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General Purposes Committee

Monday 19 January 2026 at 9.30 am

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

Please note this will be held as a physical meeting which all Committee members will be required to attend in person.

The meeting will be open for the press and public to attend or alternatively can be followed via the live webcast. The link to follow proceedings via the live webcast is available HERE

Membership:

Please note the agenda has been republished to reflect the membership changes agreed at the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 13 January 2026, following the change in political balance on the Council.

Members	**Substitute Members**
Councillors:	Councillors:
M Butt (Chair) M Patel (Vice-Chair) Benea Donnelly-Jackson Lorber Farah Rubin Krupa Sheth	Afzal, Akram, Crabb, Grahl, Knight and Tatler. Councillors: Clinton and Matin Councillors: Gbajumo and Mitchell

For further information contact: Rebecca Reid, Governance Officer
Tel: 020 8937 2469, Email: rebecca.reid@brent.gov.uk

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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 significant enough to affect your judgement of a public interest and either it affects a financial position or relates to a regulatory matter then 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 of 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 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 is the subject of a registrable personal interest.

Agenda

Item Page

1 Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

2 Declarations of interests

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.

3 Deputations (if any)

To hear any deputations received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 67.

4 Minutes of the previous meeting 1 - 4

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 8 December 2025 as a correct record.

5 Matters arising (if any)

To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

6 Review of Representation of Political Groups and Appointments 5 - 10

As a result of a change in political balance there is a requirement for the Council to undertake a review of the representation of different political groups on its committees.

The Council will be undertaking this review at an Extraordinary Council meeting on 13 January 2026 and as soon as practicable after that, the General Purposes Committee will then be required to review and determine the representation of political groups on its Sub-committees and then make appointments giving effect to the wishes of the political groups allocated the seats.

The attached report from the Corporate Director Finance & Resources details the outcome of the review undertaken in relation to Sub- Committees to be appointed by General Purposes Committee.

7 Appointments to Sub-Committees / Outside Bodies 11 – 12

Following on form Agenda Item 6 above members are asked to consider and agree any appointments needing to be made in relation to those Sub Committees appointed by the General Purposes Committee.

Details of the membership changes have been attached.

(Agenda republished to include the attached list of membership changes on 14 January 2026)

8 Exclusion of Press and Public

No items have been identified in advance of the meeting that will require the exclusion of the press or public.

9 Any other urgent business

Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Deputy Director Democratic and Corporate Governance or their representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 60.

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

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public. Alternatively, it will be possible to follow proceedings via the live webcast **HERE**

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
Held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 8 December 2025 at 9.30 am

PRESENT: Councillor M Butt (Chair), Councillor M Patel (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Benea, Donnelly-Jackson, Farah, Nerva and Krupa Sheth.

1. **Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rubin with Councillor Farah attending as a substitute member.

2. **Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of interests made during the meeting.

3. **Deputations (if any)**

There were no deputations received.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 13 October 2025 be approved as a correct record.

5. **Matters arising (if any)**

There were no matters arising.

6. **Calculation of Council Tax Base 2026/27**

Councillor Mili Patel (Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources) introduced a report from the Corporate Director Finance & Resources setting out the Council Tax base for 2026-27 in order to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory role under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).

In presenting the report, members were advised of the significance of Council Tax as a key funding source for the Council with it this element of funding accounted for approximately 41% of the Council's net revenue budget. The importance of setting an accurate council tax base was therefore emphasised as a prerequisite for establishing a balanced budget.

Referring to Section 4 of the report, Michael Almond (Senior Finance Analyst) was then invited to outline the statutory requirements for calculating the Council Tax base

with members noting (as detailed in section 5 of the report) the anticipated growth, applying a 1.7% assumption derived from the Medium Term Financial Strategy, based on recent growth trends.

It was further explained that section 6 addressed the long-term collection target over a six-year period, rather than the first-year collection target for the 2026/27 financial year. The in-year collection target for 2026/27 was reported as 93.5%, an increase from 92.5%. This improvement formed part of ongoing work to enhance Council Tax collection rates as well as address Council Tax arrears, based on an overall collection target of 97% target, which it was noted would also be subject to review during the 2026/27 financial year.

Members noted that section 7 of the report presented the calculation for setting the Council Tax base, which was based on a formula involving two elements:

a. the number of taxable properties shown as “Band D equivalents”; and

b. the expected collection rate for the year.

Having thanked Councillor Mili Patel and Michael Almond for introducing the report, the Chair then moved on to invite questions and comments from the Committee, with the following comments highlighted:

- The opportunity was once again taken to recognise the importance of Council Tax in terms of the overall contribution to the Council’s finances with emphasis placed on the necessity of prioritising Council Tax collection and the recovery of arrears in order to ensure the continued provision of essential Council services required by residents.

Having thanked all those involved for the prudent nature of the assumptions being made, it was **RESOLVED**:

(1) To agree that the Band D equivalent number of properties be calculated, as detailed within the report, in accordance with the Government regulations.

(2) To agree that the collection rate for Council Tax for 2026-27 be set at 97.0%.

(3) That subject to (1) and (2) above, a Council Tax Base for 2026-27 of 110,475 Band D equivalent properties (after collection rate allowance deduction) be approved

7. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public from the meeting.

8. **Any other urgent business**

No items of urgent business were raised at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:36 am

COUNCILLOR MUHAMMED BUTT
Chair

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Brent	**General Purposes Committee** 19 January 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources

Review of Representation of Political Groups and Appointments

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Not Applicable
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Amira Nassr, Deputy Director Democratic & Corporate Governance Tel: 0208 937 5436 amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk James Kinsella, Governance & Scrutiny Manager, Democratic Services Tel: 020 8937 2063 james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Summary

1.1 As a result of the formation of a new political group following five members having resigned from the Labour Group and joining the Green Party, there is a requirement for the Council to undertake a review of the representation of different political groups on its committees.

1.2 The Council will be undertaking this review at an Extraordinary Council meeting arranged for 13 January 2026 and as soon as practicable after that, the General Purposes Committee will then be required to review and determine the representation of political groups on its Sub-committees and then make appointments giving effect to the wishes of the political groups allocated the seats.

1.3 The current membership of the Council consists of 57 councillors, which has been used as the basis for this review.

2.0 Recommendations

That on the basis of the current membership of the Council, the Committee:

2.1 Agrees the size of each sub-committee to be appointed by the Committee;

2.2 Agrees the allocation of seats to political groups on each of the sub-committees in accordance with political balance rules; and

2.3 Appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Members and Substitutes to each Sub-committee under Item * of the agenda giving effect to the wishes of the political group(s) allocated the seats.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1.1 The allocation of seats on each of the Council's committees to which the political balance rules apply supports delivery of the borough plan by enabling the Council's decision making bodies to operate transparently and effectively whilst also supporting and promoting confidence in the good governance of the council.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 As General Purposes Committee has three relevant Sub-committees, it has a statutory duty to review and determine the representation of political groups on these as soon as practicable after any review undertaken by Full Council. The Committee then has a duty to make appointments to the Sub-committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated seats.

3.2.2 The allocation of seats is determined by applying the political balance principles prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and supplemented by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. These principles are set out below and are designed to ensure that the political composition of committees and sub-committees, as far as reasonably practicable, replicates the political composition of Full Council.

3.2.3 The political balance principles are:

(i) That not all the seats on the sub-committee are allocated to the same political group.

(ii) That the majority of the seats on the sub-committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership.

(iii) Subject to paragraphs (i) and to (ii) above, that the number of the seats on the sub-committee which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that sub-committee

as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.

3.2.4 There is a 4th principle (that each political group is allocated the same proportion of the total seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council (38 in total) as the proportion of the members of the Council that belong to that group). This covers the appointment of ordinary committees and will be applied to these bodies at the Extraordinary Council meeting. The legislation does not apply this principle to the appointment of sub-committees.

3.2.5 Whilst the overall membership of the Council remains as 57 councillors, the composition of political groups as a percentage of overall membership has changed following firstly the resignation of a member from the Labour Group and them joining the Conservative Group and the subsequent resignation of five other members from the Labour Group and them forming a new group representing the Green Party. This means the composition of political groups now stands as follows:

- 42 Labour Group councillors – representing 73.68% of the total council membership.
- 6 Conservative Group councillors – representing 10.53% of the total council membership.
- 5 Green Party councillors – representing 8.77% of the total council membership (new group)
- 3 Liberal Democrat councillors – representing 5.26% of the total council membership.
- 1 independent councillor – representing 1.75% of total council membership.

3.2.6 According to the political balance rules, a political group for this purpose is a group of two or more members.

3.2.7 The application of the three principles listed in 3.2.3 above therefore results in the following allocation of seats on those Sub Committee appointed by General Purposes Committee:

General Purposes Sub Committees	**Size**	**Labour Group 42 73.68%**	**Conservative Group 6 10.53%**	**Green Group 5 8.77%**	**Liberal Democrats Group 3 5.26%**
Pension Fund Sub Committee	7	**5 (↓ from 6)**	1	**1 (new seat allocated)**	0
Senior Staff Appointments	5	4	1	0	0
Senior Staff Appeals	5	**4**	1	0	0

3.2.8 As the main General Purposes Committee has been constituted as an ordinary committee of the Council, the additional political balance principle (set out in 3.2.4 above) was applied to the allocation of seats on that body. This has resulted in the Labour Group needing to reduce their allocation by one seat on the main committee and this being offered to the Green Group, with no change in the allocation of the other Opposition seat which remains with the Liberal Democrats Group. However, the political balance rules applying to the appointment of Sub Committees by General Purposes Committee requires this calculation to be based only on the size of each individual sub-committee.

In terms of those Sub Committee's appointed by the General Purposes Committee, this has resulted in the number of seats the Labour Group is entitled to on the Pension Fund Sub Committee being reduced by 1 and that seat needing to be offered to the Green Group. Given their size, no changes are required in terms of the allocation of seats on the Committee's other Sub Committee's.

3.2.9 Subsequent to allocating seats, the General Purposes Committee has a duty to make appointments to their specified sub committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group(s) allocated the seats. The appointments to be made by the respective political groups will be set out in the paper listed as Item * on the agenda.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 The proposed allocation of seats on each Sub Committee has been subject to consultation with each individual group on the Council.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 There are no financial considerations arising directly from this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 These are addressed in the main body of the report.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising their functions to have 'due regard' to the need:

a) To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
b) Advance equality of opportunity; and
c) Foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.

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

7.3 The purpose of the duty is to enquire into whether a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision. Due regard is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances.

7.4 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report at this stage.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 None directly arising from this report.

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel
Corporate Director Finance & Resources

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APPOINTMENTS TO SUB COMMITTEES & OUTSIDE BODIES

Appointments to the General Purposes Sub-Committees

Members are asked to note that the appointments listed below were presented to the Extraordinary Council meeting on 13 January 2026, for information and reflect the change in representation of political groups on the Sub Committees needing to be made as a result of the recent change in political balance on the Council.

SENIOR STAFF APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillor Moeen to replace Councillor Farah (in his capacity as former Labour member) as a substitute member on the Committee

M BUTT (C)	**LABOUR**
M.PATEL (VC)	**LABOUR**
KANSAGRA	**CONSERVATIVE**
KRUPA SHETH	**LABOUR**
GRAHL	**LABOUR**

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS:

LABOUR: BENEA, DONNELLY-JACKSON, ***MOEEN***, KNIGHT, NERVA, RUBIN
CONSERVATIVE: MAURICE, MISTRY

SENIOR STAFF APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillor Moeen to replace Councillor Farah (in his capacity as former Labour member) as a substitute member on the Committee

M BUTT (C)	**LABOUR**
M.PATEL (VC)	**LABOUR**
KANSAGRA	**CONSERVATIVE**
KRUPA SHETH	**LABOUR**
GRAHL	**LABOUR**

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS:

LABOUR: BENEA, DONNELLY-JACKSON, ***MOEEN***, KNIGHT, NERVA, RUBIN
CONSERVATIVE: MAURICE, MISTRY

BRENT PENSION FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

- Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam to be reappointed to fill the seat released by the Labour Group as a representative of the Greens.

- The substitute position held by Councillor Ethapemi (in his capacity as a former Labour member) be replaced by a Labour Group vacancy.

- Councillors Farah and Mitchell to be appointed to the two substitute member positions allocated to the Green Group on the Sub Committee

JOHNSON (C)	**LABOUR**
KENNELLY (VC)	**LABOUR**
AHMADI MOGHADDAM	**GREEN**
CHOUDRY	**LABOUR**
CRABB	**LABOUR**
KANSAGRA	**CONSERVATIVE**
MOLLOY	**LABOUR**

CO-OPTED NON-VOTING:

ELIZABETH BANKOLE *(*UNISON*)*

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS:

LABOUR: DIXON, MAHMOOD, SHAH, VACANCY
CONSERVATIVE: MAURICE, J.PATEL
GREEN: FARAH, MITCHELL

BRENT PENSION BOARD

FULL MEMBERS:

DAVID EWART (C)	**INDEPENDENT CHAIR** (31.07.2025)
KABIR	**LABOUR**
SMITH	**LABOUR**
CHRIS BALA	**PENSION SCHEME MEMBER**
BOLA GEORGE	**TRADE UNION (UNISON) MEMBER**
ROBERT WHEELER	**TRADE UNION (GMB) MEMBER**
VACANCY	**EMPLOYER MEMBER (NON-BRENT COUNCIL)**

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS:

No provision is included within the Boards Terms of Reference for substitute members.