



SUMMONS TO ATTEND EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 13 January 2026 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 an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of this Borough.

KIM WRIGHT
Chief Executive

Dated: 5 January 2026

For further information contact: James Kinsella, Governance & Scrutiny Manager
Tel: 020 8937 2063; Email:james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes and agendas please visit:
[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 to charitable purposes;
 - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).
- (b) The interests 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 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.

3 Representation of Political Groups on Committees

1 - 8

In accordance with Standing Order 29, Members are asked to note that the Mayor has called an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council in order to consider a report from the Corporate Director Finance & Resources reviewing (under Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989) the representation of different political groups and allocation of seats on Council Committees and other relevant bodies following a change in the political balance on the Council.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Amira Nassr, Deputy Director
Democratic & Governance Services
Tel: 0208 937 5436
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4 Appointments to Committees and other relevant bodies

To Follow

Subject to Agenda Item 3 above, Council is asked to agree the resulting appointments to Committees and other relevant bodies needing to be made as an outcome of the review of political representation on Committees and change in political balance on the Council.



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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 Brent	<h2>Extraordinary Full Council</h2> <p>13 January 2026</p> <h3>Report from the Corporate Director Finance & Resources</h3>
<h3>Representation of Political Groups on Committees</h3>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
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:	One Appendix 1: Political Balance Rules
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 now a requirement for the Council to undertake a review of the representation of different political groups on its committees.
- 1.2 The current membership of the Council consists of 57 councillors, which has been used as the basis for this review. Following the review, the Council will have a duty to make allocations and then appointments (where necessary) to those committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats.

2.0 Recommendations

Full Council is asked:

- (1) To agree the size of each committee, which remains unchanged from the previous review undertaken at the Council meeting in November 2025.
- (2) To confirm (where the rules of political balance apply) the allocation of seats on committees to each of the Council's political groups as set out in the report.
- (3) To make appointments, where identified as required, to those committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats; and
- (4) To note that the political balance on sub-committees to which the same rules apply will be reviewed at the first available meeting of the General Purposes Committee and the Licensing Committee.
- (5) To note (given their size) the designation of the newly established group of Green councillors as the second Opposition Group on the Council for the purpose of the Members Allowance Scheme.

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

Representation of Political Groups

3.2.1 The Council is required to review and determine the representation of different political groups on certain committees as soon as possible following any change in Council membership and the balance of political groups.

3.2.2 As soon as practicable after the review, the Council then has a duty to determine the allocation to the different political groups of all seats on the relevant committees. The allocation is determined by applying the "political balance rules" prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and supplemented by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. These rules are set out in Appendix 1 to this report and are designed to ensure that the political composition of the Council's decision-making and deliberative committees, as far as possible, replicates the political composition of Full Council. Subsequently, the Council has a duty to make appointments to those committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seat(s).

3.2.3 The Committees that the political balance rules apply to have similar duties in relation to any sub-committees they may have.

3.2.4 Whilst the overall membership of the Council remains as 57 councillors, the composition of political groups as a percentage of overall membership following the recent resignation of five members from the Labour Group and them forming a new group representing the Green Party is now as follows:

- 42 Labour Group councillors (reduced from 47) – representing 73.68% (reduced from 82.46%) of the total council membership.
- 6 Conservative Group councillors – representing 10.53% of the total council membership (no change)
- 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 (no change)
- 1 independent councillor – representing 1.75% of total council membership (no change)

3.2.5 Table 1 below sets out the 5 ordinary committees of the Council to which the political balance rules apply; the size of each committee (excluding any non-voting co-opted committee members in accordance with the political balance rules); the total number of seats required to be allocated and the number of seats each political group is entitled to based on the number of group members.

3.2.6 There are a total of **38** ordinary committee seats to which the political balance requirements will formally apply. Based on the overall council membership, the breakdown regarding the proportion of seats each political group is entitled to on these committees, following this review, has been revised as follows:

- Labour Group – 28 (reduced from 32) seats.
- Green Group – 4 seats (new entitlement)
- Conservative Group – 4 seats (no change)
- Liberal Democrat Group – 2 seats (no change)

3.2.7 According to the political balance rules, a political group for this purpose is a group of two or more members. In light of the rules relating to political balance it will not be possible to treat the single independent member as having formed a political group for the purposes of the review and, on this basis, they are not entitled to the allocation of any of the available seats.

3.2.8 Given the breakdown outlined in terms of the proportion of seats to be allocated between the eligible political groups, this has resulted in seats on each of the 5 ordinary committees to which the political balance rules apply, being agreed and allocated between the respective Groups (following this review) as follows.

Table 1

Ordinary Committees	Size	Labour Group 42 73.68%	Conservative Group 6 10.53%	Green Group 5 8.77%	Liberal Democrats Group 3 5.26%
General Purposes Committee	8	6 (↓ from 7)	0	1 (new seat allocated)	1
Planning Committee	8	6 (↓ from 7)	1	1 (new seat allocated)	0
Audit & Standards Committee	7	5 (↓ from 6)	1	1 (new seat allocated)	0
Corporate Parenting Committee	5	4	1	0	0
Licensing Committee	10	7 (↓ from 8)	1	1 (new seat allocated)	1
Total seats	38	28 (↓ from 32)	4	4	2
Entitlement (based on a proportion of total members)		28	4	4	2

3.2.9 There are other committees which the political balance rules apply to but only principles (a), (b) and (d) (see Appendix 1, paragraph 3). Namely, the existing Scrutiny Committees and the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.

3.2.10 Table 2 below confirms the size and make-up of these Committees, with the newly established Green group now entitled (given the size of each committee) to be allocated a seat on both Scrutiny Committees as well as the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.

Other Committees	Size	Labour Group 42 73.68%	Conservative Group 6 10.53%	Green Group 5 8.77%	Liberal Democrats Group 3 5.26%
Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	11 (plus 4 voting co-opted members and 2 non-voting co-opted members)	8 (↓ from 9)	1	1 (new seat allocated)	1
Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	11	8 (↓ from 9)	1	1 (new seat allocated)	1
Audit & Standards Advisory Committee	7 (plus up to 4 voting co-opted members)	5 (↓ from 6)	1	1 (new seat allocated)	0

3.2.11 Subsequent to allocating seats, the Council has a duty to make appointments to the specified committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats.

3.2.12 The political balance rules do not apply to the Health and Wellbeing Board but it has been previously agreed that this Board comprise four Cabinet Members and one opposition Member and this will continue following this review, with the Conservative Group as the Principal Opposition Group allocated the available seat.

3.2.13 Given the size of the new group of Green councillors, this will mean they now replace the Liberal Democrats Group in being formally designated as the second Opposition Group on the Council for the purposes of the Members Allowance Scheme.

4. Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 The proposed allocation of seats between Committees has been subject to consultation with each political group.

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 (Act), 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

Appendix 1

The political balance rules prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the Act') and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ('the 1990 Regulations')

1. The rules are that seats on relevant committees must be allocated to different political groups so far as reasonably practicable in accordance with the following four principles:
 - (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership;
 - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that each political group is allocated the same proportion of the total seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council as the proportion of the members of the Council that belong to that group; and
 - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that each political group is allocated the same proportion of the seats on each relevant body as the proportion of the members of the Council that belong to that group.
2. Principle (c) refers to "ordinary committees" which under the Act means those appointed under section 102(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, namely General Purposes Committee, Audit & Standards Committee, Corporate Parenting Committee, Planning Committee and Licensing Committee.
3. Principles (a), (b) and (d) apply to a "body" to which the Council makes appointments. The Act provides that the bodies to which this principle applies include ordinary committees (as defined above) and ordinary sub committees, advisory committees and sub-committees, and joint committees where at least 3 seats are filled by appointments made by the Council.
4. Principles (a), (b) and (d) therefore apply to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee. Strictly speaking, according to principle (b), the Labour Group is entitled to a majority of the seats on the Committee. However, to maintain the current size of the Committee, Full Council can depart from the rules provided no member votes against the proposal.
5. By virtue of the Local Government Act 2000, principles (a), (b) and (d) also apply to the Scrutiny Committees.
6. According to principle (c) above, the General Purposes Committee, Audit & Standards Committee, Corporate Parenting Committee, Planning Committee and Licensing Committee first have to be taken together to determine the *number* of seats that should be allocated to each group. Then, in accordance with paragraph (d) above, the number of seats each political group is entitled to has to be allocated proportionately to individual committees so far as possible.
7. The political balance principles do not apply to the London Councils' Joint Committees or the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee because only one appointment on each Committee is made by the Council.

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