

London Borough of Brent
Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 9
December 2024 at 10am

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

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence		No apologies for absence were submitted at the meeting.
2.	Declarations of Interest		No declarations of interest were made during the meeting.
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting		Cabinet RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2024 be approved as a correct record.
4.	Matters Arising (if any)		None identified.
5.	Petitions (if any)		Cabinet NOTED the comments made by Mr Alastair Balfour (as a local resident in Queens Park and lead petitioner) in support of a petition containing over 1,400 signatures requesting that the Council reconsider the Queen's Park Healthy Neighbourhood proposals given concerns in relation to their design and the engagement process undertaken by MP Smarter Travel. In introducing the petition, Mr Balfour informed Cabinet that, whilst the proposals would appear to benefit residents in the area, many had experienced disruption caused by the current traffic restrictions and therefore felt the proposals being consulted upon were ill conceived, unfair and would lead to problems being pushed on to less fortunate neighbours in other parts of the ward creating division and potentially creating a risk to the health and safety to the many children attending schools on the boundary roads as a result of displaced traffic, increasing congestion and pollution.

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 9 December 2024 (continued)

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			<p>As a result of the concerns raised on the approach adopted, it was felt damage was being caused to the community and trust in the Council which had resulted (since an MP Smarter Travel engagement event at the start of November 24) in the petition being presented having received over 1,400 signatures, a leaflet being produced and delivered to 2,000 residents, a video objecting to the proposals being circulated on social media, and newspapers picking up the story.</p> <p>Concerns were also raised in relation to the engagement process being undertaken by MP Smarter Travel, which the petitioners felt to be flawed and unreliable. In terms of specific issues highlighted, the engagement materials were felt to be confusing and to lack technical analysis, with changes to the online questionnaire mid engagement process not having been effectively communicated. Outlining widespread opposition to the options, including from those who it appeared would benefit from the scheme, Alastair Balfour also queried the focus of MP Smarter Travel’s role on modal shift rather than as traffic management experts, which it was felt had resulted in a lack of clear objectives and indicators of success or failure. Whilst recognising that the issue was highly complex the petitioners, as a way forward, felt that if Cabinet wished to improve the situation then there was a need to go back to basics with joined up thinking, taking into account all stakeholders. Recognising the budgetary constraints on the Council, Mr Balfour proposed that officers should look to utilise the skills and resources that existed</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 9 December 2024 (continued)

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			<p>within the community to assist in developing a project roadmap and identifying solutions to ensure transparent engagement and community support in seeking to deliver a healthy neighbourhood scheme that worked for everybody. In supporting a process of wider engagement and transparent co-operation it was hoped that the Council would be willing to work with the local community to deliver a successful scheme recognising the balance needing to be achieved.</p> <p>In summing up, Alastair Balfour thanked Councillor Muhammed Butt for the opportunity to address the Cabinet in relation to the petition and for the confirmation it would be considered as part of the engagement process, and as a final way forward concluded by seeking a commitment on the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To stop what the petitioners felt was the flawed MP Smarter Travel engagement process; • To halt all hyper local traffic schemes until data-led area impact assessments had been conducted; • To sit down with local community representatives to define the most pressing traffic issues (focussed on boundary roads and schools) and agree a process roadmap the whole community could support and commit resource behind, based on transparency in terms of data sharing and communication with the petitioners also keen to ensure lessons were learnt from the current experience in seeking to develop a scheme that would support the Council's objectives for healthy neighbourhoods whilst also prioritising health, safety, equality,
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London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 9 December 2024 (continued)

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			<p align="center">prosperity and quality of life across the entire neighbourhood.</p> <p>In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth (as Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement) thanked Mr Balfour for attending Cabinet in order to ensure the views of those supporting the petition were presented. In outlining the Council’s shared commitment to traffic road safety and the promotion of sustainable travel options Councillor Krupa Sheth also acknowledged there were strong views within the community on how best to tackle these issues involving a range of diverse opinions. Pointing out that residents had consistently called for measures to reduce traffic, improve safety and enable more active modes of travel the difficulty in balancing the differing views on how to achieve these objectives effectively and fairly were also highlighted and recognised as requiring an inclusive approach.</p> <p>On this basis, Councillor Krupa Sheth took the opportunity to reassure the petitioners that no decisions had been made on the proposals at this stage, with the activity undertaken to date purely designed as an engagement exercise in order to better understand the views of all members of the community with the feedback provided playing a central role in shaping any future decisions. In response to concerns raised relating to the role of MP Smarter Travel, the petitioners were advised they had been commissioned to collect evidence through a variety of methods to ensure inclusivity which had included face to face engagement and pop up events designed to reach groups less able to participate through traditional</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 9 December 2024 (continued)

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			<p>channels such as those digitally excluded or others unable to attend specific sessions.</p> <p>In concluding her response, Councillor Krupa Sheth acknowledged and welcomed the invaluable contributions from local residents and resident groups who it was recognised had worked hard to provide a wide range of feedback that would be carefully reviewed and reaffirmed the Council’s commitment to listen and engage with the community throughout the process to determine the best path forward, reflecting the needs and aspirations of the community and ensure local neighbourhoods remained safe, healthier and sustainable for everyone.</p> <p>Councillor Nerva (as local ward councillor) advised he was also keen to endorse the remarks made by Councillor Krupa Sheth and the iterative approach being taken by the Council to deliver this work and continue learning throughout the process.</p> <p>In bringing the item to close, Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader) also took the opportunity to assure the petitioners that the concerns raised would be considered as part of bringing this work forward. He acknowledged that whilst there were many different opinions, these would all be captured and fed back in order to develop a way forward designed to work for all to ensure the delivery of a healthy neighbourhood.</p>
6.	Reference of item considered by		There were no items referred from either the Community Wellbeing

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 9 December 2024 (continued)

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	Scrutiny Committees (if any)		or Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committees.
7.	Infrastructure Funding Statement 23/24	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to note the content of the report and approve the Brent Infrastructure Funding Statement 2023/24, as detailed within Appendix A of the report, for publication on the Council's website.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 16 December 24</p>
8.	Request for Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy Allocation for the South Kilburn Primary School and South Kilburn Urban Park	Kilburn; Queens Park	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve the use of £12.9m of SCIL funding, for the construction of a 1 FE primary school with a nursery and the infrastructure to expand to a 2FE school (including decanting of Carlton Vale Infant school to Kilburn Park Junior school and the associated building works), as part of South Kilburn Regeneration Programme.</p> <p>(2) To approve the use of £4.4 m of SCIL funding, for the enhancement of the South Kilburn Open Space, as part of the South Kilburn Regeneration Programme.</p> <p>(3) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director Neighbourhoods and Regeneration in consultation with the</p>

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			<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration Planning and Growth to approve the most appropriate procurement process and to approve pre-tender considerations as set out in Contract Standing Order 89 in respect of the procurement of contractors for the development of the new school and improvements to the open space.</p> <p>(4) To approve inviting tenders in respect of the procurement of contractors for the development of the new school and improvements to the open space in accordance with Contract Standing Order 88.</p> <p>(5) To approve officers evaluating tenders because of the pre-tender considerations referred to in recommendation (3) above.</p> <p>(6) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet member for Regeneration Planning and Growth, to take all necessary steps to acquire the land at Kilburn Park Junior school for the regeneration of South Kilburn, and thereafter pursue Secretary of State approval to dispose education land for non-educational uses.</p> <p>(7) To note that consultants required for design development and procurement of the contractor(s), will be procured using powers delegated to officers under the Constitution.</p>

London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 9 December 2024 (continued)

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			<p>(8) To note the indicative time scales, next steps and key risks associated with the delivery of the school and improvements to the open space.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 16 December 24</p>
9.	Corporate Performance Q2 2024-25 report	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To note the Borough Plan 2024-25 performance reporting for Q2 as set out in section 3 and Appendix A of the report.</p> <p>(2) To note the current and future strategic risks associated with the information provided and agree the remedial actions on strategic risks identified as appropriate alongside the challenge on progress being provided with responsible officers as necessary.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: Yes</p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: 6pm on Monday 16 December 24</p>
10.	Exclusion of Press and Public		There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or

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			public.
11.	Any other urgent business		<p>There were no items of urgent business.</p> <p>As this was the final meeting prior to the Christmas and New Year holiday period Councillor Muhammed Butt took the opportunity to thank all members for their support over the year and to wish everyone all the best for the festive season.</p>