

# London Borough of Brent

## Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 8 September 2025 at 10am

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence		Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mili Patel.  Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) also took the opportunity to welcome Jehan Weerasinghe to his first Cabinet meeting as the newly appointed Corporate Director Neighbourhoods & Regeneration.
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 Monday 28 July 2025 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.
4.	Matters Arising (if any)		None identified.
5.	Petitions (if any)		There were no petitions presented at the meeting.
6.	Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)		There were no items referred from either the Community Wellbeing or Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committees.
7.	Developing a new Brent Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Strategy		Prior to considering the report, Cabinet noted the representations and comments made by Mr John O'Donnell (speaking on behalf of residents from the Lynton Close Travellers site). In recognising the progress made in terms of the relationship between residents on the site and Council Mr O'Donnell outlined a number of questions in relation to the investment in Lynton Close site improvements, rent arrangements, search for additional

## London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 8 September 2025 (continued)

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			<p>Traveller sites in Brent and new allocations policy referred to as part of the proposed Strategy presented for consideration.</p> <p>In responding to the comments raised Councillor Donnelly-Jackson (as Cabinet Member for Housing) also welcomed the more positive and meaningful process of engagement with the Traveller community at Lynton Close and highlighted the Council's commitment to celebrating diversity and ensuring Brent remained an inclusive place for all communities.</p> <p>As part of this approach, reference was made to the work undertaken with residents of the Lynton Close Traveller Site to address overcrowding and fire safety risks, alongside the clearance of unwanted bulky waste and a dilapidated playground and portacabins that were no longer fit for purpose. It was pointed out these efforts had also been supported by a series of resident meetings (chaired by the Council's Chief Executive) covering a range of wider issues, which had also resulted in the organisation of two community support days involving teams from the Council's Housing, Brent Health Matters, Hubs and Council Tax services with residents (along with the wider community) being kept updated through regular, accessible communications.</p> <p>Turning to development of the new Strategy, it was highlighted that this had reflected the engagement undertaken to date in partnership with Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities underpinned by an understanding of the needs being identified. In developing the proposals and working to improve engagement, it was highlighted that the Council had also involved interest groups like London Gypsy &amp; Travellers Association as well as other local authorities to get advice and support in order to ensure the approach outlined was based on recognised best</p>

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			<p>practice.</p> <p>As part of the process of engagement and in seeking to develop a better understanding of need, it was recognised that the Irish Traveller community had highlighted access to suitable accommodation and the opportunity to meaningfully shape support services as important in supporting residents' health and wellbeing, as well as their ability to thrive in education and employment with data from the latest Census and other sources also supporting the need to improve outcomes in these areas. This had also resulted in additional cross Council work being undertaken to ensure ownership and consistency in the approach being developed towards the delivery of improvements with the aim being to not just improve communication but also engage and listen, enabling residents (with the Council's support) to shape their futures as well as increase wellbeing and reduce marginalisation and stigma.</p> <p>In terms of the questions which had been raised, an assurance was provided that these would be responded to in detail following the meeting with initial confirmation provided that the liaison role for the Lynton Close site was already in the process of being recruited.</p> <p>In recognising and supporting the efforts being made to continue and develop the process of engagement and in seeking to provide the foundation for a fairer future Cabinet RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(1) Endorse the proposed direction of travel to develop the Gypsy, Roma &amp; Traveller Strategy. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The skeleton outlined in paragraph 3.2.5 of the report.</li> </ul>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 8 September 2025 (continued)**

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultation and engagement approach as captured in paragraphs 3.2.24 – 3.2.27 and detailed within Appendix A of the report.</li> </ul> <p>(2) To note progress made, and endorse next steps to develop key components of the strategy (as detailed in 3.2.10 – 3.2.23 of the report), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Pitch Allocation Policy as detailed in Appendix B of the report.</li> <li>• Site search – with a report detailing to be provided for Cabinet in 2026.</li> <li>• Site management approach.</li> </ul> <p>(3) To endorse the use of up to c.£500,000 capital investment from 2026/27 through the usual capital governance processes (Capital Programme Board and Cabinet) for site improvements as part of our improved approach to site management. This would be invested in priorities identified through consultation and engagement with the residents.</p> <p>(4) To endorse a reduction in the weekly pitch rate from £185.13 to £138.96.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: <b>Yes</b></p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: <b>6pm on Monday 15 September 2025</b></p>
8.	Inter Authority Agreement - Brent, Barnet, Harrow Mortuary Service	All Wards	Cabinet RESOLVED:

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 8 September 2025 (continued)**

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			<p>(1) To agree that a public mortuary service should continue to be provided by Brent Council at Northwick Park on behalf of Brent, Barnet and Harrow Councils.</p> <p>(2) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Residents and Housing Services in consultation with the Director Law (Chief Legal Officer) and Corporate Director Finance &amp; Resources (Chief Finance Officer) to agree and finalise the terms of the Inter Authority Agreement (as outlined within Appendix 1 of the report), and to take all necessary action to implement the proposed shared service arrangement.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: <b>Yes</b></p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: <b>6pm on Monday 15 September 2025</b></p>
9.	Relocation of Islamia Primary School	Queens Park; Stonebridge	<p>Prior to considering the report, Cabinet noted the representatives received from Jitu Patel (as Chair of the Board of Trustees representing BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir - Neasden Temple) accompanied by Girish Patel (as a separate Trustee) and Zafar Ashraf (Executive Director - Yusuf Islam Foundation).</p> <p>In highlighting the position of the Board of Trustees, Jitu Patel outlined their interest in the Gwenneth Rickus site as a key component in their long-term vision for the area along with the representations made in response to the statutory consultation and alternative offer to acquire the site from Brent Council and grant a medium-term lease to Islamia School. As an alternative, should the decision be made to proceed with the proposed transfer of the site to the Yusuf Islam Foundation the Board of</p>

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			<p>Trustees advised they would be seeking the opportunity, should the site no longer be required in future for educational purposes, for acquisition, subject to the necessary legal consents being obtained. In seeking a way forward, it was confirmed that the Board of Trustees remained committed to working collaboratively with the Council and the Yusuf Islam Foundation to create a model of co-operation, and to promote and protect faith-based educational provision and community use.</p> <p>In terms of the position outlined by Zafar Ashraf (on behalf of the Yusuf Islam Foundation), members noted the long running and extensive work undertaken to identify options for future provision of Islamia Primary School (as the only Muslim faith voluntary aided school in the borough) with the proposal, as set out in the report, therefore supported as a viable solution that would meet the needs and approval of key stakeholders. Whilst aware of issues raised by the Board of Trustees representing BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir it was felt that these could be addressed working in collaboration including an invitation for a representative of the Board to join the Schools Governing Body as a Foundation Governor and confirmation that the new premises (subject to approval) would be made available for local community use outside of school hours for which the Foundation would be willing to engage with the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir regarding any needs they may have.</p> <p>Having sought technical advice and assurance from officers at the meeting regarding the issues raised as part of the representations received and recognising the exhaustive nature of the process undertaken in seeking to identify a suitable site for relocation of the school, Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To note the outcome and analysis from the formal consultation.</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 8 September 2025 (continued)**

Agenda Item No	Item	Ward(s)	Decision
			<p>(2) To approve the proposal to relocate Islamia Primary School to the Gwenneth Rickus site on Brentfield Road as a 2FE school from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2027.</p> <p>(3) To note that the Gwenneth Rickus site would be transferred into the name of the Yusuf Islam Foundation, who would be required to hold the site for the benefit of the Islamia Primary School. Further details in terms of ownership would be set out in a Trust Deed. This would ensure that the primary school would be protected from eviction in future.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: <b>Yes</b></p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: <b>6pm on Monday 15 September 2025</b></p>
10.	2025-26 Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) - Projects over £100k	All Wards	<p>Prior to considering the report, Cabinet noted the comments made by Councillors Hack and Dar (as online participants) in support of the Brent Beats and Roots project recommended for inclusion as a project for funding recognising the community driven nature of the cultural initiatives outlined within the project and focus on the borough's Irish Heritage.</p> <p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve the projects set out in Appendix A of the report for NCIL funding.</p> <p>(2) To note the projects that required a capital budget requirement</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 8 September 2025 (continued)**

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			<p>as set out in Appendix A and Appendix B of the report.</p> <p>(3) To approve a capital budget funded from NCIL totalling £5,088,231.</p> <p>(4) To note the projects in Appendix B that had been approved under delegated authority by the Corporate Director Service Reform and Strategy.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: <b>Yes</b></p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: <b>6pm on Monday 15 September 2025</b></p>
11.	Tri-Borough Leisure Contract Procurement	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve withdrawing Brent from the current Tri-Borough leisure procurement with Ealing and Harrow.</p> <p>(2) To commence a standalone procurement for Vale Farm Sports Centre, based on a five-year agency agreement model until 2031.</p> <p>(3) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Service Reform and Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Leisure, to finalise the procurement process and award the contract, subject to legal advice and the Council's governance procedures.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: <b>Yes</b></p>



**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 8 September 2025 (continued)**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Ward(s)</b>	<b>Decision</b>
			Deadline for submission of call-in: <b>6pm on Monday 15 September 2025</b>
<b>12.</b>	Council Homes Acquisition Programme Delivery	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve delivery of the Council's Council Homes Acquisition Programme (CHAP) to acquire 15 homes for temporary accommodation.</p> <p>(2) To approve the total capital budget of £11,733,750 required to complete the acquisition and refurbishment of 15 properties.</p> <p>(3) To delegate authority to the Director, Property &amp; Assets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Property to complete the acquisition of purchases above £1m.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: <b>Yes</b></p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: <b>6pm on Monday 15 September 2025</b></p>
<b>13.</b>	Brent Development Plan Documents Review	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve £880,000 to be added to the Local Plan budget reserve to be used for the processes to support delivery of a review of the development plan documents.</p> <p>(2) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director Neighbourhoods and Regeneration in consultation with the</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 8 September 2025 (continued)**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Ward(s)</b>	<b>Decision</b>
			<p>Cabinet Member Regeneration, Planning and Property to approve Development Plan consultation material to be issued in the stages prior to any final draft plan proposed to be submitted for examination.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: <b>Yes</b></p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: <b>6pm on Monday 15 September 2025</b></p>
<b>14.</b>	Complaints Annual Report 2024 - 2025	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To note Brent's performance in managing and resolving complaints.</p> <p>(2) To note and endorse Brent's self-assessment against the Housing Ombudsman's Complaint handling Code as detailed within Appendix D of the report.</p> <p>(3) To approve the report being referred, as required, to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: <b>Yes</b></p> <p>Deadline for submission of call-in: <b>6pm on Monday 15 September 2025</b></p>
<b>15.</b>	Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024-25	All Wards	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To note the overall financial performance for 2024/25, as set out within the report.</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 8 September 2025 (continued)**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Ward(s)</b>	<b>Decision</b>
			<p>(2) To approve submission of the report to Full Council for approval in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice.</p> <p>Eligible for call-in: <b>No (report referred to Council for final approval)</b></p>
<b>16.</b>	Exclusion of Press and Public		There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.
<b>17.</b>	Any other urgent business		<p>There were no items of urgent business.</p> <p>Prior to ending proceedings, Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) took the opportunity to formally thank Alice Lester (as Corporate Director Neighbourhoods &amp; Regeneration) for the support provided to Cabinet and all members more widely during her time at Brent. In recognising this would be her final Cabinet meeting prior retiring from Brent he, along with the rest of Cabinet, wished her all the best for the future and thanked her for the legacy left in terms of the programme of regeneration delivered during her time at Brent.</p> <p>The tribute paid by the Leader was also supported by Councillor Benea (as Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning &amp; Property) who also took the opportunity to personally thank Alice Lester for her support and to wish her all the best in her retirement.</p>
<b>1.</b>			
<b>2.</b>			