levelling-Up and Communities to support Brent Council's commitment to further landlord licensing schemes in the borough.
- Request that the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security calls on the UK Government to urgently bring forward legislation to bring the Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector as proposed in the Renters Reform white paper.
- To continue to work with the Mayor of London to lobby the Government to increase funding to London and its Boroughs for the delivery of affordable homes.

Councillor Robert Johnson  
Barnhill Ward