

London Borough of Brent – Summary of decisions taken at the Council (Budget Setting) meeting held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre at 6.00pm on Thursday 29 February 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Hylton (Mayor), Dar (Deputy Mayor), Aden, Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Akram, Bajwa, Benea, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudry, Collymore, Conneely, Crabb, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Fraser, Gbajumo, Georgiou, Grahl, Hack, Hirani, Johnson, Kabir, Kansagra, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Long, Lorber, Mahmood, Matin, Maurice, Miller, Mistry, Mitchell, Moeen, Molloy, Nerva, M.Patel, Rajan Seelan, Rubin, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Smith, Southwood and Tatler.

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
1	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Begum, Jayanti Patel & Shah.
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	<p>AGREED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 20 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.</p> <p>Eligible for Call-In: No</p>
3	Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.
4	Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)	<p>Announcements from the Mayor were noted in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kings News Years Honours List 2024 • Holocaust & Genocide Memorial Day • New Year's Day Parade • 106th birthday celebration – Mary Thomas • Death of former councillor & Mayor Ramesh Patel – with tributes paid by Councillors Muhammed Butt, Kabir, Mistry, Afzal, Gbajumo, Mahmood & Chohan. • Petitions
5	Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs (if any)	<p>Council RESOLVED:</p> <p><u>Committee Membership</u></p>

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		<p>(1) To note that following her return from maternity leave (with effect from Monday 11 March 2024) the Leader of the Council had reappointed Councillor Mili Patel to resume her role as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform.</p> <p>(2) To confirm the appointment of The Venerable Archdeacon Catherine Pickford to fill the vacancy as the Church of England Statutory co-opted member on the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for a period of 2 years (subject to confirmation of the ongoing appointment at the Annual Council meeting each year)</p> <p>(3) Following Councillor Mili Patel’s return from maternity leave (with effect from Monday 11 March 2024):</p> <p>(a) To confirm the appointment of Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Farah as a full member on the General Purposes Committee with Councillor Farah to replace the existing vacancy as a substitute member & Councillor Mili Patel to be reappointed as Vice-Chair on the Committee.</p> <p>(b) To confirm the appointment of Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Tatler as a full member on the Health & Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>(c) To note that the Leader of the Council had reappointed Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Tatler as full member and Brent’s Chair of the Joint Borough IT Committee Brent, Lewisham & Southwark.</p> <p>(d) To note that the Leader of the Council had appointed Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Knight as a full member on the Barham Park Trust Committee</p>

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		<p>with Councillor Knight to replace the existing vacancy as substitute member.</p> <p><u>Outside Bodies:</u></p> <p>(e) To confirm the appointment of Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Tatler as deputy on the London Council’s Leaders Committee.</p> <p>(f) To note that the Leader of the Council had appointed Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Tatler as deputy on the London Council’s Greater London Employment Forum.</p> <p>(g) To note that the Leader of the Council had appointed Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Donnelly-Jackson as Brent’s full representative on the London Council’s Grants Committee with Councillor Donnelly-Jackson appointed as deputy.</p>
6	Budget and Council Tax 2024 - 2025	<p>Council RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To agree an overall 4.99% increase in the Council’s element of Council Tax for 2024/25, with 2% as a precept for Adult Social Care and a 2.99% general increase.</p> <p>(2) To agree the General Fund revenue budget for 2024/25, as summarised in Appendices A and B of the report.</p> <p>(3) To agree the savings proposals for 2024/25 and 2025/26, as set out in Appendices C (i) and C (ii) of the report.</p>

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		<p>(4) To note the Equalities Impact Assessments on the budget proposals, as set out in Appendices C (iii) and C (iv) of the report.</p> <p>(5) To note the report from the Budget Scrutiny Task Group in Appendix D of the report.</p> <p>(6) To note and agree inclusion of the HRA budget and business plan in the overall Council budget for 2024/25 as set out in section eight and appendix Q of the report.</p> <p>(7) To agree the Dedicated Schools Grant, as set out in section nine of the report.</p> <p>(8) To agree the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to additions of new schemes and reprofiling, as set out in section 11 and Appendix E of the report and note the Capital Pipeline Schemes in Appendix F of the report.</p> <p>(9) To agree the Capital Strategy, the Investment Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement as set out in Appendices G, H, I and J of the report.</p> <p>(10) To agree for a new loan and equity facility of up to £40m to be made available to i4B Holdings Ltd for the provision of PRS accommodation in line with the Temporary Reform Accommodation plan as set out in section 11.40 of the report.</p> <p>(11) To agree the Reserves Strategy and schedule of reserves, as set out in Appendices K (i) and K (ii) of the report.</p> <p>(12) To note the action plan to implement CIPFA's Financial Management Code and</p>

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		<p>conduct a Financial Resilience Assessment, as set out in Appendix L of the report.</p> <p>(13) To agree the schedule of fees and charges, as set out in Appendix M of the report.</p> <p>(14) To note the results of the budget consultation, as set out in section seven and detailed in Appendices N (i) and N(ii) of the report.</p> <p>(15) To note the legal advice from the Corporate Director of Governance, as set out in Appendix O of the report.</p> <p>(16) To agree the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix P of the report.</p> <p>Council Tax recommendations</p> <p>(17) In relation to the Council Tax for 2024/25:</p> <p>It was agreed that the following amounts be now calculated as the Council's element by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:</p> <p>(a) £1,099,616,055 being the aggregate of the amount that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.</p> <p>(b) £937,554,302 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.</p>

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		<p>(c) £162,061,753 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.</p> <p>(d) £1,564.65 being the amount at (c) above, divided by the amount for the tax base of 103,577, agreed by the General Purposes Committee on the 11 December 2023, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.</p> <p>(e) Valuation Bands</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="875 871 2042 1094"> <thead> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> <th>E</th> <th>F</th> <th>G</th> <th>H</th> </tr> <tr> <th>£</th> <th>£</th> <th>£</th> <th>£</th> <th>£</th> <th>£</th> <th>£</th> <th>£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1,043.10</td> <td>1,216.95</td> <td>1,390.80</td> <td>1,564.65</td> <td>1,912.35</td> <td>2,260.05</td> <td>2,607.75</td> <td>3,129.30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.</p>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	1,043.10	1,216.95	1,390.80	1,564.65	1,912.35	2,260.05	2,607.75	3,129.30
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		<p>(18) That it be noted that for the year 2024/25 the proposed GLA precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, in respect of the GLA, for each of the categories of dwellings are as shown below:</p> <p>Valuation Bands</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> <th>E</th> <th>F</th> <th>G</th> <th>H</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>314.27</td> <td>366.64</td> <td>419.02</td> <td>471.40</td> <td>576.16</td> <td>680.91</td> <td>785.67</td> <td>942.80</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(19) That, having calculated the aggregate of the amounts at 17(e) and (18) above the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:</p> <p>Valuation Bands</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> <th>E</th> <th>F</th> <th>G</th> <th>H</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,357.37</td> <td>1,583.59</td> <td>1,809.82</td> <td>2,036.05</td> <td>2,488.51</td> <td>2,940.96</td> <td>3,393.42</td> <td>4,072.10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(20) That it be noted that the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources has</p>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	314.27	366.64	419.02	471.40	576.16	680.91	785.67	942.80	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	1,357.37	1,583.59	1,809.82	2,036.05	2,488.51	2,940.96	3,393.42	4,072.10
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		<p>determined that the Council element of the basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.</p> <p>(a) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be and is hereby authorised to give due notice of the said Council Tax in the manner provided by Section 38(2) of the 1992 Act.</p> <p>(b) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be and is hereby authorised when necessary to apply for a summons against any Council Taxpayer or non-domestic ratepayer on whom an account for the said tax or rate and any arrears has been duly served and who has failed to pay the amounts due to take all subsequent necessary action to recover them promptly.</p> <p>(c) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be and is hereby authorised to collect revenues and distribute monies from the Collection Fund and is authorised to borrow or to lend money in accordance with the regulations to the maximum benefit of each fund.</p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 43, as the above decisions related to the setting of the Budget and Council Tax they were subject to a recorded vote.</p> <p>Prior to the above recommendations being approved, the alternative budget proposals moved as amendments to the budget report by the Conservative & Liberal Democrats Groups were put to the vote and declared LOST.</p> <p>The voting recorded on the amendment moved by the Conservative Group was as</p>

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		<p>follows:</p> <p>For the Amendment (4): Councillors Hirani, Kansagra, Maurice & Mistry.</p> <p>Against the Amendment (47): Councillors Aden, Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Akram, Bajwa, Benea, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudry, Collymore, Conneely, Crabb, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Fraser, Gbajumo, Georgiou, Grahl, Hack, Johnson, Kabir, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Long, Lorber, Mahmood, Matin, Miller, Mitchell, Moeen, Molloy, Nerva, M.Patel, Rajan Seelan, Rubin, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Southwood and Tatler.</p> <p>Abstentions to the Amendment (2): Councillors Hylton (Mayor) and Dar (Deputy Mayor).</p> <p>The voting recorded on the amendment moved by the Liberal Democrats Group was as follows:</p> <p>For the Amendment (3): Councillors Georgiou, Lorber and Matin</p> <p>Against the Amendment (48): Councillors Aden, Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Akram, Bajwa, Benea, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudry, Collymore, Conneely, Crabb, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Fraser, Gbajumo, Grahl, Hack, Hirani, Johnson, Kabir, Kansagra, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Long, Mahmood, Maurice, Miller, Mistry, Mitchell, Moeen, Molloy, Nerva, M.Patel, Rajan Seelan, Rubin, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Southwood and Tatler.</p> <p>Abstentions to the Amendment (2): Councillors Hylton (Mayor) and Dar (Deputy Mayor).</p>

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		<p>The substantive recommendations, as detailed above, were then put to the vote and declared CARRIED. The voting recorded was as follows:</p> <p>For (45): Councillors Aden, Afzal, Agha, Ahmed, Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Akram, Bajwa, Benea, M.Butt, S.Butt, Chan, Chappell, Chohan, Choudry, Collymore, Conneely, Crabb, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Ethapemi, Farah, Fraser, Gbajumo, Grahl, Hack, Johnson, Kabir, Kelcher, Kennelly, Knight, Long, Mahmood, Miller, Mitchell, Moeen, Molloy, Nerva, M.Patel, Rajan Seelan, Rubin, Ketan Sheth, Krupa Sheth, Smith, Southwood and Tatler</p> <p>Against (7): Councillors Georgiou, Hirani, Kansagra, Lorber, Matin. Maurice, & Mistry.</p> <p>Abstentions (2): Councillors Hylton (Mayor) and Dar (Deputy Mayor).</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: No</p>
7	Auditor's Annual Report on the London Borough of Brent	<p>Council RESOLVED to note the external auditor's annual report on Value for Money as part of the 2022-23 audit of the year end accounts.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: No</p>
8	Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2023-2024	<p>Council RESOLVED to note the 2023-24 Mid-Year Treasury report and that the Council had been fully compliant with the Prudential Indicators set as part of the annual strategy.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: No</p>
9	Members' Allowance Scheme	Council RESOLVED:

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	Annual Review 2024 -25	(1) To approve the Members Allowance Scheme in the proposed terms set out within the report for the 2024-25 Financial Year. (2) To authorise the Corporate Director of Governance to comply with the statutory requirements to publicise the Council’s Members’ Allowance Scheme.
10	Urgent Business	No urgent items of business were raised at the meeting.