Public Document Pack

SUMMONS TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 16 November 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 the MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of this Borough.



KIM WRIGHT
Chief Executive

Dated: 6 November 2026 (Republished on 9, 13 and 16 November 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

recycle for Brent

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 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, 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 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the following Council meetings:

(a) Monday 14 September 2026 1 - 50

(b) Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2026. 51 - 58

(Agenda republished to include the attached minutes on 16 November 2026)

3 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.

4 Mayor's Announcements 59 - 62

To receive any announcements from the Mayor, including (for reference) the list of petitions received and decisions taken under the Council's urgency procedure since the previous meeting.

(Agenda republished to include the list of petitions logged on 13 November 2026)

5 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs 63 - 66

To agree any appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies (if any) in accordance with Standing Order 30 (g).

(Agenda republished to include an updated list of appointments on 13 November 2026)

6 Deputations (if any)

To receive any deputations requested by members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 32.

Members are asked to note that the following deputations are due to be presented at the meeting, relating to the following issues:

(a) Concerns about the stance taken by the Brent Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties on the recent policy motion adopted by the Green Party nationally declaring Zionism a form of racism

(requested by Emma Tait representing Brent Jewish Network)

(b) Concern regarding the issue of rising antisemitism, community cohesion (given the recent policy motion adopted by the Green Party nationally declaring Zionism a form of racism) and the Nablus twinning arrangement and seeking assurance on the steps being taken by the Council to address these concerns, support Jewish residents and strengthen community cohesion (requested by Karen Flaum as a local resident)

(c) The tailored support being made available for people with learning disabilities and Autism into sustainable employment as an issue highlighted by members of Brent Mencap's Disability Rights and Politics (DRAP) Group, a self and peer advocacy group for people with learning disabilities and Autism (requested by Aaron Dryden, Executive Director Brent Mencap).

Members are asked to note that in addition to the above deputations, which were selected for presentation via a ballot undertaken in accordance with Standing Order 32, the following two additional requests were received within the required timescale:

(d) Seeking to highlight public health and environmental concerns regarding the detrimental impact of the proposed Ballymore/St William development at the former Kensal Gasworks for residents living in Brent given the site of the location. (requested by Jude Allen as local residents and member of the Kensal Triangle Resident Association)

(e) Opposing the decision to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in Open Space Land (Northwick Park Golf Course) at 280 Watford Road (requested by Tara Furlong as a local resident)

Following consultation between the respective Group Leaders, the above deputations have also been listed for presentation although this will be subject to final approval via a Procedural Motion be moved at the start of the meeting, which will apply on a one-off basis.

(Agenda republished to include the above list of deputations on 13 November 2026)

7 Questions from Members of the Public and Brent Youth Parliament 67 - 80

7.1 To receive and consider the question(s) submitted by the public for response by the relevant Cabinet Member, in accordance with Standing Order 33.

Members are asked to note that four public questions have been received, which have been circulated as part of the agenda along with the written responses provided.

7.2 To receive question(s) submitted by the Brent Youth Parliament for

response by the relevant Cabinet Member, in accordance with Standing Order 33(c).

Members are asked to note that four questions have been received, which has been circulated as part of the agenda along with the written responses provided.

8 Petitions 81 - 82

To consider any petitions with more than 200 signatures on which a request has been received for their presentation, in accordance with the Council's petition rules and Standing Order 66.

Members are asked to note that the following petition is due to be presented at the meeting:

(a) Make Preston Road a 30-mph speed limit between Carlton Avenue East and the junction of East Lane/Forty Avenue

The supporting details on the petition have been attached, for reference.

9 Motions 83 - 110

To debate the Group motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 41.

Members are asked to note:

- The motions submitted for debate have been attached, in accordance with Standing Order 41(c).

- Where a motion concerns an executive function, nothing passed can be actioned until approved by the Executive or an officer with the relevant delegated power.

(Agenda republished to include the attached Group Motions on 9 November 2026 and the amendments submitted by the Green & Conservative Groups on the Labour Group motion attached as 9.1(a) and (b); amendments submitted by the Green, Labour and Conservative Groups on the Liberal Democrats motion attached as 9.2(a), (b) and (c) and amendments submitted by the Labour and Conservative Groups on the Green Group motion attached as 9.3(a) and (b), on 16 November 2026)

10 Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members 111 - 120

For questions to be put to members of the Cabinet by Opposition and Non-Cabinet Members in accordance with Standing Order 35.

Five advance notice questions have been received under this item, which have been attached along with the written responses provided.

Members are asked to note that this session will also include an opportunity (within the time available) for other Non-Cabinet members and the Opposition to ask questions of Cabinet Members without the need for advance notice.

11 Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees

To receive reports from the Chairs of the Council's Scrutiny Committees in accordance with Standing Order 36. The reports have been attached as follows:

11.1	Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	121 - 128
11.2	Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	129 - 134
11.3	Housing Scrutiny Committee	135 - 138

12 Report from the Vice Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee 139 - 142

To receive a report from the Vice Chair of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee updating Council on the work of the Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 37.

13 Believe in Brent: Council Plan 2026 - 2030 143 - 216

To receive a report from the Corporate Director Finance & Resources presenting the Brent Council Plan, *Believe in Brent 2026 – 2030*, to Full Council for adoption.

Members are asked to note that the report is also due to be considered by Cabinet on 9 November 2026 with any comments made as a result to be reported at the Council meeting.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Amira Nassr, Deputy Director Democratic & Corporate Governance
020 8937 5436
amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk

14 West London Waste Plan Submission to the Secretary of State for examination 217 - 234

To receive a report from the Corporate Director Neighbourhoods & Regeneration presenting and seeking approval for submission of the new West London Waste Plan (WLWP) to the Secretary of State for independent public examination, under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) following

completion of the formal public consultation process under Regulation 19,

Members are asked to note that the new West London Waste Plan (WLWP) will form a part of the Brent Local Development Plan and will be used for determining planning applications for waste related development within Brent and across West London. It will replace the current West London Waste Plan, adopted in 2015 and has been prepared jointly with the London Boroughs of Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond Upon Thames and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC).

Members are asked to note that, due to their size, the main appendices to this report have been published as a supplementary pack to this agenda.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Hilary Seaton, Principal Planning Policy Officer
020 8937 1427
hilary.seaton@brent.gov.uk

15 Changes to the Constitution 235 - 242

To receive a report from the Corporate Director Finance & Resources detailing a number of constitutional changes to the Council Procedure Rules.

(Agenda republished on 13 November 2026 to include an amendment to the proposals within the attached report submitted by the Conservative Group)

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Pameel Crowther-Newman, Interim Director of Law and Monitoring Officer
020 8937 4102
Pameel.Crowther-Newman@brent.gov.uk

16 Exclusion of the Press & Public

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

17 Urgent Business

At the discretion of the Mayor to consider any urgent business, in accordance with Standing Order 37(s).



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**

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held on Monday 14 September 2026 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Amer Agha MB BS, MSc, PHCM

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Kanta Mistry

COUNCILLORS:

Aden	Ahmadi Moghaddam
I.Ahmed	Alexandre
Amadi	Anderson
Bajwa	Blackman
Brown	Burn
M Butt	S Butt
Chadha	Chauhan
Choudry	Chowdhury
Clinton	Dar
De Souza	Dixon
Donnelly-Jackson	Do Rosario
Gallagher	Georgiou
Grahl	Ryan
Ibrahim	Jansali
Johnson	Kansagra
Kelcher	Knight
Lorber	Madabhushi
Malonga	Maurice
McLeish	Mishra
Mitchell	Mulaisho
A.Patel	J.Patel
N.Patel	Perrin
Rubin	Ryan
Shah	Thomas
Vakani	Want
Warsame	

1. **Mayors Introductory Statement**

The Mayor welcomed all those present to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors P.Ahmed, Mahmood, HB Patel and Unger.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the of the Council meeting held on Monday 6 July 2026 be approved as a correct record.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

During the meeting Councillor Burn declared a personal interest in relation to the deputation presented by Action on the Climate & Ecological Emergency (ACE) Brent) under Agenda Item 7.2 given the involvement by the Chair of Brent Pure Energy which was an organisation in which he held shares.

There were no other declarations of interest made during the meeting.

5. **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

(i) Response to recent tragic Incident at the Civic Centre

The Mayor began by advising it was with regret he had to open his announcements reflecting on the tragic incident that had recently taken place at the Civic Centre, in which a young man, David Wynter had sadly lost his life.

Speaking on behalf of the Council, he took the opportunity to pass on his heartfelt condolences to David's family, friends and loved ones for their devastating loss. At such a difficult time, he advised the Council's thoughts were with those colleagues, residents and first responders who had also witnessed or been affected by the deeply distressing nature of the event, with members reminded that as a community, the borough stood together in sympathy and support for everyone impacted by the tragedy.

(ii) Recent flooding in Nepal

The Mayor advised he was also deeply saddened to have witnessed the devastating floods in Nepal & Tibet, which had involved the loss of so many lives. On behalf of the people of Brent, he therefore extended the Council's condolences to the communities and all those affected reassuring everyone of the way in which the borough stood in solidarity with them during such a difficult time.

(iii) Brent Libraries Summer Fun Festival

Turning to other activities, the Mayor announced that he had been pleased to attend Brent Libraries Summer Fun Festival. In commending the wide range of activities on offer for children across the borough, thanks were extended to all staff

and volunteers involved for the time and energy they had dedicated in delivering the programme.

(iv) Emergency services flag raising

The Mayor advised he had also been pleased to join staff, councillors, and others in celebrating 999 Emergency Services Day at the annual Flag Raising ceremony earlier in September which had been held to recognise and celebrate the contributions of all those who worked and volunteered across the emergency services.

(v) Brent Students Results

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor then moved on to congratulate young people across the borough for the recent success achieved in their exam results.

In taking the opportunity to commend the results achieved, the Mayor felt it important to acknowledge that this reflected not only the hard work and determination displayed by young people but also the incredible support from their teachers, school staff, parents and carers with Brent's schools continuing to inspire excellence and the students recognised as a credit to their communities.

The results achieved were also felt to highlight not only the commitment of students across the borough but also the strength of Brent's education system, with pride expressed in all young people and the Mayor looking forward to seeing all that they would accomplish in future.

(vi) The Passing of Former Councillor John Lebor

The Mayor then advised it was with sadness he had to inform members about the passing of former Councillor John Lebor.

In recognising former Councillor Lebor as a prominent Brent politician and dedicated public servant, members were reminded that he had served as both Leader of the Council during the late 1970s and 1980s and later as Mayor. Remembering his years of distinguished service to the communities of Brent, the Mayor ended his tribute by offering this sympathy and condolences to John Lebor's family and friends for their loss.

(vii) Petitions and Decisions taken under the Council's Urgency Procedure

In ending his announcements, the Mayor drew members attention to the list of current petitions received and logged by the Governance & Scrutiny Team since the last update as well as decisions taken under the Council's urgency procedure, as circulated with the agenda, in accordance with Standing Orders.

6. **Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs**

As the next item, the Mayor then referred members to the list of changes circulated in relation to appointments to Council Committees and other bodies. In introducing the item, the Mayor advised that the list included nominations for the revised

membership allocation on both the Community & Wellbeing and Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committees as well as membership of the newly established Housing Scrutiny Committee along with its chair and the remaining scrutiny vice-chair positions.

Prior to dealing with the Scrutiny Chair and Vice-Chair appointments, the Mayor advised that he would be seeking to approve the membership changes notified in relation to each Scrutiny Committee and the other bodies, as set out in the paper circulated with the agenda.

Having considered the changes outlined it was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following changes in committee membership:

(1) Following the establishment of the Housing Scrutiny Committee and approval of the subsequent reduction in membership on both the Community & Wellbeing and Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee:

(a) To agree the change in membership on the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, as set out below:

COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (9 Full Members)	
Full Members	
Labour	Bajwa
Labour	De Souza
Labour	Ibrahim
Labour	McLeish
Conservative	Madabhushi (Chair)
Conservative	Chadha
Liberal Democrats	Clinton
Liberal Democrats	Unger
Greens	Alexandre
Education Statutory Co-optees (Voting-Education matters only)	Vacancy (x 2 Parent Governors) Alloysius Frederick (Roman Catholic Diocese)(May 2027) Venerable Archdeacon Catherine Pickford (CoE Diocese) (February 27)
Non-Voting Co-optees	Sayed Jaffar Milani (Muslim Faith Schools)(May 2027) Rachelle Goldberg (Jewish Faith Schools)(May 2027)
Substitute Members	
Labour	Anderson
Labour	Blackman
Labour	Burn

Labour	Thomas
Conservative	Chowdhury
Conservative	Do Rosario
Liberal Democrats	Georgio
Liberal Democrats	Lorber
Greens	Mitchell
Greens	Ryan

(b) To agree the change in membership on the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, as set out below:

RESOURCES AND PUBLIC REALM COMMITTEE (9 Full Members)	
Full Members	
Labour	I.Ahmed
Labour	Anderson
Labour	Blackman
Labour	Burn
Conservative	A.Patel (Chair)
Conservative	Chowdhury
Liberal Democrats	Chauhan
Liberal Democrats	Mulaisho
Greens	Mitchell
Substitute Members	
Labour	Bajwa
Labour	De Souza
Labour	Ibrahim
Labour	McLeish
Conservative	Kansagra
Conservative	Mishra
Liberal Democrats	Georgiou
Liberal Democrats	Lorber
Greens	Alexandre
Greens	Ryan

(c) To agree the membership of the Housing Scrutiny Committee, as set out below:

HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (9 Full Members)	
FULL Members	
Labour	I.Ahmed
Labour	Dar
Labour	Donnelly-Jackson
Labour	Ibrahim

Conservative	Madabhushi
Conservative	Mishra
Liberal Democrats	Georgiou
Liberal Democrats	Want
Greens	Malonga
Substitute Members	
Labour	Anderson
Labour	Blackman
Labour	Burn
Labour	Thomas
Conservative	Maurice
Conservative	H.Patel
Liberal Democrats	Lorber
Liberal Democrats	Unger
Greens	Alexandre
Greens	Ryan

(2) Councillor Unger to replace Councillor N.Patel as a full member on the Corporate Parenting Committee with Councillor N.Patel to replace Councillor Unger as a substitute member on the Corporate Parenting Committee.

(3) Radhika Balu to be appointed as a voting representative of the West and North London Integrated Care Board on the Health & Wellbeing Board.

The Mayor then advised he would move on to deal with the appointment of the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee, prior to dealing with the appointment of the remaining Scrutiny Vice-Chair positions. Members were reminded, in terms of the appointment process, this would involve any nominations received being dealt with in the order submitted with any final appointment made being on the basis of a simple majority of votes from those members present. Should no majority be achieved the Mayor advised he would then move on to put the next nomination to the vote.

Starting with the position of Housing Scrutiny Chair, the Mayor confirmed that one nomination (Councillor Georgiou) had been submitted in advance of the meeting. Before moving on the vote, other nominations were invited with the following names put forward at the meeting, as follows:

- Councillor Donnelly-Jackson was nominated by Councillor Grahl on behalf of the Labour Group. In moving the nomination, Councillor Grahl welcomed the establishment of the Housing Scrutiny Committee as a means of providing increased scrutiny and focus in relation to housing management provision across the borough, with disappointment expressed at what was understood to be the withdrawal of an alternative Green Group nomination in advance of the meeting.

- In response, Councillor Mitchell clarified that the Green Group nomination had not been withdrawn with Councillor Ryan subsequently moved as a final nomination.

Given the nominations received, the Mayor advised each would need to be considered in the order submitted, with members being asked to vote on each nomination in turn pending an appointment being confirmed on the basis of a straightforward majority of votes being achieved.

Prior to the vote, Councillor Georgiou (as Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group) requested (under Standing Order 43 (c)) that they be undertaken on the basis of a roll call. Having confirmed the request, the Mayor then handed over to the Chief Executive for the nominations received for the position of Housing Scrutiny Chair to be put to the vote.

On a recorded vote being taken the appointment of Councillor Georgiou as Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee was **NOT APPROVED,** on the basis of there being no overall majority of votes in favour.

The voting recorded on the appointment of Councillor Georgiou as Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee was as follows:

For (20): Councillors Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Alexandre, Brown, Chadha, Chauhan, Clinton, Gallagher, Georgiou, Jansali, Lorber, Malonga, Mitchell, Mulaisho, N.Patel, Perrin, Ryan, Shah, Vakani, Want and Warsame

Against (23): Councillors Aden, I.Ahmed, Amadi, Anderson, Bajwa, Blackman, Burn, M.Butt, S.Butt, Choudry, Dar, De Souza, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Grahl, Hack, Ibrahim, Johnson, Kelcher, Knight, McLeish, Rubin and Thomas.

Abstentions (10): Councillors Aden (Mayor) Mistry (Deputy Mayor), Chowdhury, Do Rosario, Kansagra, Madhabushi, Maurice, Mishra, A.Patel, J.Patel.

The Mayor then moved on to put the nomination of Councillor Donnelly-Jackson as Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee to the vote, with the appointment **APPROVED** on the basis of an overall majority of votes being achieved.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Councillor Donnelly-Jackson be appointed as Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2026 - 2027 Municipal Year.

The voting recorded on the appointment of Councillor Donnelly-Jackson as Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee was as follows:

For (23): Councillors Aden, I.Ahmed, Amadi, Anderson, Bajwa, Blackman, Burn, M.Butt, S.Butt, Choudry, Dar, De Souza, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Grahl, Hack, Ibrahim, Johnson, Kelcher, Knight, McLeish, Rubin and Thomas.

Against (19): Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Alexandre, Brown, Chauhan, Clinton, Gallagher, Georgiou, Jansali, Lorber, Malonga, Mitchell, Mulaisho, N.Patel, Perrin, Ryan, Shah, Vakani, Want and Warsame.

Abstentions (11): Councillors Aden (Mayor) Mistry (Deputy Mayor), Chadha, Chowdhury, Do Rosario, Kansagra, Madhabushi, Maurice, Mishra, A.Patel, J.Patel.

Given an appointment having been made, the Mayor advised that this completed the process with no further vote to be undertaken on the final nomination received.

The Mayor then moved on to deal with the appointment of the Vice-Chair positions on each Scrutiny Committee. Members were advised that each appointment would be taken in turn starting with nominations being sought for the Vice Chair position on the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

In response to a nomination suggested by Councillor Georgiou, clarification was provided that it would not be possible to nominate current members of Cabinet to serve on scrutiny. Following on, Councillor Kansagra then moved the nomination of Councillor Chadha as Vice-Chair on the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. With no other valid nominations received the Mayor advised he would therefore move straight to the vote.

Prior to the vote, Councillor Georgiou (as Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group) again requested (under Standing Order 43 (c)) that it be undertaken on the basis of a roll call. Having confirmed the request, the Mayor then handed over to the Chief Executive for the nomination received for the position of Vice Chair on the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to be put to the vote.

On a recorded vote being taken the appointment of Councillor Chadha as Vice-Chair of the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee was **NOT APPROVED,** on the basis of their being no overall majority of votes in favour.

The voting recorded on the appointment of Councillor Chadha as Vice-Chair of the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee was as follows:

For (9): Councillors Chadha, Chowdhury, Do Rosario, Kansagra, Madhabushi, Maurice, Mishra, A.Patel, J.Patel.

Against (19): Councillors Ahmadi-Moghaddam, Alexandre, Brown, Chauhan, Clinton, Gallagher Georgiou, Jansali, Lorber, Malonga, Mitchell, Mulaisho, N.Patel, Perrin, Ryan, Shah, Vakani, Want and Warsame.

Abstentions Against (25): Councillors Agha (Mayor) Mistry (Deputy Mayor), Aden, I.Ahmed, Amadi, Anderson, Bajwa, Blackman, Burn, M.Butt, S.Butt, Choudry, Dar, De Souza, Dixon, Donnelly-Jackson, Grahl, Hack, Ibrahim, Johnson, Kelcher, Knight, McLeish, Rubin and Thomas.

As no other nominations had been received the Mayor advised that the position would therefore be left vacant enabling further discussion between the Group Leaders on the most appropriate way forward to fill the position.

Prior to moving on, Councillor Mitchell (with the approval of the Mayor as a Point of Clarification regarding comments made by the Deputy Leader in moving the nomination of Councillor Donnelly-Jackson as Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee) sought to clarify the position regarding the status of the nomination made by the Green Group. Members were advised that the intended nomination

had not been withdrawn in advance of the meeting and that contact had been made with the other Group Leaders to confirm that, whilst intending to nominate Councillor Ryan, the Green Group would initially be supporting Councillor Georgiou's nomination submitted in advance by the Liberal Democrats Group. This was on the basis of them forming the larger Opposition Group and that nomination having been received in advance. Councillor Mitchell felt the Green Group position had therefore remained clear, with the preference being for the Scrutiny Chair positions to be held across all three of the democratically elected Opposition Groups and their intended nomination not having been withdrawn in advance of the meeting.

Following on, the Mayor permitted Councillor Grahl to speak in clarifying her understanding of the position in terms of the nomination of Councillor Ryan by the Green Group, which (in response to a further point of clarification raised by Councillor Clinton) it was confirmed the Labour Group had indicated that were willing to support in advance of the meeting and prior to the subsequent contact by the Leader of the Green Group in advance of the meeting.

In noting the concerns highlighted by members of the Liberal Democrat Group at the position outlined, further clarification was provided by the Chief Executive, in response to a point of Order raised by Councillor Lorber regarding the order in which the nominations for position of Housing Scrutiny Chair had been dealt with and regarding the process undertaken. Members were advised this had been in accordance with the advice provided by the Mayor in advance of nominations being sought, with confirmation provided that the only formal nomination received in advance of the Council meeting had been Councillor Georgiou on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group. Having then sought other nominations at the meeting, the second nomination received had been from Councillor Grahl (on behalf of the Labour Group) who nominated Councillor Donnelly-Jackson. A third nomination was then received at the meeting from the Green Group, with Councillor Mitchell formally nominating Councillor Ryan and these were the order in which the nominations were considered. In response to further clarification being sought, the Chief Executive confirmed that the only nomination received in advance of the meeting had been from the Liberal Democrats Group with the subsequent nominations having been moved during the meeting and the order determined on that basis.

The Mayor then moved on to seek nominations for the remaining Vice-Chair positions on both the Resources & Public Realm and Housing Scrutiny Committees. As no nominations were received for either post, members were advised that (as with the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee) both Vice-Chair positions would need to be left vacant enabling further discussion between the Group Leaders on the most appropriate way forward to fill the posts.

7. **Deputations (if any)**

Moving on without further comment, the Mayor advised that he had accepted requests for the presentation of two deputations at the meeting, which had been received in accordance with Standing Order 32.

The deputations to be presented, were highlighted as follows, with the Mayor advising that unless otherwise indicated by members, he intended to allow up to

five minutes for the presentation of each deputation before then providing the relevant Cabinet Member up to three minutes to respond on each matter.

1st deputation – Progress towards divestment

2nd deputation – Engagement of Council members in monitoring progress on the delivery of the Council's climate and biodiversity commitments and in setting future priorities in relation to Brent's Climate & Ecological Strategy & Delivery Plan.

7.1 1st deputation – Progress towards Divestment

Having confirmed the process to be followed, the Mayor welcomed Sheila Guhadasan representing the Brent & Harrow Palestine Solidarity Campaign to the meeting to present the first deputation.

Before inviting presentation of the deputation, the Mayor took the opportunity to remind members, given the deputations focus on divestment and the ongoing situation in Palestine and Gazza, of his commitment in seeking to recognise not only the public sector equality duty placed on the Council but also to celebrate the diverse nature of the borough along with the peaceful relationships and level of community cohesion that existed between the many different communities across Brent. As such, he asked all present to remember the principles outlined during its consideration.

In introducing the deputation, Sheila Guhadasan (speaking as Chair of the Brent & Harrow Palestine Solidarity Campaign PSC) began by reminding members of the petition which had been presented to the Council two years previously (containing 2000 signatures) requesting that the Council support the campaign to divest its pension funds from companies complicit in what the PSC felt was Israels genocide, apartheid and human rights abuses against Palestinians.

Highlighting the ongoing nature of the campaign, members were also reminded of the commitment made by the previous Deputy Leader at the Council meeting in September 2025 to write to the London CIV (LCIV) calling for a more robust framework (as part of wider pension fund reforms) that would enable future exclusions of investments linked to conflict, military occupation or genocide as well as to continue working with fund managers to disclose pension fund investments in companies listed by the United Nations OHCHR, on which further progress updates were awaited. Reference was also made to commitments included within both the Brent Labour and Green Party 2026 local election manifestos to work with LCIV to encourage divestments, and to adopt ethical procurement and investment policies.

In recognising, the Fiduciary Duty upon the Pension Fund, members were also advised of the reference made at the October 2025 Brent Pension Fund Sub-Committee meeting to companies with high Environmental, Social & Governance scores performing well, with concern raised at recent government guidance on Preparing and Maintaining an Investment Strategy Statement being subsequently cited at the last Sub Committee as a further reason for delay based on the guidance stating that "The responsible investment approach should not set exclusions for investments in individual countries, investment styles or companies." Clarification was, however, provided that the campaign group were not asking Brent's Pension Fund to name an individual country or company in its Investment Strategy

Statement and were instead seeking a commitment to divest from companies with proven and sustained involvement in what they regarded as huma rights abuse and violations of international law. In this respect, Sheila Guhadasan also advised of further legal representations submitted on behalf of the PSC to the Minster for Local Government requesting withdrawal of comments made by her predecessor that Councils should not adopt investment policies that "go beyond or differ from UK government sanctions or foreign policy positions." The PSC were of the view this did not form part of the guidance issued by the government, with it felt Brent Council would therefore be operating within permitted rights to express a commitment to seek to divest from companies complicit in the stance taken by Israel. Looking beyond pension investments, the example was provided of loans and investments totalling over £8billion provided by Barclays to companies supplying Israel with weapons and military technology and as a primary dealer in Israel government bonds, which was currently a focus of the campaign in the same way as during apartheid in South Africa. It was therefore with concern that the PSC had noted the Council approving a new 18 month Merchant Acquiring contract with Barclays worth £1.08m in August, having waived its usual procurement processes, at a time when many other authorities were seeking to end contracts with Barclays. Support was also expressed for the government's recent announcement on the banning of imports from illegal Israeli settlements along with the suspension of additional arms export licences to Israel alongside a range of other measures, with the government's acceptance of the International Court of Justice's 2024 ruling that Israel's occupation as a whole was illegal also welcomed.

In highlighting this position, Sheila Guhadasan outlined the obligation the Brent & Harrow PSC felt had also been placed on Brent Council to follow the ruling, which it was stated had confirmed Israel's occupation of Palestinian land and treatment of Palestinians as illegal and as amounting to systematic discrimination on racial and ethnic grounds which countries and bodies should not be assisting Israel to maintain. In terms of wider progress, members were advised that 34 Councils in England and Wales have currently committed to divest from companies complicit in Israel's stance, with the Council therefore urged to provide a similar ethical commitment to divest as it did when challenging apartheid in South Africa.

In thanking members for the opportunity to present the deputation, Sheila Guhadasan ended by seeking a commitment to the following specific actions, with the Council asked to confirm:

(1) That they would urgently begin divestment of Brent pension funds via instruction to LCIV.

(2) That they would disclose complicit pension fund investments, in line with previous commitments made.

(3) Timescales and a roadmap for disclosure and divestment.

(4) They would provide further information around the procurement process and contract award to Barclays referred, including any break clause.

(5) The adoption of strongly ethical investment and procurement policies; and

(6) They would be willing to report back on progress to the next full Council meeting and regularly thereafter along with Brent and Harrow PSC.

The Mayor thanked Sheila Guhadasan for presenting the deputation and then invited Councillor Grahl (as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources) to respond.

In responding, Councillor Grahl began by thanking Sheila Guhadasan and the representatives of the Brent & Harrow Palestine Solidarity Campaign for attending to outline their ongoing concerns relating to the widespread and continued suffering being created by the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank and strength of feeling generated as a result. Highlighting her personal support for the campaign, Councillor Grahl referred to being one of a number of Brent Councillors having signed the PSC Councillor Pledge as well as to her pride in being able to help organise a visit by Palestinian schoolchildren to the borough in 2023. In outlining her commitment to ensure the Council acted responsibly in seeking to uphold international law and human rights the need to ensure that investment decisions reflected the same principles was also acknowledged with the Labour Group long standing position being clear as set out in the manifesto commitment towards:

- Increasing transparency around pension fund investments.

- Considering how the UN Genocide Convention can be reflected in the Council's investment framework.

- Working with London CIV towards divestment from companies operating in occupied territories or involved in human rights abuses.

This position was also felt to build on action already taken in consistently supporting calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the delivery of humanitarian aid, and opposition to the occupation of the West Bank and the expansion of illegal settlements on the basis of international law being equally applied for all. It was felt the recent statement made by the Foreign Secretary in that respect had also refocussed the importance of this position, recognising the need to reflect this in the economic relationship with the occupied territories and commitment to action against those financing or facilitating illegal settlement expansion, which had been a move supported and influenced by campaigning from local activists.

Councillor Grahl felt this was also consistent with the approach adopted by the Labour Administration in not simply calling out injustice and suffering but also seeking to act within the powers available. Whilst acknowledging the legal and fiduciary constraints on the Council's pension fund investments, with most assets now being managed through pooled investment vehicles, Councillor Grahl advised she remained keen to ensure those limitations were not used as a reason to prevent action. In ending her response Councillor Grahl, therefore highlighted a commitment to engage further with campaigners to explore what additional measures could be taken to apply pressure on the London CIV and other organisations in developing the approach towards responsible investment and also in seeking to examine other investment options that avoided exposure to Gaza or the Occupied Palestinian Territories in and effort to deliver meaningful progress

towards divestment whilst also recognising the need for the Council to continue acting responsibly, lawfully and through the proper pension government's arrangements

Having thanked Councillor Grahl for her response, the Mayor advised that concluded consideration of the first deputation and then moved on to invite Elaine Sheppard and Ian Saville (representing Action on the Climate & Ecological Emergency (ACE) Brent) to present the second deputation.

7.2 2nd deputation – Engagement of Council members in monitoring progress on the delivery of the Council's climate and biodiversity commitments and in setting future priorities in relation to Brent's Climate & Ecological Strategy & Delivery Plan.

The Mayor then welcomed Elaine Sheppard (representing Action on the Climate & Ecological Emergency (ACE) Brent), along with Ian Saville (Chair of Brent Pure Energy) and Suzanne Morpurgo (representing Brent Parks Forum – present as an online participant) to the meeting and invited them to present the second deputation concerning the monitoring of progress on the delivery of the Council's climate and biodiversity commitments and setting of future priorities in relation to Brent's Climate & Ecological Strategy & Delivery Plan

In thanking the Mayor for the opportunity to address the meeting, Elaine Sheppard (speaking on behalf of Action on the Climate and Ecological Emergency (ACE) Brent and as a member of Brent Friends of the Earth) advised that ACE Brent was a coalition of fifteen environmental and community organisations working to secure a stronger response from Brent Council to the climate and ecological emergency. Supported by Ian Saville (Chair of Brent Pure Energy) and Suzanne Morpurgo (representing Brent Parks Forum) she advised members the deputation was seeking to highlight concerns at what they felt to be the insufficient urgency being attached to the climate emergency along with the need for greater public and member engagement in monitoring progress and shaping future action.

In terms of specific requests, members were advised the deputation was seeking the introduction of quarterly reporting on climate action; a review of the 2019 Climate Emergency Strategy with all planned climate and biodiversity actions to be combined to support that process; the establishment of more meaningful resident participation through the proposed Residents Climate Forum as well as the appointment of a new Climate Champion to complement the responsibilities currently held by Cabinet Members.

Members were advised that since ACE Brent's previous deputation to the Council in 2023 improved dialogue with officers and members had been welcomed alongside the Council's response to certain issues, including work to improve monitoring of the emissions impacts arising from climate actions. The contribution made by ACE Brent's volunteer organisations was also highlighted, with members advised of the proactive work being undertaken to engage residents in climate-related activities and participate in consultations. It was pointed out this had included significant engagement in the Tree Strategy consultation during 2025, although concerns were expressed that this still did not appear to have been implemented.

Highlighting the growing impacts of climate change on local communities, reference was made to the extreme heat and drought experienced during the summer with ACE Brent supporting what they felt was an urgent need to ensure climate considerations informed and were embedded across all areas of Council activity. Concern was, however, expressed that the climate emergency still did not appear to be sufficiently reflected in decisions being taken across the Council despite the increasingly visible impacts being experienced locally, with members advised that ACE Brent considered climate resilience and environmental sustainability to be issues which should inform all Council decision-making rather than being treated as isolated policy areas.

Turning to governance and scrutiny arrangements, members were advised that ACE Brent understood no climate action report had been presented to any Council Committee since October 2024, with the last scrutiny report on climate matters having been considered in February 2024. Whilst welcoming the inclusion of a climate resilience and flood risk item on the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee agenda scheduled for the upcoming meeting in October 2026, concern was expressed that this appeared to represent the only climate-related item currently programmed within the scrutiny work programme up to April 2027. In recognising flooding as an existing and growing risk within Brent, disappointment was expressed that a meeting previously promised on the issue had subsequently been cancelled with queries also raised regarding when members would have an opportunity to review progress against the climate delivery plan and participate in planning for the 2026-28 period.

In continuing, Ian Saville (Chair of Brent Pure Energy) sought to reiterate the importance placed on effective scrutiny and public accountability by ACE Brent, which it was felt included the need for regular progress monitoring updates and engagement by elected members. without which visibility regarding the Council's response remained limited. In highlighting the broad remit of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, which alongside climate related matters included budget issues, public realm, crime and anti-social behaviour and limited number of meetings each year to focus on these, concerns were raised that these competing priorities restricted the Committee's ability to provide effective oversight of climate action and that consideration should therefore be given to establishing a dedicated Climate Emergency Scrutiny Committee.

In terms of strategic leadership, whilst recognising and welcoming the commitment shown by Councillor Rubin as current Lead Member it was noted that responsibility for climate issues sat alongside his additional remits including children's services and employment, with concern that the previous Climate Champion role also appeared to have been discontinued. Members were advised that neighbouring local authorities maintained dedicated climate leadership arrangements with the deputation suggesting that Brent should also consider strengthening its governance model accordingly.

In relation to strategic planning and transparency, whilst welcoming inclusion on the Council's website of an outline on those actions delivered since 2022, it was also felt important for residents to be able to understand how priorities were established, what challenges and trade-offs existed in delivering climate action with limited resources and how decisions were being made. Concern was also expressed regarding the number of separate climate-related strategy documents currently in

place, with the Council urged to undertake a comprehensive review of the 2019 Climate Emergency Strategy in order to consolidate climate and biodiversity actions into a single overarching framework incorporating clear priorities, milestones and delivery timescales as a means of enabling councillors, residents and stakeholders to more effectively monitor and assess progress.

In concluding the deputation, Ian Saville advised that ACE Brent had welcomed the Council's commitment to establish a Residents Climate Forum and recognised the potential for the forum to support collaborative working between members, officers and residents. It was, however, felt that the success of the forum would depend upon meaningful engagement and genuine co-design with residents from the outset. The Council was therefore urged to begin the process by involving residents directly in determining the forum's objectives, governance arrangements and structure in order to maximise participation and ensure that the forum became an effective mechanism for influencing and shaping future climate policy.

The Mayor thanked Elaine Sheppard and Ian Saville for presenting the deputation and then invited Councillor Rubin, as Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Employment and Climate Action to respond.

In response, Councillor Rubin began by taking the opportunity to thank those representatives from ACE Brent for their attendance and in taking the time to present the deputation along with their continued commitment to climate action and for supporting resident engagement in the Council's work towards achieving net zero. In reaffirming his personal commitment and dedication as Lead Member towards addressing climate action, he felt it important to outline the engagement already undertaken with a number of key stakeholders by the Council and response, following calls for greater resident participation in the development of climate-related plans, in delivering on the commitment to establish a new Climate Action Forum, which was due to come into effect in October 2026. Members were advised that the inaugural meeting would be focussed on the future structure and operation of the forum with a workshop also being arranged to help shape the Council's Climate Strategy through to 2030.

In support of this approach Councillor Rubin also outlined a wider range of additional consultation and engagement activities being undertaken to support development of the Climate Strategy, including:

- A dedicated engagement session for all councillors.
- Consideration of the strategy by Scrutiny in October.
- An online public consultation inviting feedback from residents.
- A climate roadshow across the five Brent Connect areas.
- A Schools Climate Summit on 7 October to gather views from young people alongside a dedicated youth engagement session.
- Engagement with trade union representatives, Council staff and faith groups.

In concluding his response, Councillor Rubin once again took the opportunity to highlight his commitment to tackling the climate related challenges identified and to encourage the necessary participation in this process, highlighting the need for effective climate action plans to be developed collaboratively and informed by local communities. It was hoped that residents and stakeholder groups, supported by ACE Brent, would therefore be encouraged to participate in the forthcoming engagement activities and contribute to shaping the Council's approach to achieving net zero emissions by 2030.

Having thanked Councillor Rubin for his response, the Mayor advised that concluded consideration of the deputations listed on the agenda and, in once again thanking all those who had participated for their contribution, then moved on to deal with the next item of the agenda.

8. **Questions from Members of the Public**

The Mayor advised that two questions had been received from members of the public, which were as follows:

Question 1 from Stephen Thomas to Councillor Dixon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health) regarding action being taken to tackle dangerous and illegal use of e-bikes and scooters

Question 2 from Sushil Rapatwar to Councillor Grahl (as Deputy Leadr and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources) regarding the action being taken to tackle to address Council Tax arrears.

The Mayor advised that those members of the public who had submitted questions had been given the opportunity to the attend the meeting to ask a supplementary question. Whilst he was pleased to welcome Sushil Rapatwar to the meeting, members were advised that Stephen Thomas had not been able to attend with the written response provided in relation to that question therefore noted.

Following the Mayors introduction, the following supplementary question was then raised:

Question 2 Supplementary question from Sushil Rapatwar to Councillor Grahl (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources)

Having acknowledged the written response provided to the question, Sushil Rapatwar, noted that Brent's Council Tax arrears appeared to have increased from £84.3m to £92.9m (reflecting an increase of £8.6m despite the Council Taxpayer funded improvement programme) and asked the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to confirm whether Brent still had the highest level of council tax arrears of any London borough and also if she would be willing to commit to a specific target and deadline for reducing this debt.

Having thanked Sushil Rapatwar for the question, the Mayor then invited Councillor Grahl to respond who began by advising that whilst Brent's total Council Tax debt stood at £92.9m in April 2026 it was important to note this figure combined both historic debt as well as unpaid liabilities from 2025-26. In terms of historic debt, it was clarified that during 2025-26 this had been reduced by £13.1m from £84.3m to

£71.2m however £21.7m of unpaid Council Tax had been carried forward from 2025-26, which had resulted in the overall debt figure of £92.9m. Reference to the collection rate of 16.8% cited within the original written question was also challenged, with Councillor Grahl advising that Brent's enforcement providers achieved an average collection rate of 22.3%, which remained above the sector average of 20%. As a result, she ended by advising it was not felt Brent should be regarded as the worst-performing borough for council tax collection.

Having thanked Councillor Grahl for her response the Mayor advised that with no further questions that concluded the public question time session.

9. Petitions

The Mayor advised that no requests for the presentation or debate on any petitions had been received for consideration at the meeting.

10. Motions

Before moving on to consider the motions listed on the summons, the Mayor advised members that under the new arrangements agreed as part of the changes to Council Procedure Rules agreed earlier in the meeting a total of 60 minutes had now been set aside for consideration of motions submitted for debate. Members were reminded that provision had now been made for the consideration of three Group motions at each Council meeting, based on an allocation across each meeting agreed between the respective Groups. Under the allocation agreed, this had involved motions being submitted for debate at the meeting by the Labour, Conservative and Green Groups, with a total of 20 minutes now provided for the debate on each one.

On the basis of the changes agreed, the Mayor then moved on to consider each motion in turn.

10.1 1st Motion (Labour Group) – All Aboard the West London Orbital

The Mayor invited Councillor Burn to move the first motion which had been submitted on behalf of the Labour Group who began by outlining the significance of the proposed West London Orbital Railway, describing it as one of the most important transport investments that Brent could secure in a generation. Members were advised that the proposal involved an 18.5km rail route largely using existing underutilised infrastructure, with new stations at Harlesden and Neasden and up to six trains per hour operating along the line. The scheme was highlighted as providing improved connectivity to the Elizabeth Line and, in future, HS2, with substantial reductions in journey times across West London.

In support of the motion, Councillor Burn also took the opportunity to highlight the wider economic, social and environmental benefits which it was felt delivery of the scheme would provide. These were recognised as including improved access to employment, education and opportunities for Brent residents, support for new housing and job creation, stronger connections to key employment centres and enhanced access to growing creative and technology sectors across the West London region. In addition, members were also advised of the significant potential

environmental benefits through reduced car dependency, lower congestion and improved air quality.

The strategic importance of the scheme was also highlighted in terms of addressing long-standing transport inequalities affecting communities along the proposed route, alongside the support that would be provided for wider national economic objectives such as the protection of jobs within the rail manufacturing sector and associated supply chains. In commending the motion to members, Councillor Burn ended by hoping members would support the commitment being sought to work alongside neighbouring boroughs and the Government to secure the funding required to deliver the scheme.

Having thanked Councillor Burn for moving the motion, the Mayor then drew members attention to an amendment submitted in relation to the motion from Councillor Gallagher on behalf of the Green Group, which he then invited Councillor Gallagher to move.

In moving the amendment, on behalf of the Green Group Councillor Gallagher, whilst acknowledging the desire to improve transport connections across Brent, began by outlining concerns relating to the ability of the outcomes being sought within the motion to deliver the West London Orbital project given the need to recognise that responsibility for progressing major rail infrastructure sat with organisations including the Department for Transport, Transport for London and the Mayor of London. As a result, she advised the amendment was focused on the need for no further Council spending to be committed on the project given the scale, affordability and uncertainty around its delivery before the 2030s and lack of secured capital funding. In support of this approach, members were advised that the outcome of a £6.6m feasibility study, had yet to be received with it felt insufficient evidence therefore existed to justify further Council investment at this stage and the need identified for the main source of funding investment to be generated through Transport for London, central Government and other relevant partners.

Members were advised that despite lobbying undertaken by the Mayor for London in 2024, no progress appeared to have been made in discussions with the Government regarding the scheme, with concerns therefore highlighted regarding any further allocation of Council resources towards a project over which the Council had limited control. Highlighting a number of alternative options, other investment priorities identified included the potential use of unspent Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 funding to improve active travel infrastructure across the borough with reference made to the need for greater investment in cycling and walking infrastructure, safer crossings and measures to improve air quality and local economic resilience. On the basis outlined, the amendment moved by Councillor Gallagher was therefore as follows:

To add the wording underlined and delete the wording indicated:

All Aboard the West London Orbital

This Council notes:

- The West London Orbital (WLO) would bring under-used freight railway into passenger use as part of the London Overground, with an 18.5km route spanning Hounslow, Ealing, Brent and Barnet.

- New stations at Harlesden and Neasden, with up to six trains per hour, would give Brent residents direct connections to Old Oak Common, Brent Cross and West London's Golden Mile Tech District. ~~Journey times would be transformed, with Harlesden to Brent Cross West falling from 39 to 13 minutes and Neasden to Old Oak Common from 44 to 11 minutes.~~

- The WLO is projected to support more than 15,000 new homes, 11,500 new jobs and nearly £500 million in wider economic benefits. In Brent alone, it could support around 4,100 homes and widen access to jobs.

- More than 1.3 million car kilometres a year could be removed from Brent's roads through a shift to WLO services.

- Brent Council has already committed £616,655 towards a feasibility study for the West London Orbital project in conjunction with other boroughs.

This Council believes:

- The new Government's focus on transport, housing and growth provides an opportunity for Brent to renew its efforts to secure support for the WLO.

- London must remain central to the national conversation on transport and growth. West London alone is a nearly £70 billion economy, while Brent residents paid £1.58 billion in income tax in 2023/24 – as much as Glasgow and more than Manchester. Investment in London also supports skilled jobs and supply chains across the UK~~, including rail manufacturing at Alstom's factory in Derby.~~ Investment that unlocks further growth in London is of benefit to the whole country.

- Brent is not immune from the challenges facing communities elsewhere in the country. Brent contains some of the most deprived communities nationally, including along the proposed WLO route. ~~37% of the travel-time savings for journeys originating in Brent would accrue in areas among the 20% most deprived nationally~~.

- By connecting with the Elizabeth line and HS2 at Old Oak Common, the WLO would help maximise the benefits of national rail investment while improving access to employment, education and opportunity across London.

This Council therefore resolves:

(1) To reaffirm its strong support for the West London Orbital and renew its engagement with the Government to ensure Brent's ~~and London's~~ voice is heard in decisions on future transport investment, including advocating for a firm investment commitment from DfT and other relevant partners before more local authority finance is committed.

(2) To write to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chancellor of the Exchequer~~, setting out the economic, social and national case for the WLO and~~ calling on Government to work with the Mayor of London, TfL and West London boroughs towards a credible funding pathway for delivery that recognises the financial position of local authorities like Brent.

(3) To continue working with the Mayor of London, TfL, the West London Alliance and neighbouring boroughs to progress the WLO and maximise its benefits for Brent residents.

(4) To work with TfL and other partners to safeguard land and protect future options for additional WLO stations in Brent, particularly where public transport accessibility is currently limited.

(5) To support and promote the forthcoming public consultation, encouraging residents, businesses and community organisations to help shape the proposals.

Having thanked Councillor Gallagher for moving the amendment, the Mayor then invited other members to speak, with the following contributions received.

In opening the debate, Councillor Brown spoke to highlight concern that the motion, in effect replicated a similar one the Labour Group had presented the previous year. Concern was also expressed in relation to the approach taken towards public transport matters by the current Administration given the apparent lack of any meetings of the Public Transport Liaison Group following the pandemic and what he viewed as the resulting lack of engagement on public transport issues, which were felt to demonstrate a lack of genuine commitment to improving local transport services.

Speaking next, Councillor Clinton acknowledged the potential benefits of the proposed West London Orbital scheme. Whilst supportive of the motion, he also noted the motion was substantially similar to one debated the previous year. Whilst supportive of improved public transport infrastructure Councillor Clinton felt there was a need to consider whether this represented the most appropriate use of the Group motion process, which he was keen to ensure remained focussed on issues of immediate priority and action.

Councillor Maurice then spoke, welcoming the project as one that had been under consideration for a number of years. In supporting the principle of the scheme, he highlighted the importance of improved east-west transport connectivity across London and Brent along with the significant reductions in journey times that would result. Reference was also made to the wider economic benefits associated with the scheme, including support for new housing and employment growth with the need identified, at the same time, to ensure the necessary external funding contributions required to deliver the scheme were secured before additional funding commitments were sought from partner Councils.

Speaking in support of the original motion. Councillor Knight felt it important to focus on the benefits that the scheme would deliver for communities such as the area she represented in Stonebridge, with improved orbital connectivity identified as key in supporting residents being able to access employment, education and a

range of other services and opportunities across West London. In addition, emphasis was placed on the benefits for more deprived communities and the environmental advantages arising from reduced car usage, lower congestion and improved air quality.

Following on Councillor Anderson, also speaking in support of the original motion, highlighted the importance of the investment in the future of the borough as a means of delivering the opportunities for improvement the enhanced transport links could create for Brent's residents given the impact of poor connectivity in limiting access to employment, social and educational opportunities. In her view, the project therefore represented an opportunity to bring investment, jobs and create wider opportunities for local communities.

Speaking in support of the amendment to the motion Councillor Alexandre, whilst welcoming the principle of making use of existing rail infrastructure and acknowledging the benefits that enhanced public transport connectivity could provide, felt the Council (at this stage) would be better focussing more immediately on improving existing bus services and active travel infrastructure. Concerns were raised regarding the affordability of public transport and the need to deliver practical improvements for residents in the short term rather than concentrating on a longer-term infrastructure project whose delivery remained uncertain.

As a final contribution, Councillor Kelcher (also speaking in support of the motion as Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning) highlighted what he felt to be the significance of the proposed scheme as a transformational opportunity for Brent. Outlining the significant improvement in public transport journey times that would be delivered alongside improved access to employment opportunities, benefits for residents living in more deprived areas and the potential to support housing growth and economic development, he hoped members would support the motion given the specific benefits for Brent (compared to other boroughs) arising from delivery of the scheme as well as improved public transport connectivity across West London and members therefore encouraged to focus on the long-term vision and opportunities presented.

In drawing the debate to a close, the Mayor then invited Councillor Burn (as mover of the original motion) followed by Councillor Alexandre (as mover of the subsequent amendment) to exercise their right of reply.

In closing and exercising his right of reply, Councillor Burn welcome the support expressed for the motion as opposed to focus on procedural matters, once again highlighting the wider benefits associated with transport infrastructure investment. Whilst expressing disappointment at the focus of the Green Group in their response to the debate he advised members that the Labour Group were willing to accept the amendment as moved in the interests of securing a joint approach towards progressing support for the scheme.

In exercising her right of reply on the amendment, Councillor Gallagher clarified that her earlier contribution had focused on concerns regarding the £6.6m already invested in the project, including the Council's contribution towards feasibility work. Whilst expressing support for improved rail connections across the borough, she also highlighted the need for investment in cycling infrastructure, walking routes and wider public realm improvements designed to encourage active travel. Reiterating

the purpose of her amendment, she argued that no further funding should be committed towards the proposed scheme until greater certainty existed regarding its viability and delivery.

Having thanked councillors for their contributions, the Mayor then moved to the vote on the motion. In noting that the amendment moved by the Green Group had been accepted, the Mayor advised this would not require a specific vote and would proceed on the basis it now formed the substantive motion for consideration.

The Mayor then moved to put the substantive motion, as amended, to a vote which was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following motion:

All Aboard the West London Orbital

This Council notes:

- The West London Orbital (WLO) would bring under-used freight railway into passenger use as part of the London Overground, with an 18.5km route spanning Hounslow, Ealing, Brent and Barnet.

- New stations at Harlesden and Neasden, with up to six trains per hour, would give Brent residents direct connections to Old Oak Common, Brent Cross and West London's Golden Mile Tech District.

- The WLO is projected to support more than 15,000 new homes, 11,500 new jobs and nearly £500 million in wider economic benefits. In Brent alone, it could support around 4,100 homes and widen access to jobs.

- More than 1.3 million car kilometres a year could be removed from Brent's roads through a shift to WLO services.

- Brent Council has already committed £616,655 towards a feasibility study for the West London Orbital project in conjunction with other boroughs.

This Council believes:

- The new Government's focus on transport, housing and growth provides an opportunity for Brent to renew its efforts to secure support for the WLO.

- London must remain central to the national conversation on transport and growth. West London alone is a nearly £70 billion economy, while Brent residents paid £1.58 billion in income tax in 2023/24 – as much as Glasgow and more than Manchester. Investment in London also supports skilled jobs and supply chains across the UK. Investment that unlocks further growth in London is of benefit to the whole country.

- Brent is not immune from the challenges facing communities elsewhere in the country. Brent contains some of the most deprived communities nationally, including along the proposed WLO route.

- By connecting with the Elizabeth line and HS2 at Old Oak Common, the WLO would help maximise the benefits of national rail investment while improving access to employment, education and opportunity across London.

This Council therefore resolves:

(1) To reaffirm its strong support for the West London Orbital and renew its engagement with the Government to ensure Brent's voice is heard in decisions on future transport investment, including advocating for a firm investment commitment from DfT and other relevant partners before more local authority finance is committed.

(2) To write to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling on Government to work with the Mayor of London, TfL and West London boroughs towards a credible funding pathway for delivery that recognises the financial position of local authorities like Brent.

(3) To continue working with the Mayor of London, TfL, the West London Alliance and neighbouring boroughs to progress the WLO and maximise its benefits for Brent residents.

(4) To work with TfL and other partners to safeguard land and protect future options for additional WLO stations in Brent, particularly where public transport accessibility is currently limited.

(5) To support and promote the forthcoming public consultation, encouraging residents, businesses and community organisations to help shape the proposals."

10.2 2nd Motion (Conservative Group) – Temporary Accommodation: Better Value and Greater Accountability

The Mayor then invited Councillor Anup Patel to move the second motion, which had been submitted on behalf of the Conservative Group who began by outlining concerns regarding the increasing financial pressures associated with temporary accommodation provision in Brent. Whilst emphasising that the motion was not intended to challenge the Council's responsibility to support homeless households, Councillor Anup highlighted what he felt was the importance in ensuring public funds were being managed effectively whilst providing safe and stable accommodation for families. Members were advised that approximately 2,500 households were currently being accommodated in temporary housing, with around 60% placed in more expensive nightly paid accommodation and expenditure on this type of accommodation forecast to reach £38m during the year.

Referring to discussions at the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Anup Patel highlighted concerns regarding the continued growth in expenditure relating to Housing Needs, noting that a budget increase of £8m had already been agreed whilst a further £9.5m overspend was being forecast at Quarter 1. As a result, he outlined the focus of the motion in seeking to address the underlying drivers of the cost pressures identified rather than continuing to increase budgets to meet demand.

In commending the motion to members, attention was also drawn to the challenges associated with securing accommodation in the private sector, including the impact of competition for accommodation during major events in Wembley and the high nightly rates being paid in some cases which he felt reinforced the need for improved performance monitoring and oversight. In concluding Councillor Anup Patel ended by outlining what were felt to be the benefits associated with the actions being sought in relation to introduction of a monthly temporary accommodation performance dashboard containing clear and measurable indicators including the number of households in temporary and nightly paid accommodation; associated costs; the number of families moved into settled housing and progress against targets designed to reduce reliance on expensive emergency accommodation. As a result, he hoped all members would support the motion as a means of improving value for money whilst helping secure more stable housing outcomes for Brent residents.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Anup Patel for moving the motion and then invited other members to speak, with the following contributions received.

In opening the debate Councillor Donnelly-Jackson began by welcoming the motion. Drawing on both her personal and professional experience in terms of homelessness and prevention support, she highlighted her support for the need identified to address the underlying cost pressures associated with temporary accommodation. Whilst supporting the proposals within the motion she also felt it important to highlight the impact of the national temporary accommodation subsidy gap, explaining that councils were only able to recover Housing Benefit costs based on outdated subsidy rates with the funding shortfall generated as a result representing a significant factor behind the financial pressures facing local authorities and requiring (in her view) further detailed review and scrutiny.

Speaking next, Councillor Georgiou also confirmed the Liberal Democrats Group support for the motion although feeling it could have gone further. Recognising the importance of homelessness prevention work, he was keen to commend the efforts of homelessness prevention officers in supporting residents at risk of losing their homes and reducing demand for temporary accommodation but also raised concerns regarding Council-owned properties remaining vacant for extended periods, with the need to bring empty homes back into use also highlighted as a key part of any approach to reducing the reliance on costly temporary accommodation.

Responding as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters, Councillor Johnson also welcomed the motion acknowledging the significant challenges created by rising homelessness, increasing private sector rents and the growing cost of temporary accommodation. Pointing out that many of the measures outlined within the motion reflected work already underway within Brent, he advised this included programmes designed to reduce temporary accommodation use, increase move-on opportunities into settled housing and prevent homelessness. Members were also advised of the improvements being made to the Housing management system which had been designed to strengthen property management, financial oversight and performance monitoring. In noting the alignment between the motion and existing activity, he therefore welcomed the cross-party support for this work and also confirmed his support for the motion, as moved.

As a final contribution, Councillor Malonga also spoke in support of the motion taking the opportunity to focus on the wider structural causes of housing pressures. Highlighting the impact of historic restrictions on housing subsidy arrangements he felt there was a need to recognise how temporary accommodation pressures were not only being driven by local factors but also by a chronic shortage of affordable and social housing. Referring to the disparity between the number of social homes becoming available and the scale of housing need within Brent, he identified this imbalance as a key cause of the housing crisis and whilst supporting measures that would improve transparency and accountability also reminded members of the significant human impact of temporary accommodation on families and children experiencing housing insecurity.

In drawing the debate to a close, the Mayor invited Councillor Anup Patel (as mover of the original motion) to exercise their right of reply. In welcoming the broad support for the motion and focus on the need for effective monitoring of temporary accommodation, strengthened homelessness prevention activity, reform of national funding arrangements and increased provision of affordable and social housing the opportunity was once again taken to outline the benefits associated with the suggested adoption of clear performance targets and transparent reporting arrangements in relation to temporary accommodation supported by regular performance information in order to provide residents with greater visibility over whether reliance on costly nightly paid accommodation was reducing, whether empty properties were being returned to use promptly and whether anticipated savings were being achieved. Concern was also expressed that, unless these issues were addressed proactively, the financial and operational challenges associated with temporary accommodation would become increasingly difficult to manage in future with Councillor Anup Patel ending by highlighting the need for action to prevent the pressures escalating further.

The Mayor then moved to put the motion to a vote which was unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following motion:

Temporary Accommodation: Better Value and Greater Accountability

This Council notes:

- Brent faces severe pressure from rising homelessness, constrained housing supply and the increasing cost of temporary accommodation. In April 2026, the Council reported approximately 2,450 households in temporary accommodation, with around 60% in nightly paid arrangements.

- Brent's Housing Needs service was forecast to overspend by £4.5 million in 2025/26, while expenditure on nightly paid temporary accommodation was expected to reach approximately £38 million. The Council has allocated a further £8 million of budget growth to Housing Needs to address existing and anticipated demand pressures.

- The Council has acknowledged that reliance on nightly paid accommodation creates financial volatility, increasing caseloads, limited affordable options and variable accommodation quality. It has also identified longer-term leasing to

provide greater stability and better value, with around 367 units anticipated to deliver approximately £4.8 million a year in savings or cost avoidance compared with equivalent nightly paid accommodation.

This Council believes:

- Families who become homeless deserve safe, suitable and stable accommodation, while Brent taxpayers are entitled to expect that scarce resources are managed effectively.

- Nightly paid accommodation will sometimes be unavoidable, but it should not become a long-term substitute for developing more stable and better value housing supply.

- The success of Brent's temporary accommodation strategy should therefore be judged by whether reliance on costly nightly accommodation is falling, properties are being brought into use quickly, families move into more stable homes and forecast savings are achieved.

This Council therefore calls on Cabinet to:

(1) Set and publish measurable targets for reducing Brent's reliance on nightly paid and other high-cost temporary accommodation, together with a clear trajectory for achieving those reductions.

(2) Review the process for bringing newly acquired and leased properties into occupation, identifying avoidable delays and establishing clear performance targets for the time between a property becoming available to the Council and a household moving in.

(3) Continue to pursue longer-term leasing, acquisition and other supply options where these provide demonstrably better value and greater stability, while regularly assessing whether the savings and cost avoidance anticipated in business cases are being achieved.

(4) Introduce and publish a monthly Temporary Accommodation Performance Dashboard, reporting where possible:

    - The total number of households in temporary accommodation;

    - The number in nightly paid accommodation and B&Bs;

    - Expenditure on temporary accommodation and the cost of nightly paid provision;

    - The number of households moved into more stable accommodation;

    - The number of acquired or leased properties awaiting occupation and the average time taken to bring them into use;

    - The number of households placed outside Brent;

- Progress against the Council's published reduction and savings targets.

(5) Use the Council's new Temporary Accommodation and Private Sector Leasing Digital Management Platform to improve management information, performance monitoring and scrutiny.

(6) Report progress to the relevant scrutiny committee, including actual savings achieved, progress in reducing nightly paid accommodation and any barriers preventing the Council from moving families into more stable housing more quickly.

10.3 3rd Motion (Green Group) – Addressing Urban Heat and Climate Inequality in Brent

The Mayor then invited Councillor Mitchell to move the final motion submitted on behalf of the Green Group. In moving the motion, Councillor Mitchell highlighted the growing impact of climate change warning that in her view the current climate represented the most stable conditions residents were likely to experience in their lifetime. Reference was made to recent UN projections that global temperatures would exceed 1.5 degrees of warming for the first time, with concerns expressed regarding the increasing frequency and severity of extreme heat events. Drawing on experience from recent summers, Councillor Mitchell highlighted temperatures reaching 36 degrees in Brent, the disruption caused to schools and public services, and evidence showing London had experienced the highest heat-related mortality rates in England and Wales during recent heatwaves, with particular concern expressed at the disproportionate impact of extreme heat on vulnerable residents, including those on low incomes, elderly residents and individuals with existing health conditions.

As a result, Councillor Mitchell advised the motion sought to present what she regarded as a practical programme of local action focused on improving resilience across public spaces, schools, workplaces and housing, increasing greening and shade provision, improving understanding of overheating risks associated with development and supporting stronger community and public partnerships in delivering climate adaptation measures. These had been designed to avoid the need to rely purely on government action who, it was felt, had not been open about the extent of the challenges faced and, on this basis, the motion was commended to members.

Having thanked Councillor Mitchell for moving the motion, the Mayor then drew members attention to two amendments submitted in relation to the motion. Members were advised the first of these was from Councillor Chadha on behalf of the Conservative Group and the second from Councillor Chauhan on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group, with both having been circulated in advance of the meeting. He then invited each amendment to be moved in the order received.

In moving the first amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group, Councillor Chadha advised that whilst there was broad support for the objectives of the original motion and recognition that extreme heat posed growing challenges for residents, schools and public buildings, the Conservative Group amendment sought to ensure that any response remained practical, proportionate and deliverable.

Reference was made to the impact high temperatures had already had on local infrastructure, including parks, roads and public buildings with Councillor Chadha keen to ensure that the measures being developed were undertaken in consultation with schools and other relevant partners who understood the practical implications of implementation. Concerns were also highlighted regarding the temporary closure of Kilburn Library due to overheating issues, following its recent refurbishment, which was provided as an example of the need to ensure climate resilience was also considered from the outset in capital projects and support expressed for undertaking proportionate assessments of heat risks within public buildings, prioritising expenditure according to risk and ensuring resulting actions were appropriately costed.

Whilst highlighting her support for the community greening initiatives within the original motion, Councillor Chadha also felt there was a need to consider maintenance responsibilities, measurable outcomes and value for money, alongside opportunities for community and business sponsorship, with support also expressed for clear and robust assessment and guidance on the cumulative environmental and local heat impacts arising from the development of data centres including any economically viable opportunities to utilise excessive heat through local heat networks. In concluding, and commending the Conservative Group amendment to members, Councillor Chadha highlighted the way it had been designed to strengthen the original motion by ensuring actions were targeted, affordable and capable of being sustained over the longer term with the amendment moved as follows:

To add the wording underlined and delete the wording indicated:

Addressing Urban Heat and Climate Inequality in Brent

This Council Notes:

- Extreme heat is an increasing public health risk, with an estimated 2,877 heat-associated deaths in England during the May and June 2026 heatwaves.

- ~~The risk of extreme heat in Brent is acute.~~ Brent and London Risk Registers identify heatwaves as a major risk requiring local adaptation.

- ~~That social and environmental justice go hand in hand.~~ Extreme heat disproportionately affects communities already experiencing social, economic and health inequalities.

- Brent's Heat Vulnerability Index identifies Park Royal as a hotspot alongside other areas ~~where existing and pipeline data centres are located~~ with existing or proposed data centres.

- Tree equity mapping demonstrates a need for increased tree canopy and urban greening across central and southern Brent.

- ~~In June and July following investment of~~ Following £1.14m investment**,** the newly refurbished Kilburn Library ~~had to~~ closed ~~due to inadequate heat mitigation measure~~ during June and July due to inadequate heat mitigation.

- Brent published a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework in December 2025 ~~and is strengthening climate adaptation measures across the borough~~.

This Council Believes:

- ~~Whilst Brent has taken important steps towards climate adaptation the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme heat requires further action.~~

- Natural green spaces ~~act as heat sinks and~~ should be protected and developed to reduce urban ~~surface~~ temperatures~~, including partnership with residents~~.

    - ~~The Council has a responsibility to ensure that~~ Public spaces are accessible and safe during periods of extreme heat and council housing tenants are protected from heat impacts.

    - ~~Existing~~ Clear guidance is needed on ~~does not provide sufficiently specific or consistent guidance for assessing the~~ cumulative local heat impacts ~~of~~ from data centres~~, particularly where multiple facilities are concentrated within a small area~~.

This Council therefore:

(1) Requests the necessary action be taken to:

(a) Expand ~~the network of Cool Spaces across~~ Brent's network of Cool Spaces, update the GLA water refill map ~~to reflect all the stations in Brent~~ and explore ~~all options for~~ increasing the number of refill stations across the borough.

(b) Integrate natural materials, shading and strategic planting in new playground designs to reduce heat exposure.

(c) Engage maintained schools, relevant trade unions and education partners on practical measures to mitigate ~~Begin a dialogue with the NEU about mitigation for~~ overheating in local authority schools, including consideration of likely costs and options for implementation, and review protections for council workers and contractors during periods of extreme heat.

(d) Conduct a proportionate review of heat risk in public buildings, ~~mapping~~ identifying those at highest ~~buildings at high~~ risk and developing ~~an~~ a prioritised and costed action plan, with the scope and cost of the review itself kept proportionate and any subsequent measures assessed according to risk, value for money and deliverability.

(e) Commission a feasibility study into community-public partnerships for the greening and maintenance of spaces such as pocket parks, derelict land and larger areas of hard surfacing to reduce heat and increase access to shade, with any proposals demonstrating value for money, clear long-term maintenance responsibilities and measurable community benefit, including opportunities for community or business sponsorship where appropriate.

(f) Ensure that the Local Plan is informed by future climate risks and that future developments assess urban heat and incorporate heat resilience measures.

(2) Request the Leader of the Council write to the Mayor of London seeking clearer guidance on how local authorities should assess and mitigate overheating risks and the cumulative environmental ~~cumulative~~ impacts arising from ~~clusters~~ concentrations of data centres, while recognising their economic importance and maximising opportunities to capture and reuse waste heat through local heat networks where technically and economically viable**.**

(3) Invites the relevant Cabinet Member to set out the Council's approach to managing overheating risks in council housing including responsibilities under Awaab's Law.

In moving the second amendment on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group, Councillor Chauhan, whilst welcoming the principles contained within the original motion, advised that the Liberal Democrats Group felt greater attention was also required in relation to the role of domestic gardens as a key component of Brent's green infrastructure. Highlighting that gardens accounted for approximately 30% of land area within the borough, he expressed concern regarding the increasing loss of green space through paving and artificial surfaces referring to the significant cooling effect provided through shade by trees, vegetation and soil when compared with hard surfaces exposed to direct sunlight with excessive paving also felt to have contributed to higher temperatures, reduced biodiversity, increased surface water runoff as well as intensifying the urban heat island effect.

In order to address the issues and concerns highlighted, Councillor Chauhan advised that the amendment being moved by the Liberal Democrats sought to add to the original motion by proposing the introduction of a greener gardens campaign based on the National Park City Front Gardens Framework, encouraging residents to create greener front and rear gardens and discouraging unnecessary hard surfacing. Additional proposals included incentives to support sustainable driveway construction through measures such as discounted dropped kerb fees, accelerated delivery of actions contained within the Council's existing climate adaptation framework and further expansion of the Trees for Brent programme to improve tree coverage in neighbourhoods with low canopy cover. He also highlighted work being undertaken by Newham Council to reduce overheating in social housing and suggested Brent should explore similar retrofit measures for its most vulnerable housing stock learning from best practice elsewhere and ensuring that climate adaptation formed an integral part of future planning, infrastructure and regeneration activity across the borough. On this basis the amendment moved by Councillor Chauhan on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group was as follows:

To add the wording underlined and delete the wording indicated:

Addressing Urban Heat and Climate Inequality in Brent

This Council Notes:

- Extreme heat is an increasing public health risk, with an estimated 2,877 heat-associated deaths in England during the ~~May and June~~ 2026 heatwaves.

- ~~The risk of extreme heat in Brent is acute.~~ Brent and London Risk Registers identify heatwaves as a major risk ~~requiring local adaptation~~, disproportionately affecting communities facing social, economic and health inequalities.

- ~~That social and environmental justice go hand in hand. Extreme heat disproportionately affects communities already experiencing social, economic and health inequalities.~~

- Brent's Heat Vulnerability Index identifies Park Royal as a hotspot alongside other areas where existing and pipeline data centres are located.

- Tree equity mapping demonstrates a need for increased tree canopy and urban greening across central and southern Brent.

- ~~In June and July~~ Following investment of £1.14m, the newly refurbished Kilburn Library had to close this summer due to inadequate heat mitigation measures.

- Brent published a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework (CARF) in December 2025 and is strengthening climate adaptation measures across the borough.

- Domestic gardens cover around 30% of Brent's land, whilst approx. 42% of UK garden space is paved, increasing heat absorption in neighbourhoods.

This Council Believes:

- ~~Whilst Brent has taken important steps towards climate adaptation the increasing frequency and intensity of~~ Increasingly frequent and extreme heat requires further ~~action~~ adaptation.

- Natural green spaces ~~act as heat sinks and~~ should be protected and ~~developed~~ expanded to reduce urban surface temperatures, including through resident partnerships ~~partnership with residents~~.

- ~~The Council has a responsibility to ensure that public spaces are accessible and safe during periods of extreme heat and council housing tenants are protected from heat impacts.~~ The Council should ensure public spaces remain safe during extreme heat and protect council tenants from overheating.

- Existing guidance on cumulative local heat impacts from clustered data centres is insufficient. ~~does not provide sufficiently specific or consistent guidance for assessing the cumulative local heat impacts of data centres, particularly where multiple facilities are concentrated within a small area.~~

- Private gardens collectively provide vital green infrastructure and should form part of Brent's response to heat, biodiversity loss and flooding.

This Council therefore:

(1) Requests the necessary action ~~be taken~~ to:

(a) ~~Expand the network of Cool Spaces across Brent, update the GLA water refill map to reflect all the stations in Brent and explore all options for increasing the number of refill stations across the borough.~~ Expand Brent's Cool Spaces and water refill network and ensure all stations appear on the GLA map.

(b) Integrate natural materials, shading and strategic planting in new playground designs to reduce heat exposure.

(c) Begin a dialogue with the NEU about mitigation for over-heating in local authority schools, and review protections for council workers and contractors during periods of extreme heat.

(d) Bring forward CARF's ~~conduct a~~ review of heat risk in public buildings, mapping buildings at high-risk and developing an prioritised action plan.

(e) ~~Commission a feasibility study into~~ Explore community-public partnerships to ~~for the~~ green~~ing~~ and maintain ~~maintenance of spaces such as~~ pocket parks, derelict land and larger areas of hard surfacing to reduce heat and increase access to shade.

(f) Ensure ~~that~~ the Local Plan ~~is informed by~~ reflects future climate risks ~~and that future~~ developments assess urban heat and incorporate heat resilience measures, bringing forward CARF climate-resilience standards in planning and building control.

(g) Explore a borough-wide campaign, drawing on National Park City Front Gardens, to discourage unnecessary paving and artificial grass, promote living garden space and engage landlords against hard-surfacing gardens.

(h) Explore incentives for depaving and greener driveways, including reduced vehicle crossover charges for designs retaining more planting.

(i) Expand Trees for Brent, prioritising LSOAs with the lowest tree equity scores (0-79)

(2) Request the Leader of the Council write to the Mayor of London seeking clearer guidance on how local authorities should assess overheating risks and cumulative impacts arising from clusters of data centres.

(3) Invites the ~~relevant~~ Cabinet Member to set out the Council's approach to ~~identifying, preventing and managing overheating risks in council housing, including responsibilities~~ overheating in council housing under Awaab's Law; work with the GLA and Newham on its retrofit pilot; and use the evidence to bring forward Brent's climate-resilient retrofit programme for high-risk council homes and vulnerable assets.

Having thanked Councillors Chadha and Chauhan for moving their respective amendments, the Mayor then invited other members to speak, with the following contributions received.

In opening the debate, Councillor Gallager (speaking in support of the original motion) began by highlighting the way extreme heat was already affecting Brent residents with particular concerns raised in relation to the cumulative impact of data centres, especially within the Park Royal area. In support of the concerns identified, reference was made to emerging research from the University of Cambridge linking data centres with localised temperature increases and the potential consequences for public infrastructure, including hospitals, public transport (with Park Royal identified as a key bus corridor) and community facilities. As a result, Councillor Gallagher advised she was keen to ensure climate resilience measures kept pace with technological and industrial development, which it was felt the motion moved on behalf of the Green Group provided an important framework to address

Speaking next in support of the amendment moved on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group, Councillor Clinton also felt it important to recognise how the increasing impacts of climate change demonstrated the need for urgent action with failures to act decisively at national and international level having (in his view) contributed to worsening climate risks. Highlighting the economic, social and public health consequences associated with recent periods of extreme heat Councillor Clinton hoped members would therefore recognise the aim of the Liberal Democrat amendment in seeking to strengthen rather than dilute the response being sought to the climate emergency and, on this basis, advised the Liberal Democrats Group would not be supporting the amendment moved on behalf of the Conservative Group.

Councillor Ryan, speaking in support of the motion moved on behalf of the Green Group, began by expressing pride at the first motion they had moved at Full Council, describing extreme heat as one of the most pressing challenges facing the borough. Highlighting forecasts of higher future temperatures and recent heat-related disruptions affecting public facilities, such as Kilburn Library, he felt more work was required to ensure Brent was adequately prepared for future heatwaves. In urging members to support the motion, Councillor Ryan felt it important to highlight the need for heat resilience to be treated as a priority, with greater provision of cool spaces, protection and expansion of green infrastructure and a more strategic approach to mitigating the impacts of extreme weather on residents.

As a final contribution responding as Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Employment and Climate Action, Councillor Rubin then spoke to thank the Green Group for moving the motion. Whilst recognising climate change as a significant and ongoing challenge and need for local authorities to both reduce emissions and adapt to changing climate conditions, he also felt it important to outline the range of measures already being undertaken by the Council. These included tree planting, housing retrofit programmes, investment in the South Kilburn Heat Network and the adoption of a Climate Adaptation Resilience Plan with further work underway to improve heat resilience across the borough through initiatives such as heat risk mapping, expanding cool spaces and supporting schools with shading and cooling measures and on this basis confirmed the Labour Groups support for the motion.

In drawing the debate to a close, the Mayor invited Councillor Mitchell (as mover of the original motion) followed by Councillors Chadha and Chauhan (as movers of the two subsequent amendments) to exercise their right of reply.

In closing and exercising her right of reply, Councillor Mitchell thanked members for their support welcoming the broad consensus regarding the seriousness of the threat posed by extreme heat and the need for further action. Whilst confirming her willingness to accept the amendment moved on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group, she advised that the Green Group would not be able to support the Conservative Group amendment on the basis it was felt financial considerations should not be allowed to act as a barrier to action given the potential environmental and public health consequences associated with climate change. In highlighting the importance in ensuring the Council continued to take responsibility and develop its approach for delivering climate resilience and adaptation measures, she ended by once again thanking members for their support and encouraging the continued pursuit of these measures at pace and scale.

Speaking next, Councillor Chadha in exercising her right of reply on behalf of the Conservative Group acknowledged the importance of achieving climate and net-zero objectives but also felt there was a need to ensure any measures introduced represented an efficient and proportionate use of public resources. As such, she advised the Conservative Group amendment had been designed to ensure climate resilience measures were fully costed and considered alongside wider investment priorities when planning new developments and facilities, reflecting concerns regarding value for money and affordability.

As the final right of reply, Councillor Chauhan took the opportunity to welcome and thank the Green Group for their support of the amendment moved on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group.

Having thanked councillors for their contributions, the Mayor advised that before moving to the vote there would be a need to clarify the process for dealing with the amendments given the overlap and difference in the changes being sought. In outlining this advice, members were reminded that amendments to a political group motion would need to be taken as a whole, meaning it would not be possible to agree both the Conservative and Liberal Democrats Group amendments together. As a result, members were advised of the following options available:

- To reject both amendments;

- To agree one of the two amendments submitted; or

- For the members who had moved the amendments to propose, under Standing Order 42(l), an alteration to the wording of their amendments, which (subject to the consent of the meeting) could then be taken forward as the basis of a single final amendment. If this was the preferred option the Mayor advised this would, however, likely require a deferral of the final decision on the motion to the next meeting to allow the necessary discussions to take place.

Having outlined the available options, Councillor Georgiou in seeking to clarify the position, reminded the Mayor that the Green Group had already confirmed their

acceptance of the Liberal Democrats amendment as the basis of the substantive motion to be considered.

In response, Kim Wright (as Chief Executive) confirmed this as the basis on which the Liberal Democrats amendment would be taken forward but advised members a vote would still be required on the Conservative Group amendment.

On this basis, the Mayor then moved straight to the vote on the amendment moved by Councillor Chadha on behalf of the Conservative Group. The amendment from the Conservative Group, as set out above, was then put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

The Mayor then moved on to put the substantive motion, as amended to include the Liberal Democrats amendment set out above, to a vote which was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following motion:

Addressing Urban Heat and Climate Inequality in Brent

This Council Notes:

- Extreme heat is an increasing public health risk, with an estimated 2,877 heat-associated deaths in England during the 2026 heatwaves.

- Brent and London Risk Registers identify heatwaves as a major risk, disproportionately affecting communities facing social, economic and health inequalities.

- Brent's Heat Vulnerability Index identifies Park Royal as a hotspot alongside other areas where existing and pipeline data centres are located.

- Tree equity mapping demonstrates a need for increased tree canopy and urban greening across central and southern Brent.

- Following investment of £1.14m, the newly refurbished Kilburn Library had to close this summer due to inadequate heat mitigation measures.

- Brent published a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework (CARF) in December 2025 and is strengthening climate adaptation measures across the borough.

- Domestic gardens cover around 30% of Brent's land, whilst approx. 42% of UK garden space is paved, increasing heat absorption in neighbourhoods.

This Council Believes:

- Increasingly frequent and extreme heat requires further adaptation.

- Natural green spaces should be protected and expanded to reduce urban surface temperatures, including through resident partnerships.

- The Council should ensure public spaces remain safe during extreme heat and protect council tenants from overheating.

- Existing guidance on cumulative local heat impacts from clustered data centres is insufficient.

- Private gardens collectively provide vital green infrastructure and should form part of Brent's response to heat, biodiversity loss and flooding.

This Council therefore:

(1) Requests the necessary action to:

(a) Expand Brent's Cool Spaces and water refill network and ensure all stations appear on the GLA map.

(b) Integrate natural materials, shading and strategic planting in new playground designs to reduce heat exposure.

(c) Begin a dialogue with the NEU about mitigation for over-heating in local authority schools, and review protections for council workers and contractors during periods of extreme heat.

(d) Bring forward CARF's review of heat risk in public buildings, mapping buildings at high-risk and developing a prioritised action plan.

(e) Explore community-public partnerships to green and maintain pocket parks, derelict land and larger areas of hard surfacing to reduce heat and increase access to shade.

(f) Ensure the Local Plan reflects future climate risks and developments assess urban heat and incorporate heat resilience measures, bringing forward CARF climate-resilience standards in planning and building control.

(g) Explore a borough-wide campaign, drawing on National Park City Front Gardens, to discourage unnecessary paving and artificial grass, promote living garden space and engage landlords against hard-surfacing gardens.

(h) Explore incentives for depaving and greener driveways, including reduced vehicle crossover charges for designs retaining more planting.

(i) Expand Trees for Brent, prioritising LSOAs with the lowest tree equity scores (0-79)

(2) Request the Leader of the Council write to the Mayor of London seeking clearer guidance on how local authorities should assess overheating risks and cumulative impacts arising from clusters of data centres.

(3) Invites the Cabinet Member to set out the Council's approach to overheating in council housing under Awaab's Law; work with the GLA and Newham on its

retrofit pilot; and use the evidence to bring forward Brent's climate-resilient retrofit programme for high-risk council homes and vulnerable assets.

11. Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members

Before moving on to consider the questions submitted by non-Cabinet members, the Mayor reminded Members that a total of 30 minutes had been set aside for this item, which would begin with consideration of the written questions submitted in advance of the meeting along with any supplementary questions. Once these had been dealt with, the remaining time available would then be opened up for any other non-Cabinet members to question Cabinet Members (without the need for advance notice) on matters relating to their portfolio.

The Mayor advised that five written questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for response by the relevant Cabinet Member and the written responses circulated within the agenda were noted. The Mayor then invited supplementary questions on the responses provided:

11.1 Councillor Donnelly-Jackson thanked Councillor Dixon for the comprehensive written response provided to her question on the feasibility of creating a public lido and confirmed she had no supplementary question.

11.2 In thanking Councillor Rubin (as Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Employment and Climate Action) for the written response provided seeking an update on delivery of the Government's Youth Guarantee. In welcoming the update Councillor Blackman, as a supplementary question, asked whether the Council would also consider developing a local Brent Youth Guarantee by bringing together employers, schools, colleges, community organisations and young people and provide a clear timetable for delivery, including consideration of targeted financial support.

In response, Councillor Rubin welcomed the proposal and commended Councillor Blackman for his commitment in seeking to support young people across the borough. Referring to the Government's recently announced Youth Guarantee, he confirmed he would be happy to work with members, officers and local partners on development of a local youth offer for Brent. The opportunity was also taken to highlight the Council's commitment to explore the introduction of an Educational Maintenance Allowance for Brent's young people, particularly those at risk of becoming Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET), alongside support for vocational skills and training opportunities.

11.3 In noting the written response provided to his question regarding the action being taken to address defective highway works Councillor Jayanti Patel, as a supplementary question referred Councillor Knight (as Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport & Public Realm) to the Council's inspection arrangements for utility reinstatement and highway repair works, noting that only a sample of completed works appeared to have been subject to inspection. Assurance was therefore sought regarding the quality of works which had not been inspected, with details requested on the proportion of utility reinstatements inspected and measures in place to ensure standards were maintained.

In response, Councillor Knight took the opportunity to outline how the Council held highways and utility contractors to account through established inspection and quality assurance processes. Members were informed that, over the previous three financial years, 147 completed highway works had required remedial action, with contractors returning in every case to undertake the necessary repairs at their own expense. She confirmed that similar arrangements applied to utility companies, with inspections, audits, completion records and photographic evidence reviewed by officers, alongside further inspections where concerns had been identified. In acknowledging there would always be scope for improvement she advised the ongoing scrutiny of contractor performance and standards would therefore continue to be developed and welcomed.

11.4 Expressing disappointment at the response provided to her question regarding the action being taken to address concerns relating to air quality and wider public health impacts during the proposed development of the former Kensal Gas Work site at Ladbroke Grove, Councillor Want, felt it important to again highlight the significant concerns identified by local residents regarding the management of air quality, dust and contamination risks associated with a proposed construction works and challenged Councillor Kelcher (as Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning) on whether it was felt the monitoring arrangements outlined would be able to provide sufficient reassurance to residents.

In responding, Councillor Kelcher acknowledged that residents were right to expect concerns regarding dust, contamination and air quality to be appropriately managed and monitored. Members were, however, reminded that the application site fell within the jurisdiction of the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and had been approved following detailed consideration by its Planning Committee, supported by expert evidence and advice on the concerns raised in relation to contamination and air quality issues. Members were advised that planning conditions, monitoring requirements and construction controls had been imposed in a manner consistent with other major developments across London, supported by a number of other formal routes through which concerns could be raised and investigated, with the importance in reflecting on the expert evidence provided and established planning controls considered key when assessing the impact of any development.

11.5 In thanking Councillor Rubin (as Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Employment & Climate Action) and Councillor Dixon (as Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health) for the written response provided on the Youth Justice Strategy and measures being taken to address youth violence Councillor Warsame, highlighting ongoing concerns in relation to youth safety, also took the opportunity to outline associated concerns about the impact arising from the loss of accessible open space for young people and the increasing density of development across parts of the borough. As a supplementary question, he therefore asked what action the Council was taking through its wider property strategy to ensure the continued provision of youth facilities and accessible community space for young people.

As part of a joint response, Councillor Rubin began by taking the opportunity to express his condolences to the family friends and all those affected by the tragic death of David Wynter at the Civic Centre and pay tribute to those Council staff and emergency responders who had acted so courageously and compassionately in attempting to save his life, as well as to the leadership shown in bringing the community together during such a difficult period following on from those events.

Addressing the wider question, Councillor Rubin felt it important to recognise the significant financial pressures experienced by the Council following reductions in local government funding since 2010, explaining how these had affected the Council's ability to directly provide youth services. Despite these pressures, however, he felt it important to recognise the recent investment it had been possible to provide in facilities and organisations such as the OK Club, Cricklewood Boxing Club, the Jason Roberts Foundation and the Church End Youth Anchor alongside the work being undertaken with partners to bid for funding linked to the Mayor of London's initiative to provide late-night youth centres. As such he ended his response by highlighting the Council's continued commitment to developing youth provision through a range of collaborative approaches.

In support of the initial response provided, Councillor Dixon also highlighted the focus (alongside the investment being provided) on the need to better connect young people with existing support and opportunities including community-based intervention, youth engagement programmes as well as investment in physical facilities. Reference was made to the range of campaign and partnership activity being undertaken with organisations including I Am Brent, Young Brent Foundation and Raheem Sterling Foundation alongside collaborative work with the police and local communities supported by a wider programme of community engagement activity designed to tackle the issue of youth violence and divert those at risk from offending as well as to support those affected by serious youth violence. In ending her response Councillor Dixon hoped all members would support these efforts recognising that tackling youth violence and supporting young people required a coordinated effort involving the Council, partners and wider community.

Having thanked members for their written questions and Cabinet Members for the responses provided to the supplementary questions, the Mayor advised that he intended to move on with the remainder of time available being used for an open question time session to the Cabinet. Questions relating to the following issues were raised and responses provided, as set out below:

(i) Councillor Clinton to Councillor Muhammed Butt (Leader of the Council) seeking an update on representations made to TfL and the Deputy Mayor for Transport regarding the extension of operating hours on the Piccadilly Line Uxbridge branch, including the potential introduction of a Night Tube service. In noting that the Deputy Mayor had indicated service improvements would need to be considered as part of wider network planning and investment decisions, further details were requested on any subsequent engagement and whether the Council intended to continue lobbying for improved transport connectivity for residents in the north-west of the borough.

In response, Councillor Muhammed Butt advised that whilst no further direct representations had been made since the Deputy Mayor's earlier response, he was aware that TfL continued to review future service enhancements linked to rolling stock replacement and wider investment programmes. Attention was also drawn to planned accessibility improvements, including step-free access works, as enhancements designed to benefit local residents. While acknowledging the constraints currently facing TfL, the opportunity was also taken to reiterate the Council's support for improving public transport connectivity, with the Leader providing an assurance that opportunities for further engagement with the Deputy Mayor and TfL would be explored once the introduction of new trains and future service patterns became clearer.

(ii) Councillor Anderson who, having highlighted ongoing concerns regarding the impact of knife crime and serious youth violence on local communities following the tragic death of David Wynter and strength of feeling amongst residents, sought further assurance from Councillor Dixon (as Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health) in relation to the activity being focussed on the prevention of violence and providing positive opportunities for young people, with support also sought for a visible demonstration of community solidarity as a means of helping to bring families, schools, voluntary organisations, faith groups and young people together based around the proposed organisation of a peace march and wider community-led initiatives.

In response Councillor Dixon, having recognised the importance of community action in addressing the causes and consequences of serious violence, felt it important to highlight the range of work already being undertaken with local partners, including schools, youth services, community groups and the police, to support vulnerable young people and promote prevention activity. The suggestion of a peace march was also welcomed which would be taken back for further consideration in order to assess how such an initiative could contribute to existing programmes recognising the need also identified to ensure a coordinated approach that addressed education, employment, mentoring and early intervention whilst ensuring that the voices of young people and affected families remained central to future work.

(iii) In highlighting concern regarding the increasing levels of council tax debt within the borough and financial pressures being faced by many residents amidst the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, Councillor Alexandre sought further details from Councillor Grahl (as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources) on the approach towards the use of enforcement action, including liability orders and bailiff action along with assurance that vulnerable residents would be supported appropriately before recovery measures were pursued. Details were also sought on what additional measures were being taken to improve resident engagement and prevent households from falling into unmanageable debt.

In response, Councillor Grahl acknowledged the financial challenges facing many households and outlined the Council's approach to balancing income collection with resident support, highlighting the work of the dedicated Council Tax Engagement and Recovery Team in seeking to engage residents at as early a stage as possible in order to identify support options before

enforcement activity became necessary. Members were also reminded of the significant financial assistance available through the Council Tax Support Scheme and the Council Tax Hardship Fund, noting that more than 13,000 hardship awards with a value of approximately £1.5m had been provided during the previous year. In ending, members were advised that the Administration remained committed to supporting residents experiencing financial difficulty whilst ensuring that council tax revenues necessary for the delivery of local services continued to be collected.

(iv) Councillor Maurice seeking details from Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) on action the Council would be prepared take in seeking to address concerns regarding the persistent pigeon nuisance beneath the railway bridge in Windermere Avenue. Referring to complaints received from local residents regarding bird fouling, public health concerns and the deterioration of existing bird deterrent measures, clarification was sought as to who was responsible for maintaining the structure and what progress had been made in securing a permanent solution.

In response, Councillor Muhammed Butt confirmed that responsibility for the bridge and associated infrastructure rested with Network Rail, with the concerns identified having been raised with Network Rail and the Council continuing to seek the necessary remedial action. Whilst recognising the frustration experienced by local residents, he felt it important to clarify that the Council's ability to intervene directly was limited due to ownership responsibilities with an undertaking provided to continue engaging with Network Rail to explore whether further mitigation measures could be identified.

(v) Councillor Jayanti Patel, highlighting concerns and seeking an update from Councillor Knight (as Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport & Public Realm) regarding the increasing number of abandoned supermarket trolleys across Queensbury which he described as a source of environmental blight and felt represented a visible indication of neglect. Despite the frequency with which residents reported dumped trolleys through the Council's reporting portal and the Trolleywise application, he pointed out many remained unattended for extended periods. Concerns were also expressed regarding the financial burden placed on local taxpayers, noting that some local authorities operated recovery charge schemes requiring supermarkets to contribute towards removal costs. He therefore asked what oversight arrangements existed and whether the Council would be prepared to support a charging scheme for supermarkets where repeated collection activity was required as a means of encouraging more proactive retrieval arrangements.

In response, Councillor Knight acknowledged the concerns being raised by local residents along with the negative impact abandoned trolleys could have on local neighbourhoods. Whilst advising that Council enforcement teams already worked in partnership with supermarkets to tackle trolley abandonment and associated littering issues, Councillor Knight advised she would be willing to follow up on the specific issues highlighted outside of the meeting in order to review what additional measures could be introduced to address the problem more effectively, including potential charging mechanisms.

(vi) In highlighting the importance in ensuring that the Council's response to serious youth violence was able to reach those young people who were most vulnerable to exploitation and criminal involvement, Councillor Blackman made reference to examples from other London boroughs where peer mentoring, youth ambassadors and lived-experience programmes had played an effective role in engagement and asked Councillor Dixon (as Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health) what consideration could be given to the way these type of approaches could also be incorporated into local violence reduction strategies in Brent.

In response, Councillor Dixon welcomed the comments and example provided supporting the value that trusted peer networks could play alongside traditional support services. Having outlined ongoing work involving community organisations, youth projects and externally funded initiatives designed to engage vulnerable young people confirmation was provided that the Council would continue to examine best practice from elsewhere in London and nationally (including lessons learnt from Glasgow's public health approach to knife crime) with a view to adopting successful interventions where appropriate whilst also highlighting the importance of learning from local families and communities affected by violence in order to ensure that future programmes continued to remain informed by lived experience and community need.

(vii) As a final question, Councillor Brown highlighted concerns about excessive vegetation growth around a number of street trees within Wembley Central Ward, noting that overgrown areas were affecting the appearance of the local environment and giving rise to complaints from residents. Given these concerns he sought a commitment from Councillor Knight (as Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport and Public Realm) that the locations would be inspected and action taken where maintenance was required.

In response, Councillor Knight reminded members of the need to ensure the specific issues and locations identified were reported to enable targeted review, monitoring and action by officers utilising the FixMyStreet app. Confirmation was provided that once details were provided these could be assessed with arrangements made for any necessary maintenance works to be undertaken.

At this stage in proceedings, the Mayor advised that the time available for the open question session had expired. He therefore thanked all members for their contributions and advised that the meeting would move on to the next item.

12. Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees

The Mayor then moved on to deal with the updates from each Scrutiny Committee Chair. Reminding members of the changes to the Council Procured Rules agreed at the start of the meeting he advised members that the written reports submitted by the Chairs of both Committees were for reference purposes only and would no longer require presentation on an individual basis or include the opportunity for questions to be raised on matters relating to the work of each Committee.

On the basis of the reports submitted, Council therefore **RESOLVED** to note the updates on work being undertaken by the Resources & Public Realm and Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committees.

13. **Report from the Vice Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee**

The Mayor invited Councillor Choudry, as the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee, to introduce the report updating members on the work of the Committee.

In terms of issues highlighted Councillor Choudry once again drew members' attention to the important role and work undertaken by the Committee in relation to monitoring and advising on various governance matters relating to audit activity, the Council's finance, accounting and regulatory framework and members standards of conduct.

The importance of the Committee's role was also highlighted in terms of the wider financial challenges, risks and pressures being faced by the Council with a focus provided in relation to delivery of the Internal Audit Plan and Council's risk management structure and strategic risk management process including not only the effectiveness of governance processes but also Council's financial resilience. In outlining the wide range of work being undertaken as part of the Committee's governance and assurance responsibilities, members were advised this had included a focus on areas including Treasury Management, the Strategic Risk Register, member gifts and hospitality, counter-fraud activity and the progress in response to the Councils Self-Referral to the Social Housing Regulator as well as in relation to the Council's Draft Statement of Accounts.

In concluding his update, Councillor Choudry took the opportunity to assure members of the Committee's continued focus on the adequacy of the Council's governance, risk and control arrangements in order to provide assurance and confidence on compliance and control of the Council's key governance, financial management and accounting arrangements as well as member standards. As a final comment, the opportunity was also taken to place on record the committee's thanks to David Ewart for his service and contribution as Independent Chair in advance of his term of office coming to an end.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Choudy for the update provided and it was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

14. **Treasury Management Outturn Report 2025-26**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Grahl, as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, to introduce a report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources updating members on the Council's Treasury Management Activity during 2025 - 26.

In introducing the report, Councillor Grahl began by highlighted the importance of Treasury Management in supporting the Council's strategic priorities and ensuring the continued delivery of investment across the borough. Members were advised that, whilst the previous year had presented significant financial challenges, including the continued impact of higher interest rates and increased borrowing

requirements, the Council had remained within its approved borrowing limits and continued to operate in accordance with its Treasury Management Strategy.

Members were advised that this prudent approach to borrowing had enabled continued investment in key priorities across the borough, including the delivery of new homes, infrastructure improvements and wider community assets such as schools, libraries and leisure facilities. In outlining the scale of the investment programme, members were informed that capital expenditure of approximately £209.9m had been delivered during 2025-26, with investment viewed as essential in addressing long-term financial pressures and reducing future demand on Council services particularly in relation to housing and key infrastructure. Reference was also made to the wider national policy context, including the Government's commitment to increased public investment focussed on initiatives such as the Social and Affordable Homes Programme; additional support being provided for local authority housebuilding and to end rough sleeping alongside investment to address pressures in SEND provision, which it was felt would also provide further opportunities to support residents and complement the Council's own investment ambitions.

In recognising the scale of Brent's capital ambitions, members were advised that these continued to be balanced against the need to maintain financial sustainability and affordability, with the Deputy Leader outlining the Council's "little and often" borrowing approach, which allowed borrowing decisions to be phased and reviewed in response to changing interest rates, helping to manage costs and reduce financial risk in an effort to support the investment required whilst seeking to minimise future costs and improve outcomes for residents.

In concluding, Councillor Grahl reaffirmed that the Council's investment programme remained underpinned by a responsible Treasury Management Strategy, affordable borrowing arrangements and careful consideration of the long-term costs and benefits associated with investment decisions. The opportunity was also taken to thank officers within the Finance service for their expertise and support in enabling the Council to navigate a challenging financial environment whilst continuing to invest in services and facilities for residents.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Grahl for introducing the report and as no other members indicated they wished to speak and no need was indicated to exercise a right of reply, then moved to put the recommendations in the report to the vote which were declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED** to note and approve, following its consideration by Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 27 July 2026 and Cabinet on 7 September 2026, the 2025 - 26 Treasury Management outturn report in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice.

Prior to considering the final items on the agenda the Mayor advised that as the remaining time available was shortly due to expire he intended to move the suspension of Standing Order 44 (Council Guillotine Procedure) in order to extend the time of the meeting by a period of 15 minutes, to enable completion of the agenda. In accordance with Standing Order 42 (d) the procedural motion was put to the vote without further discussion and declared **CARRIED**.

15. **Changes to the Constitution**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, to introduce a report from the Corporate Director Finance and Resources detailing a number of proposed amendments to the Constitution in relation to the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee (Part 4 of the Constitution) following national changes in regulations being introduced to the planning system; Full Council meeting standing orders (Part 2 of the Constitution) and the Members' Allowance Scheme (Part 6 of the Constitution).

In introducing the report, the Leader advised that the changes set out for consideration had been developed following consideration by the Constitutional Oversight Group and had involved cross-party discussions. Members were advised that the principal amendments related to new national planning regulations governing the delegation of planning decisions between officers and Planning Committees, changes to Standing Orders relating to committee appointments and nominations, and a proposal to increase the allowance payable to the Independent Chair of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee. Confirmation was provided that the proposed planning related amendments had been required to ensure the Council's Constitution remained compliant with the new national framework whilst also retaining routes through which significant planning applications could be considered by elected members with the increase in the allowance for the Independent Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee intended to attract suitably qualified applicants and provide remuneration that more appropriately reflected the responsibilities associated with the role in advance of recruitment for the new chair commencing. In commending the proposed changes to members, Councillor Muhammed Butt ended by highlighting the living nature of the Constitution which he pointed out would remain subject to ongoing review and refinement and with the current amendments felt to represent a practical and proportionate approach to the changes required.

Having thanked Councillor Muhammed Butt for moving the report, the Mayor then opened the debate inviting other members to speak on the report, with the following contributions made.

In opening the debate, Councillor Maurice began by highlighting his concerns regarding the proposed planning delegation arrangements which he felt would significantly reduce opportunities for applications to be referred to Planning Committee and scrutinised in public, with the removal of existing referral mechanisms seen as limiting transparency and reducing democratic oversight of planning decisions. Referring to planning applications within his ward, he maintained that residents expected applications of significant interest to be debated publicly and as such felt that the proposed constitutional changes would reduce opportunities for such scrutiny and on that basis indicated he was unable to support the proposed amendments.

Speaking next Councillor Lorber, whilst acknowledging that the changes in relation to the planning arrangements were being driven by government legislation, also expressed concern regarding the impact of the changes and how they had been communicated to councillors and residents. Given the high level of public interest in planning matters he felt many residents would struggle to understand the basis of

the changes being made and restrictions on their elected ward councillors no longer being able to request the consideration of certain applications. Drawing on a recent example in his ward, he criticised the operation of delegated powers, expressing concern regarding applications being determined without sufficient public engagement or awareness supported by concern also raised in relation to the effectiveness of the Council's planning portal given the difficulties faced in engaging with consultation processes online. As a result of the concerns raised, Councillor Lorber ended by proposing an amendment on the constitutional changes relating to the planning arrangements, which he felt should be deferred to enable further scrutiny through either the Planning Committee or an alternative forum in order to establish appropriate safeguards, communication arrangements and procedural protocols.

Following on, Councillor Georgiou also spoke to support the concerns expressed regarding the changes proposed to the planning arrangements also highlighting concerns around wider constitutional governance issues. In referring to comments made by the Leader regarding collaborative working through the Constitutional Oversight Group, he sought to challenge that mechanism as providing an opportunity for meaningful engagement, with the example provided of the process surrounding the appointment of the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee undertaken at the start of the meeting which was not felt to have reflected the independent status of the scrutiny function or importance of democratic accountability given the final appointment made not having been an Opposition member and role of the Labour administration in the process.

Responding to Councillor Georgiou's comments, Councillor Blackman sought to challenge the view that the concerns relating to the appointment of the scrutiny chair had involved constitutional arrangements and were (based on his understanding of the earlier discussion) instead linked to issues around the nomination process. Returning to focus on the proposals within the report, he highlighted his support for the proposed increase in remuneration for the position of Independent Chair in the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee, noting the importance in encouraging independent participation in civic and democratic processes and recognising the value of independent members serving on council committees, with the increase felt to be appropriate given the responsibilities of the role.

Also referring to previous comments made during the debate, Councillor Kansagra challenged the views expressed regarding operation of the Constitutional Oversight Group, rejecting suggestions that discussions within the group had been misrepresented with issues relating to the appointment process involving the Housing Scrutiny Chair position falling outside the constitutional review process. Once again, returning to the proposals within the report concerns were shared regarding the practical implications and impact of the planning changes which had been proposed, with it felt that issues relating to committee appointments should be considered separately from the constitutional amendments under consideration.

Responding to the concerns raised around the appointment process for the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Mitchell once again sought to clarify the position from the Green Groups perspective outlining the discussions that had taken place regarding the nomination process and outlining the subsequent communication with the Group Leaders in advance of the meeting. Confirmation

was again provided that the Green Group had not indicated they intended to withdraw their Group nomination in advance of the meeting with, it felt, their position having remained clear and consistent throughout the process.

Asa final contribution to the debate and in returning, once again, to focus on the proposed changes within the report as they related to the planning arrangements Councillor Kelcher (as Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning) felt it important to remind members that the planning reforms outlined had been required as a result of the changes being introduced nationally by Government rather than as proposals initiated by the Council. In support of the wider changes to the planning system being introduced by the Government, Councillor Kelcher highlighted how he felt they had been designed to modernise a planning system which had become increasingly restrictive, especially when compared with those operating elsewhere in Europe. In his view, reform was therefore necessary to support housing delivery and address the wider housing crisis. Whilst recognising concerns regarding the implementation of the changes locally, he reminded members that the cross-party Local Plan Working Group continued to provide an appropriate forum through which detailed consideration of the impact could take place and ended, in referring to previous comments made during the debate, by also seeking to challenge the assertion that members of the Labour Administration could not chair scrutiny committees independently, defending the integrity and experience of the newly appointed Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee.

During his contribution to the debate, Councillor Kelcher responded to a point of clarification raised by Councillor Lorber on a potential interest, with confirmation provided that all relevant interests had been disclosed within his online register of interests.

As there were no further members who had indicated they wished to speak and in view of the remaining time available the Mayor, having thanked members for their contribution, then drew the debate to a close inviting Councillor Muhammed Butt (as mover of the original report) to exercise any right of reply.

In exercising his right of reply, Councillor Muhammed Butt thanked members for their contributions. Whilst acknowledging the concerns highlighted in relation to the impact of the change in the planning arrangements, he felt it important to remind members these had been required to ensure the Council was legally able to comply with the national Regulations being introduced by the Government. Assurance was provided that the changes being sought would not remove the requirement for planning applications to continue being assessed against adopted planning policies and in accordance with professional standards, and confidence expressed in the role undertaken by planning officers to ensure decisions would continue to receive appropriate consideration under the revised arrangements. Turning to the remaining constitutional amendments, he noted that discussions had already taken place regarding committee appointment procedures and reiterated that the proposed increase in the allowance for the independent Chair of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee was intended to bring Brent’s arrangements into line with those operating elsewhere and ensure that independent office holders were appropriately remunerated. On the basis outlined he therefore commended the change to members for approval.

The Mayor then moved to the vote on the recommendations within the report, having confirmed that he was not willing to accept the amendment moved by Councillor Lorber during his contribution to the debate given it had not been submitted in accordance with the required deadline.

Having put the recommendations to a vote they were declared **LOST** with it **RESOLVED** not to approve the changes to the Constitution as set out in the main body and within Appendix 1 of the report.

In response to the proposed amendments not being approved, the Mayor advised members there would be a requirement for the proposed changes in relation to the planning arrangements to be bought back (following review) for reconsideration at a subsequent Full Council meeting. Given the deadline for implementation of the planning regulations nationally by the end of October 2026, confirmation was provided this would require the convening of an Extraordinary Council Meeting for which a date would be confirmed following the meeting.

16. **s85 Resolution to approve reason for councillor non-attendance at meetings**

The Mayor then moved on to the final item of business on the agenda and invited Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce a report from the Corporate Director Finance and Resources seeking approval, pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, to the reason for the non-attendance of a councillor at meetings.

In introducing the report, the Leader reminded members there would be occasions when personal circumstances and caring responsibilities made it difficult for members to be able attend meetings on a regular basis. As a result, he advised the report was seeking a dispensation in relation to Councillor Mahmood's personal circumstances and caring responsibilities, given the health and wellbeing support he was currently providing for a close family member with the request designed to recognise the exceptional circumstances outlined and ensure he was able to continue fulfilling his responsibilities while providing the necessary care and support to his family.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Muhammed Butt for introducing the report and as no other members indicated they wished to speak and no need was indicated to exercise a right of reply, then moved to put the recommendations in the report to the vote which were declared unanimously **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED** to approve, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the reason set out at paragraph 3.3 of the report in respect of Councillor Mahmood's non-attendance at meetings until the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2027.

17. **Exclusion of the Press & Public**

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

18. **Urgent Business**

There were no urgent items of business raised at the meeting so the Mayor, in closing the meeting, thanked all members for their co-operation and support and advised that he looked forward to seeing everyone again in person at the next Full Council which would be taking place on Monday 16 November 2026.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

COUNCILLOR AMER AGHA MB BS, MSC, PHCM
Mayor

This page is intentionally left blank

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held on Monday 12 October 2026 at 5.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Amer Agha MB BS, MSc, PHCM

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Kanta Mistry

COUNCILLORS:

Aden	Ahmadi Moghaddam
I.Ahmed	P.Ahmed
Alexandre	Amadi
Anderson	Bajwa
Brown	Burn
M Butt	S Butt
Chadha	Chauhan
Choudry	Chowdhury
Clinton	Dar
De Souza	Dixon
Donnelly-Jackson	Do Rosario
Gallagher	Georgiou
Ibrahim	Jansali
Johnson	Kelcher
Knight	Lorber
Madabhushi	Malonga
Maurice	McLeish
Mishra	Mitchell
A.Patel	HB.Patel
J.Patel	N.Patel
Perrin	Rubin
Ryan	Thomas
Unger	Want
Warsame	

1. **Mayors Introductory Statement**

The Mayor welcomed all those present and thanked everyone for their attendance, explaining that he had called the Extraordinary Council meeting under Standing Order 29 in order to enable members to consider the following items of urgent business:

- The statutory changes to the terms of reference for the Planning Committee reflecting national changes due to come into effect at the end of October as they related to planning powers and the determination of certain types of planning applications; and

- An amendment within the Members' Allowance Scheme to the allowance payable to the Independent Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.

Members were reminded that these changes had been considered at the previous Council meeting on 14 September 2026 but were not approved, with the need for them to be reconsidered at an Extraordinary Council Meeting reflecting the Council's statutory duty to amend its planning delegations prior to the end of October and to commence the recruitment of a new Independent Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee.

The Mayor also took the opportunity to acknowledge the difficulties in some members being able to attend the meeting highlighting that whilst aware of the competing demands on members time and availability it was unfortunately not always possible, given the logistical challenges involved, to identify a time that would be convenient for everyone. As a result, he thanked members for their co-operation and flexibility in terms of finalising the arrangements for the meeting.

Before ending his introduction, the Mayor announced that it was with regret he had to inform members of the sad passing of former Councillor Reg Colwill and also Mrs Arshad Mahmood, who served as Mayoress during Councillor Mahmood's Mayoralty.

Acknowledging that many members would have known Reg Colwill during the time he served as a councillor from 1994 – 2022 (representing both Kingsbury and Kenton wards), the compassion, friendship and commitment he demonstrated to local residents and the communities served as a member of the Council was recognised and commended.

The Mayor advised he intended to invite formal tributes at the next Full Council meeting in November, but before finishing offered his sincerest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of both Reg Colwill and Mrs Arshad Mahmood on behalf of the Council.

2. Apologies for Absence

The Mayor reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Blackman, Grahl, Hack, Kansagra, Mahmood, Mulaisho, Shah and Vakani.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

4. Changes to the Constitution

Prior to inviting Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce a report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources outlining the

constitutional changes needing to be considered in relation to the Terms of Reference of the Planning Committee (as amended in an updated reported published in advance of the meeting) and Members Allowance Scheme, following their initial consideration at the Council meeting on 14 September 2026, the Mayor invited Kim Wright (as Chief Executive) to provide a brief statement regarding the status of the planning proposals presented for consideration.

In seeking to outline the statutory and operational context in which the proposals included within the report needed to be considered, the Chief Executive began by reminding members of the statutory duty placed upon the Council to ensure the new planning delegation arrangements included within the national regulations were in place by 31 October 2026. Members were advised that failure to do so would not only be a breach of that statutory duty but would also have a number of planning consequences which were highlighted as follows:

- The inability to determine applications set out within the current terms of Reference of the Planning committee that did not align with the national scheme of delegation.

- The increased likelihood of an increased number of planning appeals against non-determination of planning applications.

- The Local Planning Authority potentially being subject to special measures by Central Government because of applications not being determined within the minimum threshold on statutory timeframes or being overturned at appeal.

- The risk that a developer could decide to submit certain applications, including major applications to the Planning Inspector and bypass the Council resulting in the loss of local control over the more strategic and significant applications, reputational damage to the Council and a significant reduction in planning fee income.

- The risk in being required to issue refunds on planning fees if a non-major application was undermined after 16 weeks and a major application was undetermined after 26 weeks where no extension of time had been secured along with associated reduction in planning fee income and impact on the ability to deliver planning and other services.

In also acknowledging the concerns expressed by members at the Council meeting when the proposals had originally been considered in September and at the subsequent All-Member Briefing in October about the loss of the previous “call-in rights” and ability to engage in planning decisions, attention was drawn to the way in which the proposals had been further amended, following discussion with all group leaders, to effectively reinstate para. 2 of the Planning Committee terms of reference with necessary modifications. Members were advised this had been undertaken to enable three or more councillors to request that certain applications be considered for referral to the planning committee in accordance with the new gateway process and was in direct response to the concerns expressed with the new provision having been set out paragraph 5.12 of the report circulated with the agenda.

Having thanked Kim Wright for her statement and the clarification provided, the Mayar then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt to introduce and formally move the proposals within the report.

In moving the recommendations, Councillor Muhammed Butt reminded members that the proposals reflected statutory changes imposed through national legislation which the Council was legally required to implement. Referring specifically to concerns raised at the previous Council meeting, he highlighted the additional safeguards that had been included enabling any three councillors to request referral of planning applications for further consideration, which he hoped gave confidence to members that their concerns and views were being considered. Whilst acknowledging concerns regarding democratic oversight, he advised that the Council had a duty to comply with the new requirements and on this basis moved the recommendations as set out within the report.

Prior to opening the debate, the Mayor advised members of a proposed amendment to the proposals within the report, which had been submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group. Following advice provided by the Interim Director of Law and Monitoring Office the Mayor confirmed that he had not accepted the amendment, with the decision taken on the basis the proposals had been received outside of the necessary timescale and were felt to fall outside the specific scope and purpose of the Extraordinary Meeting. It was confirmed the Liberal Democrats Group had been informed of the decision and reasons in advance of the meeting, with advice also provided on how the proposals could be brought forward for future consideration.

At this stage in proceedings, Councillor Lorber (under Standing Order 42) sought to move a Procedural Motion seeking to suspend Standing Orders to enable consideration of the amendment which had been proposed by the Liberal Democrats Group. In support of the waiver, Councillor Lorber advised that the Liberal Democrats Group had sought further clarification from officers regarding the planning and referral proposals with delays in receiving responses on the issues raised having impacted the timing of the amendment's submission. The opportunity was also taken to highlight concerns regarding the timing of the Extraordinary Meeting and its impact on members' ability to attend.

In accordance with Standing Order 42(d) the Mayor then put the procedural motion to suspend Standing Orders to the vote (without further debate) which was declared **LOST.**

The Mayor then opened the debate inviting other members to speak on the report, with the following contributions made.

In opening the debate, Councillor Lorber reiterated his opposition to the national planning reforms, describing them as a significant reduction in local democratic accountability. Whilst acknowledging the Council's legal obligation to implement the changes, he felt that elected members should retain a stronger role in planning decision-making and outlined the amended proposals supported by the Liberal Democrat Group, including the establishment of a three-member advisory panel to support review of planning application referrals under the new arrangements, a reduction in the size of the Planning Committee from 8 to 5 members, and a review

of the associated Special Responsibility Allowance for Chair of the Planning Committee, which he advised their amendment had sought to propose.

Following on Councillor Clinton, in support of the concerns outlined, referred to information contained within the report noting that whilst only a small proportion of planning applications submitted since January 2025 would have been affected by the reforms, the changes would have applied to a significant proportion of applications considered by the Planning Committee during that period. He emphasised his view that local residents deserved elected representatives who were able to challenge contentious planning decisions, and that removing that ability risked eroding trust in the democratic process. At this stage in the debate, he advised that the Liberal Democrats would therefore consider abstaining on the final vote in recognition of the Council's statutory obligations but advised that the Group's opposition to the reforms remained unchanged.

Speaking next on behalf of the Green Group, Councillor Mitchell acknowledged the additional engagement that had taken place since the previous Council meeting to address some of the concerns raised by opposition groups and welcomed the inclusion of a mechanism enabling three councillors to request referrals under the new arrangements. Despite these amendments, concern was expressed that the proposals would weaken democratic oversight of planning matters by transferring greater decision-making authority from elected members to planning officers which she felt would principally benefit developers rather than local communities. It was also felt that the changes risked undermining public confidence and trust in the planning system and reduced opportunities for meaningful community involvement in planning decisions. Whilst recognising the severity of the current housing crisis and the need to address housing need, she felt that reform should focus on radical solutions that strengthened local involvement in planning rather than limiting it. In that context, she referred to alternative approaches adopted by other local authorities and called on the Council to support those approaches, including measures designed to bring planning decision-making closer to local communities in Lewisham and proposals by the Green Party aimed at increasing the supply of genuinely affordable council-owned housing. For these reasons, Councillor Mitchell advised that the Green Group remained unable to support the recommendations.

Speaking on behalf of the Conservative Group, Councillor Maurice also expressed opposition to the changes on the basis of the impact they would have in restricting the role of councillors in the process as well as opportunities for local residents' concerns to be heard and considered through public planning committee meetings. He felt the reforms would also result in reduced opportunities to scrutinise or challenge planning decisions. Whilst recognising that the Council had a legal obligation to implement the reforms, he also supported the proposed review of the size and membership of the Planning Committee to ensure decisions were not reliant on the Chair's second or casting vote, with the support also expressed for an opposition member to be appointed as chair of the Planning Committee.

As a further contribution, Councillor Jayanti Patel also expressed concern regarding the impact of the new national planning regulations on local democratic accountability once again highlighting how it was felt the changes would significantly reduce the role of elected members in the determination of planning applications and limit opportunities for public scrutiny, with a view that the changes outlined represented a move towards more centralised rather than localised control.

In particular, he raised concerns that a greater number of applications would be determined under delegated authority rather than by Planning Committee and that the gateway arrangements could make it more difficult for applications to be referred for member consideration. He also questioned whether the revised framework would discourage member involvement in contentious planning matters due to the increased risk of legal challenge. Whilst acknowledging the Council's obligation to implement the changes, Councillor Jayanti Patel urged the Council to make representations to Government regarding the impact of their reforms on local decision-making and community engagement in the planning process.

Speaking next Councillor Georgiou reminded members that the requirement to hold an Extraordinary Council meeting had arisen from concerns previously expressed by opposition groups regarding the impact of the government-imposed planning reforms and the need for additional time to scrutinise and consider their implications for the borough. Whilst acknowledging the engagement that had taken place with officers and other Group Leaders since the previous Council meeting, he advised that significant concerns remained regarding the effect of the proposals on the ability of elected members to scrutinise planning matters and represent residents' interests. Councillor Georgiou expressed disappointment that the amendments submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group had not been allowed to come forward for debate given the way he felt they would have strengthened the proposed arrangements and provided additional safeguards within the planning process. Referring to his own experience of attending and speaking at Planning Committee, he emphasised the importance of maintaining opportunities for local ward councillors to speak on behalf of residents and to raise concerns about planning applications affecting their communities. He remained concerned that the new arrangements would reduce those opportunities and further limit member involvement in planning decisions. Concluding his remarks, Councillor Georgiou reiterated his opposition to the reforms and suggested that further consideration should be given to the alternative proposals developed by the Liberal Democrat Group, advising that he would continue discussions with officers regarding the possibility of bringing those proposals forward for future consideration by Council.

In support of comments made during the debate, Councillor Mishra also spoke to highlight concern at how it was felt the changes outlined would reduce opportunities for public oversight of planning decisions and transfer greater decision-making authority away from local elected representatives, resulting in a lack of transparency in the planning decision process. Whilst acknowledging that the Council was required to implement the changes in order to comply with national legislation, he maintained that the reforms represented a significant erosion of local democratic control and called on the Council to continue advocating for the restoration of greater member oversight and local involvement in the planning process.

As a final contribution to the debate, Councillor Harshadbhai Patel felt it important to highlight the importance of constitutional arrangements in supporting democratic governance and public accountability. Whilst acknowledging that the changes were required in order to comply with national legislation, he queried whether the reforms would improve decision-making or governance arrangements within the Council, feeling that the proposals would reduce opportunities for members and residents to influence planning decisions and expressed concern that the revised referral process would provide less certainty that applications could be considered by

Planning Committee. The opportunity was also taken to challenge the necessity of the changes, given the Council's existing strong performance in determining planning applications and the relatively small proportion of applications affected by the reforms. For these reasons, he remained concerned about the impact of the proposals on democratic oversight and local accountability within the planning process.

As there were no further members who had indicated they wished to speak, the Mayor having thanked members for their contribution then drew the debate to a close and invited Councillor Muhammed Butt (as mover of the original report) to exercise his rights of reply.

In responding to the debate, Councillor Muhammed Butt acknowledged the concerns that had been raised regarding democratic oversight and member and resident involvement in planning decisions but reminded members that the Council was obliged to implement the changes as a consequence of national legislation. In view of the concerns outlined when the proposals had first been submitted for consideration at the previous Council meeting, he again highlighted the amendments that had been made to facilitate member referrals under the new arrangements but, in recognising the concerns that remained, indicated a willingness to continue discussions with officers regarding any further measures that could be considered within the limitations of the statutory framework.

The Mayor then moved to put the recommendations in the report to the vote on an individual basis, which were both declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED** having reviewed the changes to the Constitution set out in the report and accompanying appendices:

(1) To approve the changes to the Constitution set out in this report and the appendices relating to planning delegations in accordance with the council's duty and to authorise the Interim Director of Law and Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution, accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

(2) To approve that the Members' Allowance Scheme (in Part 6 of the Constitution) be amended so that the remuneration payable to the Independent Chair of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee was increased from £1,561pa to £5,332pa.

With no further business to be considered the Mayor once again thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm

COUNCILLOR AMER AGHA MB BS, MSC, PHCM
Mayor

This page is intentionally left blank

Full Council: 16 November 2026

List of petitions received

Standing Order 66 requires that any petition received by the Governance & Scrutiny Manager and containing 51 or more signatures is reported to Full Council for information.

The list of petitions received since the last update is as follows:

Petition no.	Date closed	Online/Paper submission	Subject	Status
451	22.09.2026	Paper/email	Urgent Traffic calming and Road safety measures on Village Way NW10	Referred to Highways for response
456	06.11.2026	e-petition	Make College Road Railway Bridge Safer for Children and Pedestrians	Referred to Highways for response
457	11.11.2026	e-petition	Renew Rainbow Park playground, Rusper Close NW2	To be referred to the Parks Service for response

This page is intentionally left blank

Full Council: 16 November 2026

List of Decisions taken under the Council's Urgency Procedures

In accordance with Standing Order 31 (iv) and paragraph 38 (b) of the Access to Information Rules, to report on any Urgent Decisions taken since the last report to Council on 14 September 2026, under this part of the Council's Constitution

Members are asked to note that there no decisions taken which have been subject to use of the urgency procedure since the Full Council meeting on 14 September 2026.

This page is intentionally left blank

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Agenda Item 5 – Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

Standing Order 30(g) states that, if necessary, Full Council is required to agree appointments to committees and outside bodies. In addition to the changes listed Council is being asked to confirm the extension and reappointment of the Independent Chair on the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and Pension Board.

Such appointments are set out below:

Committee Membership

(1) Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Manoj Mishra to replace Councillor Chowdhury as one of the Conservative Groups full members on the Committee with Councillor Chowdhury to replace Councillor Mishra as a substitute member on the Committee.

(2) Councillor Johnson to replace Councillor Dixon as a full member of the Senior Staff Appointments Committee.

Members are asked to note that this appointment will be subject to confirmation by the General Purposes Sub Committee on 7 December 2026.

(3) Scrutiny Committee - Vice Chair positions

To consider nominations received in relation to the following positions. *(Members are asked to note that nominations will be considered in the order they are received. Each nomination will be put to the vote with the final appointment to be agreed on*

the basis of a simple majority of votes being achieved. If a straightforward majority of votes is not achieved, then the next nomination will be put to the vote and this will continue until an appointment is made)

(a) Vice Chair of the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – nominations received to date have been in the following order:

(i) Councillor Alexandre

(b) Vice Chair of the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee – nominations received to date have been in the following order:

(i) Councillor Mitchell

(c) Vice Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee – – nominations received to date have been in the following order:

(i) Councillor Georgiou

Should any further nominations be received either in advance or during the meeting these will be dealt with in accordance with the process outlined above.

<u>Outside Bodies</u>

(1) i4B and First Wave Housing Ltd

Councillor Burn to replace Councillor Donnelly Jackson as the as the Councils full member representative on both bodies.

Please note: If required, any further membership changes to be notified either in advance or at the meeting.

Brent

Independent Chair Audit & Standards Advisory Committee & Pension Board

Full Council's agreement is being sought to extend the appointment of David Ewart as Independent Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee for a period until the end of the current Municipal Year on 19 May 2027. This is to enable completion of the recruitment process currently being undertaken to fill the position on a permanent basis.

Whilst stepping down from his role as Independent Chair on the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee David Ewart will be continuing in his role as Independent Chair on Brent Pensions Board so approval is also being sought to his reappointment in that role for a further 2 year period.

The Council has a long-standing arrangement for its Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and Pension Board to be chaired independently to enhance the governance arrangements on those bodies. These arrangements are considered to operate effectively, with the position of Independent Chair on both bodies currently filled by David Ewart. Members of both the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and of the Pensions Board are content that the current independent chair has fulfilled the respective role effectively, as are senior officers.

As the term of office for the Independent Chair's current appointment on both bodies is due to expire on 31 December 2026 it is recommended that

(a) David Ewart's appointment as Independent Chair on the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee is extended until the end of the current Municipal Year to 19 May 2027 pending completion of the recruitment process to fill the position on a permanent basis.

(b) David Ewart's is reappointed as Independent Chair on the Pension Board from the expiry of his current term on 31 December 2026 for a further 2 year period to expire on 31 December 2028.

As these are not decision-making meetings there are no significant conflicts in appointing the same person to chair each body with the appointments also providing an opportunity to ensure continuity in terms of the operation of both bodies in advance of the current arrangements coming to an end.

Full Council is therefore asked:

(1) To approve extending David Ewart's appointment as Independent Chair on the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee until the end of the current Municipal Year to 19 May 2027, pending completion of the recruitment process to fill the position on a permanent basis.

(2) To approve the reappointment of David Ewart as Independent Chair on the Pension Board from the expiry of his current term on 31 December 2026 for a further 2 year period to expire on 31 December 2028.

Brent

Item 7.1: Questions from Members of the Public

Full Council – 16 November 2026

1. **Question from Stephen Thomas to Councillor Matt Kelcher (Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning)**

Can the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning advise what they are doing to address the shortfall and backlog in affordable housing supply across the borough given the level of units being delivered by private developers across Alperton, including the Beresford Avenue and Grand Union developments and all around Wembley Stadium and increase in use of buy to let and student accommodation and properties then being used as Air B&B. These developments are not felt to offer real benefit to local residents whilst also placing additional strain on local infrastructure and already stretched community services.

Response:

This administration is very proud of Brent's record in delivering new homes for our local communities. Brent was recently named the UK's number one council housebuilder by Inside Housing magazine, with 557 homes completed last year and a further 1,360 in the pipeline.

Our wider approach to housebuilding supports a range of homes to meet different needs:

- We have delivered 155 homes in 26/27 up to Q1 and we expect to deliver a further 300+ homes this financial year including in areas of need such as Alperton, Church End and Kilburn;

- From Q1 2026-27 to date (including the number of planning permissions granted with affordable homes and across different the tenure types) – 201 LAR homes, 61 Social Rent Homes and 10 Shared Ownership Homes

- a range of homes for market sale.

A borough as diverse as Brent needs all these types of housing. Social housing is essential for residents on our waiting list, while other affordable tenures help households whose needs are not met by the market. We also need homes for the majority of our residents whose incomes place them above the eligibility thresholds for social or other affordable housing. Market-sale homes therefore also have a role in meeting local need and benefiting Brent residents.

We are doing everything we can to deliver more affordable housing, and Brent continues to lead the way. However, we face major pressures that are not unique to our borough.

One reason homes are so expensive to buy or rent is that they are increasingly expensive to build. Higher borrowing and energy costs, increased construction costs, interest rates, new regulatory requirements, including those arising from the Building Safety Act, and flat sales values have made delivery more challenging.

The Home Builders Federation has estimated that additional regulatory requirements have added more than £75,000 to the cost of building a new home. Across a large development, additional costs on this scale put substantial pressure on viability and the funding available for affordable housing.

That is why we must draw on different sources of funding and support to deliver homes at prices and rents that are genuinely affordable. We are pursuing three complementary approaches.

First, working with private-sector partners. We will continue to support new housing delivery through partnerships in which the proceeds from private sales help cross-subsidise affordable homes within the same development. This is an important means of securing affordable housing alongside market-sale homes.

Second, securing external funding. We will continue to bid for grants and other funding to subsidise affordable housing wherever possible. We look forward to continuing our engagement with the Greater London Authority to maximise the opportunities available to Brent.

Third, developing innovative delivery models. I was particularly proud to take the Brentfield Road scheme through Cabinet in October 2026, securing agreement to support Brent Community Land Trust in bringing forward 19 affordable homes on that site. This demonstrates our determination to explore new ways of delivering the homes our communities need.

2. **Question from Usha Vyas to Councillor Promise Knight (Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport & Public Realm)**

The residential area between the North Circular Road and Church Road serves a busy local community and contains a number of facilities that generate regular pedestrian and vehicle movements. These include two primary schools — Mitchell Brook Primary School on Bridge Road and St Mary's C E Primary School at the Mayo Road/Garnet Road end — as well as Church End Medical Centre, Willesden Court Care Home on Garnet Road, the Unity Centre on Church Road and the Elim River of Life Church on Gifford Road. Children, elderly and vulnerable residents, patients, families, worshippers and other pedestrians therefore regularly move through these residential streets.

At the same time, these residential roads form an interconnected route between the North Circular Road and Church Road through Woodheyes Road, Bridge Road, Hawkins Road and the surrounding residential streets, including Tynsdale Road, Helperby Road and Mayo Road. Residents continue to experience rat-running, speeding and aggressive driving through this area, including vehicles circumventing existing traffic-calming measures and recurring congestion and conflict at the narrow Bridge Road/Hawkins Road railway bridge.

Given the level of community use of this area and the fact that these roads operate as part of a connected route rather than in isolation, can the Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport & Public Realm advise if the Council will consider undertaking a wider road-safety and traffic-management assessment of this corridor to determine whether further measures could help reduce rat-running, speeding, dangerous driving and conflict across the network?

Response:

As Lead Member I met the resident with officers from the Healthy Streets and Parking Service at the end of September 2026 on site to discuss the road safety and speeding concerns within the area where the CPZ has recently been implemented.

Road safety measures are mainly funded through the councils Transport for London (TfL) allocation to deliver the Local Implementation Plan and meet the Mayor for London’s Transport Strategy. Road safety schemes are prioritised Schemes are prioritised on the basis of personal injury accidents (PIAs) reported by the Metropolitan Police. However, following discussions relating to safety concerns, officers proposed to take the following actions forward;

- Develop a scheme of quick-win interventions for Mayo Road. This is expected to include at least two sinusoidal road humps (physical measures), together with additional road markings such as "SLOW" carriageway markings and speed roundels.

- Arrange the installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on Hawkins Road, along with additional "SLOW" markings and speed roundels on the carriageway.

- Liaise with our line-marking contractor to ensure the missing section of single yellow line in Creukhorne Road is completed.

- Include the area for consideration of prioritisation for future funding as part of our Road Safety programme, which will be subject to further assessment.

Further to the meeting, the two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) on Hawkins Road were installed on 21 October 2026.

Officers are continuing to progress the remaining measures outlined above and will provide further updates as these works are developed and programmed for implementation.

3. **Question from Peter Gomez to Councillor Matt Kelcher (Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning)**

In September 2024, Brent's Planning Committee required Wembley National Stadium Ltd (WNSL) to undertake a full review of the residents' ticket allocation scheme to ensure the "fairest assessment possible", with the review submitted to and approved by the Council. The subsequent Section 106 agreement established the Community Ballot for residents within the Wembley Stadium Event Day Parking Zone and provided that the Ticket Scheme should not be amended unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Council.

WNSL subsequently proposed a substantially smaller Event Day Impact Zone, which now determines eligibility for the Residents' Ballot. Brent has stated that WNSL developed the boundary and that the Council does not determine the eligibility boundary or hold details of the methodology used to create it.

Can the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning therefore advise:

(a) What evidence did Brent Council examine before agreeing to or approving the replacement of the Event Day Parking Zone with the smaller Event Day Impact Zone as the basis for Residents' Ballot eligibility.

(b) Who gave that agreement or approval and under what authority; and

(c) How Council satisfied itself that the resulting boundary represented the "fairest assessment possible" when it does not appear to hold the methodology by which WNSL determined that boundary?

Response:

The narrower zone was aimed at providing more impactful approach to those who live closer to the stadium. While the "Event Day Impact Zone" was discussed with some senior officers and members, no submission was made to the Planning Authority, and therefore no formal assessment of the revised Ticket Scheme has been undertaken. WNSL has been reminded that they are required to formally submit details for the Ticket Scheme for consideration and approval.

As Lead Member I was not advised personally of these changes as the implementation preceded before I was appointed to the Cabinet. The previous Cabinet Member for Public Realm had been advised directly by the Football Association (FA) on a system the FA considered to be compliant with the planning condition obligations, and that was how the matter was left.

In revisiting the original planning obligations, the FA have agreed to restore the boundary in advance of next year's events programme to better and more accurately account for the wording and spirit of the s106 planning condition obligation.

4. **Question from Janice Long to Councillor Promise Knight (Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport & Public Realm)**

The Highway Code has pedestrians at the top of the road user hierarchy.

In 2026 the Government gave councils the authority to ban pavement parking. In London it is already banned, but Brent has given exemptions to many roads in the Borough. With the result it is not a safe walking environment as cars are parked on the pavement.

Walking should be safe and it should be easy.

The Council website lists the streets where footway parking is allowed. Some are in a CPZ where parking bays are painted on the road and pavement. In other areas there is meant to be 1.2 metres left on the pavement for pedestrians. Yet in practice this does not happen and pedestrians and wheelchair users have to use the road as the pavement is blocked.

Can the Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport & Public Realm therefore outline the Councils plans to eliminate parking on the pavement so that pedestrians can safely walk down the footway and not in the road.

Response:

The Council recognises that inappropriate footway parking can create difficulties and potentially unsafe conditions for pedestrians, particularly wheelchair users, people with mobility impairments and those using pushchairs.

Where footway parking exemptions are considered necessary, officers seek to balance local parking needs with the need to maintain a safe and accessible route for pedestrians.

Any proposal to introduce or amend informal (without marked bays) or formal (with marked bays and signage) footway parking arrangements is carefully assessed against the local highway conditions. Officers follow the relevant guidance when allowing footway parking exemptions, and, wherever practicable, seek to maintain a minimum unobstructed footway width of 1.2 metres for pedestrians.

The Council also undertakes consultation on proposed measures before implementation, giving residents and other affected parties an opportunity to comment. Residents are informed of the outcome and that penalty charge notices will be issued where inadequate space is left for pedestrians and send reminder letters, where necessary.

Where there are numerous reports of obstruction, the council may also introduce signs and lines to improve compliance.

The Council remains committed to balancing parking requirements with the need to provide safe and accessible footways for all users.

Item 7.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament

Full Council – 16 November 2026

1. **Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Jake Rubin (Cabinet Member for Children Services, Employment & Climate Action)**

   What plans does Brent Council have to work with local businesses, schools and community organisations to create more accessible work experience, internships and career opportunities for young people?

   Response:

   The launch of Brent's Youth Employment and Progression Taskforce on 2 November will be a key part of our response to the challenge set out in Sir Alan Milburn's review of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), bringing together young people, business, employers, schools, training providers, community organisations and public sector partners to develop a coordinated approach to reducing youth unemployment and inactivity in the borough.

   Through our emerging Employment and Skills Strategy, we are strengthening the pathways available to young people at every stage. This includes a revised targeted Information, Advice and Guidance service for 16 and 17 year olds, helping those at greatest risk of becoming NEET to access the right support and opportunities early.

   We are also developing work to support schools in strengthening careers education and employer engagement. Alongside this, Brent Works is increasing engagement with schools, particularly with Key Stage 4 pupils, to provide greater exposure to local employers, work experience opportunities and clear routes into employment and further learning.

   Working with local businesses and employers, our Wembley Jobs Fair held in September attracted significant attendance from young people seeking information, advice and guidance regarding their careers and opportunities that are available locally. We are working with our data supplier to track attendees, understand progression resulting from the event and to follow up with live opportunities in the jobs market. We are also looking to develop further, more local events throughout the year.

   We recognise though that some young people face additional barriers to entering work. That is why, for example, we are enhancing our supported internship offer for young people with SEND, working with employers to create more inclusive opportunities and improve progression into sustainable employment.

The Council, through Brent Works and in partnership with our West London neighbours, will be supporting the delivery of the Government's Youth Jobs Guarantee focused on supporting 18 to 24 year olds who have been unemployed for 18 months or more, ensuring they can access tailored employment support and fully-funded work placements for 6 months. This is a significant development that will provide real-world, paid work experience for those young people who have found it hardest to secure employment and to establish a foothold in the labour market.

The Council will be implementing all these measures and more as our strategy takes shape, to further strengthen partnerships with local businesses, schools and community organisations, with the aim to create more accessible routes into work for Brent's young people.

2. **Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Jake Rubin (Cabinet Member for Children Services, Employment & Climate Action)**

What steps is Brent Council taking to reduce waiting times for young people seeking mental health support and how is it ensuring that young people who cannot access support through school or specialist services are not left without help.

Response:

The prevalence of mental health and wellbeing concerns is high among Brent children and young people and we are aware that young people sometimes have to wait to access CAMHS treatment services provided the Central and North West London NHS Trust (CNWL). This is why the Brent Children's Trust, chaired by the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Community Development, CNWL (the local CAMHS provider) and the Brent Integrated Health Partnership have all lobbied the Integrated Care Board that is responsible for funding health services for additional resources for Brent. As a result, some non-recurrent funding has been provided to reduce waiting times, for example for neurodiversity assessments.

To prevent the escalation of mental health and wellbeing concerns, in February this year, a new early intervention and prevention service called LYRA was introduced to support children and young people with mental health and wellbeing concerns. The service is delivered primarily by the Anna Freud Centre and the Brent Centre for Young People. It provides a range of support from targeted mentoring to interventions aimed at supporting emotional regulation, resilience building and coping skills. Young people can self-refer to this service, and families and professionals can also make referrals using the same access point phone number as CAMHS.

Over 50% of schools in Brent now have Mental Health Support Teams, that are part of a national initiative funded by the NHS aimed at supporting children and young people's emotional wellbeing with practitioners based in schools. The intention over the next couple of years is for this to be rolled out to all schools.

The Local Authority is also working with health partners to develop a mental health and wellbeing crisis café in Brent. This will be open in evenings and at weekends and will provide a safe space for young people and families who need urgent support or advice. West London MIND and the Brent Centre for Young People have been commissioned to run the service which is in development. They will be reaching out to Brent Youth Parliament very soon to hear your thoughts about what the need to offer to young people and where from.

3. **Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Lix Dixon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health)**

The Brent Youth Justice Plan 2025-2028 reports a 44% fall in serious youth violence offences between 2016/17 and 2024/25 but shows an increase in the number of knife and robbery crimes.

What is the Council doing to address these concerns and help young people feel more safer, and how will the youth be involved in shaping these measures?

Response:

The 44% fall in serious youth violence offences between 2016/17 and 2024/25 is welcome, but we are not complacent about increased robbery and concerns around knife-related offending. The Council, Police, schools, health services and community partners are combining early intervention, targeted prevention and coordinated action to protect young people and address emerging risks.

To tackle robbery, the VRU-funded Robbery Reduction Project, relaunched in September 2026, targets the after-school period from 3pm to 6pm in Wembley Park, Harlesden, Kilburn and Neasden. Connect Stars, Hilltop Circle, United Borders, TETH and Westminster Warriors provide outreach, trusted support and positive activities for young people at risk of offending or becoming victims.

Knife crime prevention includes school workshops, Street Doctors' bleed kit awareness and first aid training, and the YJS and Police-led No Knives Better Lives programme, Sterling Foundation and Words for Weapons, support safe, anonymous disposal of unwanted weapons. Reducing violence, with a particular focus on knife crime, remains a key priority of the Safer Brent Partnership. To support this objective, the Community Safety Team is delivering a range of targeted prevention, intervention, and enforcement initiatives designed to reduce knife crime, safeguard vulnerable individuals, and improve community safety across the borough.

The Targeted Prevention Hub and Turnaround programme offer early help through mentoring, education, health and wellbeing, substance misuse and family support. For those at greatest risk, the Youth Justice Service and multi-agency Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability arrangements use risk assessments, peer mapping and intelligence to develop individual safety plans. The associated programme, delivered with Air Sports Network and St Giles Trust, provides trauma-informed outreach, mentoring, hospital-based support and pathways into education, training and employment.

Helping young people feel safer is central to the Brent Youth Strategy 2025–2028. Alongside investment in youth provision and positive activities, practitioners explore where young people feel unsafe, risks of retaliation, trusted adults, safe spaces and protective relationships, so that support reflects their lived experience. Young people are shaping this response. They co-designed the Youth Strategy, and Brent Youth Parliament and Family Hubs representatives sit on its Delivery Group. Quarterly youth roundtables bring young people together with Police, Community Safety and YJS to discuss knife crime, policing, stop and search and social media. Their feedback on

safe spaces, mental health support, career opportunities, and recreational activities has informed programme development and commissioning for 2027 and beyond.

Through the Brent Youth Justice Plan and Youth Strategy governance, we will review evidence and young people's feedback, challenge insufficient progress and adapt our response to changing patterns of robbery, knife crime, and serious violence.

4. **Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Jake Rubin (Cabinet Member for Children Services, Employment & Climate Action)**

What is the Brent Council doing to ensure that young people regardless of their financial circumstances, can access affordable youth clubs, sports and other activities?

Response:

Ensuring access to positive activities, regardless of family income, is a clear priority for Brent. Free holiday provision, neighbourhood-based activities, strong voluntary-sector partnerships, and investment in accessible youth facilities is working to help young people across Brent participate, develop their talents, build relationships and enjoy their communities. There are a number of initiatives underway including:

- Free Holiday Activities and Food - We recognise that costs can prevent some families from accessing activities. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme helps address this by providing free holiday activities and meals for eligible children and young people, including sport, creative activities and other enrichment opportunities. In summer 2025 just over 2,000 children accessed the programme. The Government has since provided a three-year funding settlement for HAF, offering greater stability for continued delivery. We are also working to understand and mitigate the impact of changes to eligibility so that vulnerable families continue to receive support.

- Accessible local activities - Our eight Best Start Family Hubs provide accessible, neighbourhood-based opportunities for children and young people. Alongside digital facilities, the hubs have offered sport, mixed martial arts and arts sessions after school and during school holidays, in partnership with voluntary and community-sector organisations. This provision includes inclusive opportunities for children and young people with SEND.

- Youth provision and facilities - Brent works closely with the voluntary and community sector to strengthen and sustain local youth provision, particularly through the Young Brent Foundation and its network of more than 200 member organisations. The Brent Youth Strategy 2025-2028 records that the Foundation invested £2.9 million in youth programmes in 2023/24, supporting an estimated 15,000 to 17,500 young people through a wide range of programmes and partnerships. Brent has approved a £4 million Youth Facilities Capital Investment Programme to improve five existing youth facilities. The programme aims to increase access, improve the quality of provision and expand local recreational and sporting opportunities. Young people directly shaped this investment. A Youth Panel helped assess proposals, prioritising projects they considered would reach the wider community and provide the most valuable youth offer.

This page is intentionally left blank

List of Petitions to be presented at Full Council - 16 November 2026

(1) Make Preston Road a 30-mph speed limit between Carlton Avenue East and the junction of East Lane/Forty Avenue

Lead Petitioner – Councillor Maurice (Petition contains 250 signatures)

Statement:

We the undersigned petition the council to remove the 20 mph speed restriction on Preston Road and re-introduce the original 30 mph speed limit.

Justification:

In 2018, Preston Road was made a 20 mph speed limit along its whole length.

Whilst such a low speed limit may be required in that part where the shops are, we feel that it is totally unnecessary to have such a low limit between Carlton Avenue East and its junction with East Lane and Forty Avenue.

This low speed limit has caused road rage and dangerous overtaking, Drivers who stick to the limit have reported that they've even been overtaken by buses.

It also does not seem to deter people who race and speed, but they are more likely to be involved in an accident.

The Police only enforce the limit in this section of Preston Road and not where it is really required. Many people including bus drivers have been prosecuted for driving at 24 mph with views expressed that such a low speed is unnecessary in this part of Preston Road.

We the undersigned would therefore request that the above section of Preston Road is made into a 30mph speed limit.

This page is intentionally left blank

Brent

Item 9.1

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Labour Group Motion

A National Care Service: A new settlement for Dignity and Care

Brent Council supports the creation of a National Care Service, a service built around people, not profit, free at the point of use, properly funded and delivered with dignity, fairness and compassion.

This Council notes

- Social care is as essential as the NHS, helping older and disabled people and adults with support needs live safely, independently and with dignity.
- On 29 September 2026, Prime Minister Andy Burnham set out plans for a National Care Service, including free personal care for older people based on need, not ability to pay.
- UNISON's long running campaign highlights a fragmented, increasingly privatised care system where public money can become profit while workers face low pay, insecure conditions and inconsistent standards. It calls for quality care, fair national pay and conditions, workforce planning and sustainable funding.
- Brent allocates £182.8 million to adult social care in 2026/27, approximately 34% of the Council's published service-spending breakdown. Brent's Adult Social Care services are experiencing sustained growth in demand, at around 5% annually.
- People can face substantial care costs, exhausting lifetime savings and, in some cases, having to consider selling their homes.
- Councils face rising demand, increasingly complex needs and growing costs, which cannot be met indefinitely through council tax and short-term grants alone.
- Baroness Louise Casey's Independent Commission on Adult Social Care is developing reform proposals, with a report expected by summer 2027.

This Council believes

- The Labour Government's creation of the NHS in 1948 transformed healthcare. A National Care Service could be equally transformative, making care depend on need, not ability to pay.

- Care is not a commodity. Support should be determined by people's needs, not their wealth or postcode.

- Older people and families should not face anxiety over care costs while private providers extract profits from a publicly funded service sustained by dedicated care workers.

- A National Care Service must put people before profit, guarantee high-quality care free at the point of use, and provide fair pay, secure conditions and career progression.

- Lasting reform must be shaped by people receiving care, unpaid carers and the workforce, with cross-party and public support to endure across governments.

This Council resolves

(1) To support a National Care Service, free at the point of use, and back UNISON's campaign for care that puts people before profit and values its workforce.

(2) To call on the Government to ensure sustainable funding and reduce the financial burden on individuals, families and local councils so care is based on need rather than ability to pay.

(3) To submit evidence to the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care on Brent's pressures and work with UNISON, other unions, people receiving care, unpaid carers, providers, NHS partners and community organisations to help shape proposals, to ensure Brent has a strong voice in the design and funding of the National Care Service.

(4) To work with NHS and care partners on integration, prevention and hospital discharge, preparing Brent to help deliver a future National Care Service.

Councillor Ryan Hack
Brondesbury Park Ward

Brent

Item 9.1(a)

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Amendment submitted by the Green Group to the Labour Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To delete the wording indicated add the wording underlined in red:

A National Care Service: A new settlement for Dignity and Care

~~Brent Council supports the creation of a National Care Service, a service built around people, not profit, free at the point of use, properly funded and delivered with dignity, fairness and compassion.~~

This Council notes

- Social care is as essential as the NHS, helping older and disabled people and adults with support needs live safely, independently and with dignity.

- On 29 September 2026, Prime Minister Andy Burnham set out plans for a National Care Service, including free personal care for older people based on need, not ability to pay, but has not set out an implementation timeline or interim support funding.

- UNISON's long running campaign highlights a fragmented, increasingly privatised care system ~~where public money can become profit while workers face low pay, insecure conditions and inconsistent standards. It~~ and calls for quality care, fair national pay and conditions, workforce planning and sustainable funding.

- Brent allocates £182.8 million to adult social care in 2026/27, approximately 34% of the Council's published service-spending breakdown. Brent's Adult Social Care services are experiencing sustained growth in demand, at around 5% annually.

- People can face substantial care costs, exhausting lifetime savings and, in some cases, having to consider selling their homes.

- Councils face rising demand, increasingly complex needs and growing costs, which cannot be met ~~indefinitely~~ through council tax and short-term grants alone.

- Baroness Louise Casey's Independent Commission on Adult Social Care is developing reform proposals, with a report expected by summer 2027.

This Council believes

- The Labour Government's creation of the NHS in 1948 transformed healthcare. A National Care Service could be equally transformative, making care depend on need, not ability to pay.

- Care is not a commodity. Support should be determined by people's needs, not their wealth or postcode.

- Older people and families should not face anxiety over care costs while private providers extract profits from a publicly funded service sustained by dedicated care workers.

- A National Care Service must put people before profit, guarantee high-quality care free at the point of use, and provide fair pay, secure conditions and career progression.

- Lasting reform must be shaped by ~~people receiving~~ care recipients, unpaid carers and ~~the workforce,~~ workers with cross-party and public support to endure across governments.

- Local councils cannot wait until the 2030s for reform. NCS rollout will be meaningless if the social care system collapses in the meantime.

This Council resolves

(1) To support a National Care Service, free at the point of use, and back UNISON's campaign for care. ~~that puts people before profit and values its workforce.~~

(2) To call on the Government to ensure sustainable funding and reduce the financial burden on individuals, families and local councils so care is based on need ~~rather than~~ not ability to pay.

(3) To call on the Government to provide interim funding and support to councils to cope with the increased cost of private social care until the NCS is implemented.

(~~3~~ 4) To submit evidence to the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care on Brent's pressures and work with ~~UNISON, other unions, people receiving care, unpaid carers, providers, NHS~~ stakeholders and partners ~~and community organisations~~ to help shape proposals, to ensure Brent has a strong voice in the design and funding of the ~~National Care Service~~ NCS.

(~~4~~ 5) To work with NHS and care partners on integration, prevention and hospital discharge, preparing Brent ~~to help deliver~~ for a future National Care Service.

Councillor Mary Mitchell
Willesden Green Ward

This page is intentionally left blank

Brent

Item 9.1(b)

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Amendment submitted by the Conservative Group to the Labour Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To delete the wording indicated add the wording underlined in red:

A National Care Service: A new settlement for Dignity and Care

Brent Council supports the creation of a National Care Service, a service built around people, not profit, free at the point of use, properly funded and delivered with dignity, fairness and compassion.

This Council notes

- Social care is as essential as the NHS, helping older and disabled people and adults with support needs live safely, independently and with dignity.

- On 29 September 2026, Prime Minister Andy Burnham set out plans for a National Care Service, including free personal care for older people based on need, not ability to pay.

- ~~UNISON's long running campaign highlights a fragmented, increasingly privatised care system where public money can become profit while workers face low pay, insecure conditions and inconsistent standards. It calls for quality care, fair national pay and conditions, workforce planning and sustainable funding.~~

- Brent allocates £182.8 million to adult social care in 2026/27, approximately 34% of the Council's published service-spending breakdown. Brent's Adult Social Care services are experiencing sustained growth in demand, at around 5% annually.

- People can face substantial care costs, exhausting lifetime savings and, in some cases, having to consider selling their homes.

- Councils face rising demand, increasingly complex needs and growing costs, which cannot be met indefinitely through council tax and short-term grants alone.

~~• Baroness Louise Casey's Independent Commission on Adult Social Care is developing reform proposals, with a report expected by summer 2027.~~

This Council believes

- Any reform of adult social care must be accompanied by a clear, sustainable and fully funded financial settlement from Central Government, ensuring that Brent Council is not left to meet additional costs through increased Council Tax, reductions to existing services or additional borrowing.

- The Labour Government's creation of the NHS in 1948 transformed healthcare. A National Care Service could be equally transformative, making care depend on need, not ability to pay.

- Care is not a commodity. Support should be determined by people's needs, not their wealth or postcode.

- Older people and families should not face anxiety over care costs while private providers extract profits from a publicly funded service sustained by dedicated care workers.

- A National Care Service must put people before profit, guarantee high-quality care free at the point of use, and provide fair pay, secure conditions and career progression.

- Lasting reform must be shaped by people receiving care, unpaid carers and the workforce, with cross-party and public support to endure across governments.

This Council resolves

~~(1) To support a National Care Service, free at the point of use, and back UNISON's campaign for care that puts people before profit and values its workforce.~~

(~~2~~ 1) To call on the Government to ensure a sustainable, transparent and fully funded financial settlement for any National Care Service, reducing the financial burden on individuals, families and local councils, and guaranteeing that any new responsibilities placed on Brent Council are accompanied by sufficient funding from Central Government so that care is based on need rather than ability to pay.

(~~3~~ 2) To submit evidence to the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care on Brent's pressures and work with UNISON, other unions, people receiving care, unpaid carers, providers, NHS partners and community organisations to help shape proposals, to ensure Brent has a strong voice in the design and funding of the National Care Service.

(4 3) To work with NHS and care partners on integration, prevention and hospital discharge, preparing Brent to help deliver a future National Care Service.

Councillor Jayanti Patel
Queensbury Ward

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 9.2

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Making Better Use of Empty Homes in Brent

This Council notes:

- Brent is facing a housing crisis. Thousands of residents are waiting for a council or social home, meanwhile many families live in overcrowded accommodation, temporary accommodation or homes that do not meet their needs.

- At the same time, council homes can sit empty for months waiting for repairs, inspections or other processes. There are currently at least 150 vacant council-owned properties - including 8 that have remained empty for a year or more – and it is unclear whether this number includes properties within the portfolios of i4B and First Wave Housing.

- Homes must be safe and brought up to the right standard before new tenants move in. But leaving homes empty for longer than necessary is unacceptable.

- Every council home sitting empty represents a missed opportunity to provide a secure and affordable home to Brent residents. It places pressure on the Council's housing waiting list and can increase reliance on expensive temporary accommodation.

- Southwark Council has recently announced a task force to tackle its backlog of empty council homes, focusing on identifying delays and getting properties back into use more quickly. Brent should examine this approach and identify what can be applied locally.

- Brent cannot solve the housing crisis overnight. New homes take time to plan and build, but bringing empty homes back into use is something the Council can act on now. Making better use of the homes we already own must be a priority.

This Council therefore believes that:

- Empty council homes should be brought back into use as quickly as possible, without compromising safety, compliance or quality standards.

- Unnecessarily long void periods represent a missed opportunity to provide a home to Brent residents in housing need.

- Delays caused by repairs, procurement, inspections, administration or other Council processes should be identified and reduced wherever possible.

- Bringing larger family homes and properties suitable for households with the greatest housing need back into use should be prioritised where appropriate.

This Council therefore calls on Cabinet to:

(1) Publish details of all void council-owned housing stock – including current void time, property size, and repair work required.

(2) Consider establishing an empty homes task force to tackle the backlog, coordinate services and speed up the return of vacant homes.

(3) Set clear targets for reducing the time council homes remain empty between tenancies, with attention to prolonged vacancies.

(4) Review repairs, procurement, inspections and other processes to identify unnecessary delays and address recurring causes.

(5) Prioritise larger family homes and properties suitable for households with the greatest housing need, consistent with allocations policies and property suitability.

(6) Examine the approach taken by Southwark and other London boroughs and adopt good practice that can help Brent get homes back into use faster.

(7) Report regularly to Cabinet and Full Council on the number of empty council homes, average void periods, prolonged vacancies and progress in reducing unnecessary delays.

(8) Make reducing the number and length of unnecessary council home voids a priority within Brent's response to the housing crisis.

Councillor Anton Georgiou
Alperton Ward

Brent

Item 9.2(a)

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Amendment submitted by the Green Group to the Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To delete the wording indicated add the wording underlined in red:

Making Better Use of Empty Homes in Brent

This Council notes:

- Brent is facing a housing crisis. Thousands of residents are waiting for a council or social home, meanwhile many families live in overcrowded accommodation, temporary accommodation or homes that do not meet their needs.

- ~~At the same time~~ Meanwhile, council homes ~~can~~ sit empty for months waiting for repairs, inspections or other processes. There are currently at least 150 vacant council-owned properties - including 8 that have remained empty for a year or more – and it is unclear whether this number includes properties within the portfolios of i4B and First Wave Housing.

- Homes must be safe and brought up to the right standard before new tenants move in. But leaving homes empty for longer than necessary is unacceptable.

- Every council home sitting empty represents a missed opportunity to provide residents a secure and affordable home ~~to Brent residents~~. It places pressure on the Council's housing waiting list and ~~can~~ increases reliance on expensive temporary accommodation.

- Southwark Council has recently announced a task force to tackle its backlog of empty council homes, focusing on identifying delays and getting properties back into use more quickly. ~~Brent should examine this approach and identify what can be applied locally.~~

- Brent cannot solve the housing crisis overnight. New homes take time to plan and build, but ~~bringing empty homes back into use is something the Council can act on now. M~~ making better use of the homes we already own must be a priority.

This Council therefore believes that:

- Empty council homes should rapidly be brought back into use ~~as quickly as possible~~, without compromising safety, compliance or quality standards.

- Unnecessarily long void periods represent a missed opportunity to provide a home to Brent residents in housing need.

- Delays caused by repairs, procurement, inspections, administration or other Council processes should be identified and reduced wherever possible.

- Bringing larger family homes and properties suitable for households with the greatest housing need back into use should be prioritised where appropriate.

This Council therefore calls on Cabinet to:

(1) Publish details of all void council-owned housing stock (including those owned and operated by i4B and First Wave) – including current void time, property size, and repair work required.

(2) Consider establishing an empty homes task force to tackle the backlog, coordinate services and speed up the return of vacant homes.

(3) Set clear targets for reducing the time council homes remain empty between tenancies, with attention to prolonged vacancies.

(4) Review repairs, procurement, inspections and other processes to identify unnecessary delays and address recurring causes, including the process for financial penalties for slow and poor repairs.

Consider whether insourcing the repair and maintenance service of council owned properties would address delays and recurring issues.

(5) Prioritise larger family homes and properties suitable for households with the greatest housing need, consistent with allocations policies and property suitability.

(6) Examine the approach taken by Southwark and other London boroughs and adopt good practice ~~that can help Brent get homes back into use faster~~.

(7) Report regularly to Cabinet and Full Council on the number of empty council homes, average void periods, prolonged vacancies and progress in reducing unnecessary delays.

(8) Make reducing the number and length of unnecessary council home voids a priority within Brent's response to the housing crisis.

Councillor Iman Ahmadi Moghaddam
Wembley Park Ward

Brent

Item 9.2(a)

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To delete the wording indicated add the wording underlined in red:

Making Better Use of Empty Homes in Brent

This Council notes:

- Brent is facing a housing crisis. Thousands of residents are waiting for a council or social home, meanwhile many families live in overcrowded accommodation, temporary accommodation or homes that do not meet their needs.

- At the same time, council homes can sit empty for months waiting for repairs, inspections or other processes. There are currently at least 150 vacant council-owned properties - including 8 that have remained empty for a year or more – ~~and it is unclear whether this number includes properties within the portfolios of i4B and First Wave Housing~~. Since a peak 12 months ago, the number has now reduced by 26.5%.

- Homes must be safe and brought up to the right standard before new tenants move in. But leaving homes empty for longer than necessary is unacceptable.

- Every council home sitting empty represents a missed opportunity to provide a secure and affordable home to Brent residents. It places pressure on the Council's housing waiting list and can increase reliance on expensive temporary accommodation.

- ~~Southwark~~ Brent Council has ~~recently~~ already ~~announced~~ appointed a ~~task~~ Voids Manager supported by new contractors force to tackle its backlog of empty council homes, focusing on identifying delays and getting properties back into use more quickly. Brent ~~should~~ will examine ~~this~~ the approach of other London Councils to ~~and~~ identify what can be applied locally.

- Brent cannot solve the housing crisis overnight. New homes take time to plan and build, but ~~bringing empty homes back into use is something the Council can act on now~~. M making better use of the homes we already own must be a priority.

This Council therefore believes that:

- Empty council homes should be brought back into use as quickly as possible, without compromising safety, compliance or quality standards.

- Unnecessarily long void periods represent a missed opportunity to provide a home to Brent residents in housing need.

- Delays caused by repairs, procurement, inspections, administration or other Council processes should be identified and reduced wherever possible.

- Bringing larger family homes and properties suitable for households with the greatest housing need back into use should be prioritised where appropriate.

This Council therefore calls on Cabinet to:

(1) Publish a summary ~~details~~ of all void council-owned housing stock – including current void time, property size, and repair work required.

(2) Support the work of the Voids Team ~~Consider establishing an empty homes task force to~~ in tackling~~e~~ the backlog, by coordinating~~e~~ services and speeding up the return of vacant homes.

(3) Set clear targets for reducing the time council homes remain empty between tenancies, with attention to prolonged vacancies.

(4) Review repairs, procurement, inspections and other processes to identify unnecessary delays and address recurring causes.

(5) Prioritise larger family homes and properties suitable for households with the greatest housing need, where consistent with allocations policies and property suitability.

(6) Examine the approach taken by ~~Southwark and other~~ all London boroughs and adopt good practice that can help Brent get homes back into use faster.

(7) Continue to ~~R~~ report regularly to Cabinet and ~~Full Council~~ Housing Scrutiny on the number of empty council homes, average void periods, prolonged vacancies and progress in reducing unnecessary delays.

(8) Make reducing the number and length of unnecessary council home voids a priority within Brent's response to the housing crisis.

Councillor Robert Johnson
Barnhill Ward

Item 9.2(c)

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Amendment submitted by the Conservative Group to the Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To delete the wording indicated add the wording underlined in red:

Making Better Use of Empty Homes in Brent

This Council notes:

- Brent is facing a housing crisis. Brent's housing delivery and management arrangements include council-owned housing assets held through i4B and First Wave Housing. Effective oversight of vacant properties across these portfolios is necessary to ensure that public assets are managed efficiently, financial performance is protected and homes are made available to residents in housing need wherever appropriate.

- ~~At the same time, council homes can sit empty for months waiting for repairs, inspections or other processes. There are currently at least 150 vacant council-owned properties - including 8 that have remained empty for a year or more – and it is unclear whether this number includes properties within the portfolios of i4B and First Wave Housing.~~

- Homes must be safe and brought up to the right standard before new tenants move in. But leaving homes empty for longer than necessary is unacceptable.

- Every council home sitting empty represents a missed opportunity to provide a secure and affordable home to Brent residents. It places pressure on the Council's housing waiting list and can increase reliance on expensive temporary accommodation.

- ~~Southwark Council has recently announced a task force to tackle its backlog of empty council homes, focusing on identifying delays and getting properties back into use more quickly. Brent should examine this approach and identify what can be applied locally.~~

- Brent cannot solve the housing crisis overnight. New homes take time to plan and build, but bringing empty homes back into use is something the Council can act on now. Making better use of the homes we already own must be a priority.

This Council therefore believes that:

- Empty council homes should be brought back into use as quickly as possible, without compromising safety, compliance or quality standards.

- Unnecessarily long void periods represent a missed opportunity to provide a home to Brent residents in housing need.

- Delays caused by repairs, procurement, inspections, administration or other Council processes should be identified and reduced wherever possible.

- Bringing larger family homes and properties suitable for households with the greatest housing need back into use should be prioritised where appropriate.

This Council therefore calls on Cabinet to:

(1) Publish details of all void council-owned housing stock – including current void time, property size, and repair work required and to include separate figures for Brent Council, i4B and First Wave Housing, identifying any differences in void management performance and the reasons for those difference

~~(2) Consider establishing an empty homes task force to tackle the backlog, coordinate services and speed up the return of vacant homes.~~

(~~3~~ 2) Set clear targets for reducing the time council homes remain empty between tenancies, with attention to prolonged vacancies.

(4 3) Review repairs, procurement, inspections and other processes to identify unnecessary delays and address recurring causes.

(~~5~~) ~~Prioritise larger family homes and properties suitable for households with the greatest housing need, consistent with allocations policies and property suitability.~~

(~~6~~ 4) Examine the approach taken by Southwark and other London boroughs and adopt good practice that can help Brent get homes back into use faster.

(~~7~~ 5) Report regularly to Cabinet and Full Council on the number of empty council homes, average void periods, prolonged vacancies and progress in reducing unnecessary delays~~.~~ with separate reporting on the performance of i4B and First Wave Housing, including the number of vacant properties, average void periods, prolonged vacancies, expenditure incurred and action taken to address identified delays.

~~(8) Make reducing the number and length of unnecessary council home voids a priority within Brent's response to the housing crisis.~~

Councillor Jayanti Patel
Queensbury Ward

Item 9.3

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Green Group Motion

Building Better: Bringing Quality, Public Ownership and Community Value to Housing

This Council Notes:

- Brent Council has responded to a national housing crisis with intensive development, completing more homes than any other local authority in 2026.
- Brent Council has recently changed its social housing allocation policy to attempt to tackle growing demand and dwindling social housing supply, alongside the adoption of national planning reforms that reduce local democratic input.
- Despite significant public investment, 'regenerated' housing in Wembley and Kilburn remains unaffordable to Brent residents and routinely riddled with major construction defects.
- Brent Council recently allowed 143 newly built homes in South Kilburn to be sold directly to private equity to preserve the project's "financial viability."

This Council Believes:

- A philosophy of building as much and as quickly as possible and tinkering with planning laws and allocations schemes will not address the root causes of the housing crisis.
- A new approach to housing in Brent is required that considers housing and land ownership, build quality, and wider social benefit, and doesn't treat housing as a speculative investment asset.
- Stronger safeguards and incentive realignments are required to ensure new housing developments deliver high-quality homes, long-term community benefit and genuine affordability.
- Providing social housing and protecting biodiverse green spaces are complementary objectives and should not be treated as competing priorities.

- Publicly owned land and assets should be used in ways that maximise long-term public value and community benefit.

- Community-led housing can and should play a significant role in delivering affordable and sustainable housing, as an alternative to public-private partnerships.

- Residents have a right to safe, healthy, climate resilient and well-maintained homes. Poor-quality construction carries unacceptable costs for residents and public finances.

This Council Resolves to:

(1) Call on the Government to introduce new council powers including reforming Right to Buy, long-term social housebuilding funding and resourcing councils to acquire long-term vacant residential properties and integrate them into the social housing supply and measures to treat housing principally as a place to live rather than as a financial asset.

(2) Request that Cabinet:

(a) Conduct a feasibility study to explore community-led housing delivery schemes (such as Community Land Trusts), when council-owned land or property is being considered for development or disposal.

(a) commit, where publicly owned sites are being redeveloped, to endeavour to retain long-term public ownership of the land and associated assets developed thereon.

(b) consider imposing an immediate 20-year moratorium on authorising the sale of housing units to private equity firms or similar institutional investment vehicles.

(c) consider including a standard contractual clause within all future housing development agreements requiring developers to accept financial liability for defects arising from poor workmanship, substandard materials or related construction failures that become apparent within 20 years of completion.

(d) commit to excluding contractors who have previously delivered defective building work for Brent Council under the Procurement Act.

(e) Prioritise, where feasible, the refurbishment, retrofit and re-use of existing homes and buildings over demolition and redevelopment.

Councillor Paul Ryan
Kilburn Ward

Brent

Item 9.3(a)

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Amendment submitted by the Labour Group to the Green Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To delete the wording indicated add the wording underlined in red:

Building Better: Bringing Quality, Public Ownership and Community Value to Housing

This Council Notes:

- Brent Council has responded to a national housing crisis with intensive development, completing more homes than any other local authority in 2026.

- Brent Council has recently changed its social housing allocation policy to attempt to tackle growing demand and dwindling social housing supply, alongside the adoption of national planning reforms ~~that reduce local democratic input~~ to turbocharge housebuilding.

- ~~Despite s~~ Significant public investment~~,~~ in ~~'~~regeneration~~ed' housing~~ in Wembley and Kilburn has delivered much needed housing. This investment underlines the importance of high building standards and ensuring developers are to held account for ~~remains unaffordable to Brent residents and routinely riddled with~~ major construction defects.

- Brent Council recently allowed 143 newly built homes in South Kilburn to be sold directly to private equity to ~~preserve the project's "financial viability."~~ enable the transformative regeneration of the area promised to residents.

This Council Believes:

- A philosophy of building decent, safe and high quality homes at pace ~~as much and as quickly as possible and~~ ~~tinkering with~~ alongside reforming planning laws and allocations schemes will ~~not~~ in time address the root causes of the housing supply crisis.

- ~~A new approach to housing in Brent is required~~ Brent's approach to housing must continue to ~~that~~ considers housing and land ownership, build quality, and wider

social benefit, ~~and doesn't~~ ensuring ~~treat~~ housing is treated first as a place to live rather than as a speculative investment asset.

- Stronger safeguards and incentive realignments are ~~required~~ part of the Brent approach to ensure new housing developments deliver high-quality homes, long-term community benefit and genuine affordability.

- Providing social housing and protecting biodiverse green spaces are complementary objectives and should not be treated as competing priorities.

- Publicly owned land and assets should be used in ways that maximise long-term public value and community benefit.

- ~~Community-led housing can and should play a significant role in delivering affordable and sustainable housing, as an alternative~~ to Alongside public-private partnerships, Brent is proud to be working with Brent Community Land Trust on proposals for more affordable homes.

- Residents have a right to safe, healthy, climate resilient and well-maintained homes. Poor-quality construction carries unacceptable costs for residents and public finances.

This Council Resolves to:

(1) Call on the Government to introduce new council powers including reforming Right to Buy, long-term social housebuilding funding and resourcing councils to acquire long-term vacant residential properties and integrate them into the social housing supply and measures to treat housing principally as a place to live rather than as a financial asset.

(2) Request that Cabinet:

(a) Explore the ~~Conduct a~~ feasibility ~~study to explore~~ of community-led housing delivery schemes (such as Community Land Trusts), when council-owned land or property is being considered for development or disposal.

(b) commit, where publicly owned sites are being redeveloped, to endeavour to retain long-term public ownership of the land and associated assets developed thereon.

(c) ~~consider imposing an immediate 20-year moratorium on~~ Seek to minimise ~~authorising~~ the sale of housing units to private equity firms or similar institutional investment vehicles.

(d) ~~consider including a standard contractual clause within all future housing development agreements~~ Continue to uphold the provisions of the Building Safety Act 2022 ~~requiring~~ ensuring that developers are held accountable ~~to accept financial liability~~ for defects arising from ~~poor workmanship, substandard materials or related construction failures that become apparent within 20 years of completion~~ their actions.

(e) Make full use of the Procurement Act ~~commit~~ to consider excluding contractors who have previously delivered defective building work for Brent Council ~~under the Procurement Act~~.

(f) ~~Prioritise,~~ Consider where appropriate and viable ~~feasible~~, the refurbishment, retrofit and re-use of existing homes and buildings over demolition and redevelopment.

Councillor Matt Kelcher
Harlesden & Kensal Green Ward

This page is intentionally left blank

Brent

Item 9.3(b)

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Amendment submitted by the Conservative Group to the Green Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To delete the wording indicated add the wording underlined in red:

Building Better: Bringing Quality, Public Ownership and Community Value to Housing

This Council Notes:

- Brent Council has responded to a national housing crisis with intensive development, completing more homes than any other local authority in 2026.

- Brent Council has recently changed its social housing allocation policy to attempt to tackle growing demand and dwindling social housing supply, alongside the adoption of national planning reforms that reduce local democratic input.

- ~~Despite significant public investment, 'regenerated' housing in Wembley and Kilburn remains unaffordable to Brent residents and routinely riddled with major construction defects.~~

- Brent Council recently allowed 143 newly built homes in South Kilburn to be sold directly to private equity to preserve the project's "financial viability."

This Council Believes:

- A philosophy of building as much and as quickly as possible and tinkering with planning laws and allocations schemes will not address the root causes of the housing crisis.

- A new approach to housing in Brent is required that considers housing and land ownership, build quality, and wider social benefit, and doesn't treat housing as a speculative investment asset, while recognising that responsible private investment, partnership working and development finance can play an important role in increasing housing supply and delivering affordable homes.

- Stronger safeguards and incentive realignments are required to ensure new housing developments deliver high-quality homes, long-term community benefit and genuine affordability.

- Providing social housing and protecting biodiverse green spaces are complementary objectives and should not be treated as competing priorities.

- Publicly owned land and assets should be used in ways that maximise long-term public value and community benefit.

- Community-led housing can and should play a significant role in delivering affordable and sustainable housing, as an alternative to public-private partnerships.

- Residents have a right to safe, healthy, climate resilient and well-maintained homes. Poor-quality construction carries unacceptable costs for residents and public finances.

This Council Resolves to:

(1) Call on the Government to introduce new council powers including reforming Right to Buy, long-term social housebuilding funding and resourcing councils to acquire long-term vacant residential properties and integrate them into the social housing supply and measures to treat housing principally as a place to live rather than as a financial asset.

(2) Request that Cabinet:

(a) Conduct a feasibility study to explore community-led housing delivery schemes (such as Community Land Trusts), when council-owned land or property is being considered for development or disposal.

(b) commit, where publicly owned sites are being redeveloped, to endeavour to retain long-term public ownership of the land and associated assets developed thereon.

(c) Undertake a full assessment of the implications of institutional investment in housing developments, including its impact on affordability, housing supply, long-term management and the interests of residents, before considering any restrictions on the sale of housing units to private equity firms or similar institutional investment vehicles.

~~(d) consider including a standard contractual clause within all future housing development agreements requiring developers to accept financial liability for defects arising from poor workmanship, substandard materials or related construction failures that become apparent within 20 years of completion.~~

(~~e~~ d) commit to excluding contractors who have previously delivered defective building work for Brent Council under the Procurement Act.

(ǂ e) Prioritise, where feasible, the refurbishment, retrofit and re-use of existing homes and buildings over demolition and redevelopment.

Councillor Jayanti Patel
Queensbury Ward

This page is intentionally left blank

Brent

Questions from the Opposition and Other Non-Cabinet Members

Full Council – 16 November 2026

1. Question from Cllr Jasbinder Bajwa to Cllr Tina Amadi (Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture & Cost-of-Living Support)

The winter months can bring additional financial pressures for households, as rising energy bills and seasonal expenses put further strain on already stretched budgets. For residents on low incomes, older residents and those living with serious illnesses, these pressures can make it particularly difficult to make ends meet.

At a national level, the Government's recent Budget announced a £100 Breathing Space payment to help eligible households manage the cost of living, alongside plans to abolish gas standing charges, cut VAT on household energy bills and tackle energy debt.

Locally, Brent Council is providing financial support through a variety of measures so that residents know where to turn for help during the winter months.

Can the Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Cost-of-Living Support therefore:

(a) outline the series of measures that Brent Council is taking to support residents who are struggling financially this winter?

(b) confirm how many Brent households are expected to benefit from the £100 Budget Breathing Space payment; and the total value of the funding provided by Government to Brent Council to support residents?

(c) advise what the Council is doing to promote its new Council Tax exemption for residents with a terminal illness, to ensure eligible residents are aware of the scheme and receive the support they need?

Response:

(a) Brent Council provides a wide range of financial and practical cost-of-living support for residents, including:

- targeted financial support with household expense such as housing and Council Tax.
- Resident Support Fund and Crisis Payments for households facing unexpected financial expenses.

- Household Income Maximisation support.
- debt, financial and energy advice with partners, such as Citizens Advice Brent.
- advice and support with heating homes through the Warm and Well scheme.
- access to food support through Brent Hubs and our partner network; and
- warm spaces in our libraries, including hot drinks and coat donations.

Residents can find details of the support available on the council's cost-of-living help and advice webpage. This also signposts residents to additional schemes and support provided by other organisations. For residents who cannot access services online, our libraries provide free internet access, and Brent Hubs offer face-to-face advice and support.

(b) We anticipate that around 96,000 Brent households will benefit from the Labour Government's £100 Budget Breathing Space payment. We also understand that this Labour Government intends to provide additional discretionary support for financially vulnerable households whose properties fall outside Council Tax bands A to D. The Government will provide guidance on how the £100 payments will be administered or confirmed the total funding that Brent Council will receive to provide additional support to residents. We will consider the guidance and funding arrangements as soon as these are confirmed.

(c) To raise awareness of the new Council Tax exemption for residents with a terminal illness, the council has issued a press release and published information on its website. The exemption will also be promoted in the next edition of Your Brent magazine.

We have also shared details with Brent GPs and local voluntary and community organisations, as well as Marie Curie, which has confirmed that it will add Brent to its public list of councils offering this support.

2. Question from Councillor Angela Joyce de Souza to Councillor Liz Dixon n (Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health)

Brent's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2026–2029, published earlier this year, highlights the scale of the challenge facing our borough. The Metropolitan Police recorded 3,754 domestic abuse offences in Brent in the year ending March 2024, while around 31% of domestic abuse victims reported multiple incidents. Even these figures, as highlighted in the strategy, represent only part of the picture, as many incidents of domestic abuse sadly remain unreported.

Members regularly hear from residents about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on women and families. Tackling this requires not only effective support for survivors, but a clear commitment from men to challenge misogyny and never use, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.

Will the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health therefore confirm whether Brent will support White Ribbon Day 2026; pursue White Ribbon accreditation; encourage all councillors to make the White Ribbon Promise and undertake Champion training and also ask the Leader to write to the Mayor of London and the Government calling for sustainable, long-term funding for Brent's Violence Against Women and Girls services?

Response:

Brent Council fully recognises the importance of White Ribbon Day and the role that men and boys play in challenging the attitudes and behaviours that underpin violence against women and girls. White Ribbon Day 2026 will take place on 25th November, coinciding with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and marking the launch of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign.

This year's programme has been designed in line with the objectives of Brent's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2026-2029 and reflects learning from previous campaigns. Feedback and participation data have demonstrated that events explicitly branded as Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) activities can sometimes experience lower levels of community engagement due to the sensitive and often taboo nature of the subject matter. In response, Brent's 2026 campaign will adopt a prevention, empowerment and community wellbeing approach, using accessible themes to encourage participation whilst creating opportunities for meaningful conversations about safety and equality.

The campaign will officially launch on 25th November at Kilburn Library with an event entitled "The Intersectional Exploration of Violence in Literature." The event will create a welcoming and thought provoking space for residents to engage with the topic of male violence, reflect on the experiences of survivors and consider how communities can contribute to preventing VAWG. White Ribbons will be available at the Brent Civic Centre for councillors and will be made available to the public at the launch event at Kilburn Library.

Alongside the launch event, the 16 Days programme will include prevention work, a technology facilitated abuse workshop, a public exhibition, professional training opportunities, communications campaigns and a closing event promoting women's health and wellbeing. Collectively, these activities are designed to engage a broad and diverse audience, reduce the stigma associated with discussing violence and abuse and support the long term cultural change required to prevent VAWG.

The Council's commitment to prevention extends beyond the annual campaign period. In October 2026, the Community Safety Team launched its Domestic Abuse Champions Programme, which received 26 expressions of interest from staff across Housing, Adult Social Care, Children and Young People and Community Development, Libraries, Human Resources and Learning and Development. The programme aims to increase awareness of domestic abuse, strengthen early identification and signposting, and embed a culture of shared responsibility for tackling VAWG across council services. We will continue to work with partners, councillors, residents and colleagues to promote these principles through our VAWG Strategy and associated programmes.

3. Question from Councillor Sai Madabhushi to Councillor Cllr Muhammed Butt (Leader of the Council)

Brent Council's equality assessment of its Nablus twinning partnership recognised potential risks around antisemitism and community cohesion and committed to monitoring these concerns.

Following the Green Party's adoption of its "Zionism is Racism" policy and the subsequent intervention of the Equality and Human Rights Commission:

(1) Has the Council reviewed or updated its equality assessment of the Nablus partnership in light of these developments?

(2) What specific engagement has taken place with Jewish residents and community organisations since the policy was adopted, and what concerns have been raised with the Council?

(3) Have the Council's monitoring arrangements identified any change in complaints, antisemitic incidents or wider community tensions, and what additional steps will now be taken to protect community cohesion in Brent?

Response:

The Council's Equality Impact Assessment relating to the Nablus twinning has been kept under review since the partnership was established and was most recently reviewed in September 2026. The review considered updated information and intelligence, including Community Safety information and police data relating to antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crime. It continues to recognise both the potential benefits of the twinning and the sensitivities arising from the wider Israel/Palestine conflict, including the potential implications for community cohesion.

The twinning is a civic partnership and is separate from the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine and from the political positions or policies of individual political parties.

The Council recognises that national and international events and wider political debate can affect communities locally. The Council continues to monitor data relating to antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crime alongside wider community safety intelligence and feedback. The information considered through the assessment does not establish a causal relationship between the twinning and hate-crime levels or wider community tension.

As part of its wider response, the Council works closely with the Metropolitan Police and other partners to monitor emerging risks and support affected communities. This includes work with the police Community Protection Team, multi-agency planning around significant Jewish faith events, police-led Security Review Meetings and engagement with Counter Terrorism Policing. Brent also supports programmes aimed at preventing hate crime, encouraging reporting and strengthening community cohesion.

The Council maintains established relationships with Jewish residents, faith leaders, local synagogues and community organisations and continues to welcome feedback and dialogue from all of Brent's communities. This includes engagement through local synagogues and the Brent Multi Faith Forum, as well as supporting links between community representatives and policing partners. Following the attempted arson attack at Finchley Reform Synagogue in April 2026, officers contacted Jewish community representatives and visited local synagogues to offer support and listen to concerns, and the Chief Executive wrote to local Jewish faith leaders. Engagement has also continued through wider community and interfaith activity, including Holocaust Memorial Day planning.

The Council is due to meet with the Brent Nablus Twinning Association in November as part of the annual review of the partnership. This will provide a further opportunity to consider its progress and impact alongside relevant information from the Council's ongoing monitoring and engagement. The Equality Impact Assessment will continue to be kept under review, and the Council remains committed to tackling antisemitism, Islamophobia and all forms of hate and to promoting good relations and community cohesion across Brent.

4. Question from Councillor Nirmala Patel to Councillor Promise Knight (Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport & Public Realm)

There is need to recognise the huge impact on individuals, particularly those such as carers and patients undergoing significant medical treatment who rely on local buses to attend medical appointments, created by bus stop closures (such as those currently on Ealing Road) whilst planned road works are taking place.

Whilst acknowledging that during periods of planned road works, temporary bus stops need to be set-up, given the challenges highlighted (particularly on busy routes such as those between Wembley and local hospitals) can the Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport & Public Realm advise what engagement the council has with Transport for London (TfL) about the need to ensure that, when planned works are being undertaken, they are identifying suitable locations to set-up temporary bus stops along busy local routes to mitigate the impact of bus stop closures?

Response:

The Council recognises that the temporary closure of bus stops during roadworks can have a significant impact on residents, particularly older people, disabled passengers, carers and those travelling to medical appointments or other essential services.

Whilst responsibility for approving temporary bus stop arrangements and managing bus operations rests with Transport for London (TfL), Highway officers work closely with TfL and contractors where roadworks affect the highway network. Through the traffic management permitting process and regular liaison arrangements, the Council's Highway Network Team seeks to ensure that disruption is minimised wherever reasonably practicable.

Temporary bus stop locations are assessed by TfL, taking account of factors such as safety, accessibility, available highway space and operational requirements. Whilst some inconvenience may be unavoidable during major works, I would expect TfL and contractors to work together to ensure that temporary arrangements are as accessible and convenient as practicable, particularly on busy routes serving healthcare facilities and other key local destinations.

Where a bus stop suspension is required to facilitate planned works, Network officers will ask TfL to consider whether suitable temporary arrangements can be provided, taking account of the location, duration of the works and any operational constraints. For emergency works, where advance planning will not be possible, decisions regarding temporary bus stop provision will need to reflect safety considerations, the anticipated duration of the works and operational requirements.

Highways will continue to engage with TfL to ensure that the needs of residents, particularly those who rely on public transport to access healthcare and other essential services, are considered when temporary traffic management arrangements are being developed for planned works.

5. Question from Councillor Nisha Vakani to Councillor Jake Rubin (Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Employment & Climate Action):

Brent's School Place Planning Strategy recognises that some families can no longer afford to stay in the borough, while demand for school places varies across Wembley and Brent.

Can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Employment and Climate Action advise:

(a) what trends the Council has identified in falling pupil numbers, particularly by location, ethnicity and household income or deprivation? Does it know why families are leaving and where they are going?

(b) How the Council is engaging with schools, parents and local communities to understand these trends, including the impact of housing costs, the shortage of family-sized homes and local services?

(c) whether the Council will publish these findings by March 2027, alongside concrete action to support affected schools and help families stay in Wembley and Brent?

Response:

(a) The School Place Planning Strategy 2024-28 3rd Refresh, considered by Cabinet on 9th November 2026, sets out the areas where demand for school places is reducing based on pupil forecasts that are informed by birth rates and migration patterns. The Council does not hold data on why families are leaving Brent.

However, the ONS does publish estimates on how many people have moved out of a local authority area and where they have moved to (provided they moved within the UK). ONS' internal migration data estimates that 44,191 people left Brent to other UK local authorities in year ending June 2025, breakdown by age included below. Over half of those who moved left for another London borough. Harrow was the most common destination, followed by Barnet and Camden

Age group	Number of people
0-4	2,413
5-9	1,727
10-14	1,458
15-19	2,253
20+	36,340
Total	44,191

The Council has evidence from a range of sources that informs understanding of the wider pressures facing families.

- Brent's **2026 Resident Attitudes Survey**, which gathered views from 2,207 residents, provides some insight into the financial pressures facing local households with around 1 in 7 residents reporting that they are

struggling financially. Of these, just over 1 in 3 (36%) lived in household with children under 18

- **Indices of Deprivation** data indicated that 96% of Brent's neighbourhoods are among the most deprived 10% nationally for wider barriers to housing and services, including housing affordability and overcrowding. 58.7% of children aged 0-15 in Brent live in income-deprived households, the fifth highest proportion nationally. Child income deprivation is particularly concentrated in Dollis Hill, Roundwood and Stonebridge which are among the most deprived 1% of neighbourhoods nationally.

Anecdotal data from headteachers and other professionals who work with families indicates that families are leaving the borough due to the cost and shortage of suitable housing and cost of living pressures.

(b) Brent is investing in data-led approaches, including the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT), to help identify households at risk of financial hardship and enable earlier, more proactive support before financial difficulties escalate. This forms part of the Council's wider Household Income Maximisation approach, bringing together housing, benefits, customer services and community support to help residents maximise their income, access the support they are entitled to and build greater financial resilience.

The Council recognises that housing costs and wider cost-of-living pressures can place significant strain on household finances and can influence the choices families are able to make about where and how they live. Brent therefore continues to provide a broad package of support, including the Resident Support Fund, Council Tax Support, the Council Tax Hardship Fund, Community Hubs, commissioned advice services and support from Best Start Family Hubs, as well as linking families with the voluntary sector.

Alongside this, the Council is strengthening its Household Income Maximisation service and developing community-based wellbeing approaches that bring together affordable food, welfare and benefits advice, employment support and income maximisation. Taken together, these measures and support services are intended to identify financial difficulties earlier, connect families with the right support and help residents achieve greater financial stability and resilience.

(c) The data referred to above is already in the public domain.

With regards to actions, the Children, Young People and Community Development directorate works with schools to manage the impact of reduced demand and pupil mobility, as set out in the School Place Planning Strategy 2024-28 3rd Refresh. This includes capping or reducing published admission numbers and repurposing spare capacity, for example to provide specialist provision for children and young people with SEND, to help schools to mitigate the impacts on school budgets of lower pupil numbers.

The range of support available to households is aimed at helping them to better manage financially. The Household Income Maximisation service, Community

Hubs, Best Start Family Hubs, early years settings and schools all sign-post families in hardship to support for which they may be eligible.

Brent	**Full Council** 16 November 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Chair's Update

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
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Jason Sigba, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Democratic & Corporate Governance Tel: 020 8937 2036 Email: Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk James Kinsella Governance & Scrutiny Manager, Democratic & Corporate Governance, Finance & Resources Tel: 020 8937 2063 James.Kinsella@brent.gov.uk Amira Nassr, Deputy Director, Democratic & Corporate Governance, Finance & Resources Tel: 020 8937 5436 Email: Amira.Nassr@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 To present Full Council with progress updates on the activities of the Resources and Public Realm Committee ('the Committee') since the last Full Council meeting held on 14 September 2026.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 To note the update from the Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1.1 The work of the Committee contributes to the delivery of all of the strategic priorities set out in the Borough Plan 2023-2027. It seeks to ensure Council decision-making remains transparent, accountable and open, resulting in improved policies and services.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 Brent Council has three scrutiny committees; the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and newly established Housing Scrutiny Committee. The Council is also a member of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC).

3.2.2 A scrutiny committee can look at anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit.

3.2.3 Brent Council Standing Orders allow for the chairs of the scrutiny committees to report to ordinary Council meetings on the activities of their committees[1].

The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

3.2.4 The remit of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for scrutiny committees[2]. The remit of the Committee includes:

Corporate policy, partnerships and resources; Budget; Customer services; Commercial services; Planning policy; Environmental policy; Public realm; Employment and skills; IT; Recycling; Regeneration; Transport and highways; Community safety; Property; Emergency planning and business continuity.

3.2.5 The Committee is also the Council's "crime and disorder committee" for the purposes of Section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006 and as such may review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of the crime and disorder functions by the responsible authorities (as defined by section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) who make up the Safer Brent Partnership, in order to make reports or recommendations to Full Council.

3.2.6 Since the last update to Full Council on 14 September 2026, the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee has met once (20 October 2026).

---

[1] Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.
https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s123308/Part%202%20April%202022%20Procedural%20Rules.pdf

[2] Brent Council Constitution Part 4.
https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s123310/Part%204%20May%202022%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20.pdf

2 September 2026

3.2.7 Whilst the Committee's consideration of matters at its meeting on 2 September 2026 was reported within the previous update to Full Council, the recommendations and suggestions for improvement arising from the following items had not been finalised at the time that report was published and are therefore outlined below.

Parking Provision and Policy Review:

3.2.8 The Committee considered current parking provision, management and policy across the borough, hearing from the Leader of the Council and receiving a report from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration, including an overview of the forthcoming Parking Policy Review. In light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport and Public Realm:

- Develop, as part of the Parking Policy Review, a coordinated approach to addressing issues arising from food delivery and courier riders, as well as dockless hire bikes, including inappropriate parking, obstruction and wider public realm nuisance, through consideration of designated parking arrangements, engagement with operators and users, and alignment with wider transport, community safety and public realm policies.

- Explore, as part of the Parking Policy Review, opportunities to further enhance the visibility, clarity and effectiveness of School Streets signage and supporting measures beyond statutory requirements, improving driver awareness and reducing inadvertent non-compliance.

- Explore, as part of the Parking Policy Review, opportunities to strengthen the role of vehicle emissions, size and weight in future parking charges and permit arrangements, in support of the Council's environmental, transport and public realm objectives.

- Explore, as part of the Parking Policy Review, how parking and permit arrangements can best support residents and businesses in town centres and local high streets, balancing access needs through appropriate resident and business permit provision whilst supporting thriving local economies.

- Assess, as part of the Parking Policy Review, the potential long-term implications of autonomous vehicle technology for parking demand, kerbside activity and the allocation of road space, ensuring future parking policies remain adaptable to emerging transport trends.

Value for Money in Procurement & Contracts:

3.2.9 The Committee then examined value for money in procurement and contracts, hearing from the Leader of the Council and receiving an accompanying report

from the Corporate Director, Service Reform and Strategy. In light of the discussion, the Committee made the following suggestion for improvement to the directorate:

- Strengthen communications and engagement around forthcoming procurement opportunities, including the development of shareable content and resources that can be used by Council services and local councillors to raise awareness among local businesses of opportunities to become Council suppliers.

20 October 2026

3.2.10 The Committee considered the following items at its meeting on 20 October 2026.

Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme and Strategy Update:

3.2.11 The Committee heard from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Employment and Climate Action and considered a report from the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood and Regeneration on the progress of the Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme and the forthcoming refreshed Strategy. The Committee also received deputations from Brent Friends of the Earth and Friends of Woodcock Park, with a number of issues raised through the deputations reflected in the subsequent discussion.

3.2.12 Members considered the factors affecting delivery of the borough's ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, including the reasons why the target is no longer considered achievable and the lessons arising from progress to date. Discussion focused on the extent to which the Council is making full use of its existing services, budgets and community partnerships to deliver climate objectives, and whether greater coordination across the organisation could improve outcomes. The effectiveness and value for money of climate-related investment and initiatives was also examined, alongside the challenges affecting delivery. Consideration was given to the extent to which these challenges reflected wider funding pressures and external factors, whilst also recognising how local priorities, policy choices and actions within the Council's control can influence delivery of the Council's climate ambitions.

3.2.13 Within this context, particular attention was given to a number of climate indicators where progress has fallen short since the declaration of the Climate Emergency, including active travel and household waste, and what further action could be taken to improve performance. The Committee also considered the delivery of tree planting and maintenance programmes, including opportunities to strengthen outcomes through learning from other local authorities.

3.2.14 Looking ahead, and reflecting on the issues raised throughout the discussion, consideration was given to how the revised Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy will ensure that any future carbon neutrality ambition is supported by

realistic funding, resourcing and investment arrangements. Discussion focused on how the revised strategy will provide a more deliverable framework for achieving climate objectives and responding to areas where progress has been limited. Members also touched on how climate action can contribute towards wider social and economic objectives, including supporting residents with cost-of-living pressures, and the role of community engagement in encouraging participation in local climate action.

3.2.15 As part of its consideration of the Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme and Strategy Update, the Committee undertook a detailed review into flood risk management, recognising the increasing importance of climate adaptation and resilience alongside efforts to reduce emissions. In doing so, evidence was received from the Cabinet Member for Cleaner Streets, Transport and Public Realm and representatives of the Environment Agency and Thames Water. Discussion focused on the Environment Agency's assessment of flood risk across Brent, including emerging risks, local priorities and Brent's performance as a Lead Local Flood Authority. Particular attention was given to the effectiveness of the Council's overall approach to flood risk management and resilience, including the management of known flood risks, flood alleviation activity, community awareness and partnership working across the borough.

3.2.16 Thus, members explored the contribution of key organisations involved in flood risk management, including the Council's powers and limitations in holding Thames Water to account for recurring flooding and pollution incidents. Assurance was sought that Thames Water is effectively addressing issues within its remit, alongside consideration of planned investment and partnership activity within Brent, the anticipated benefits for residents and expected delivery timescales, and arrangements for responding to flooding incidents and supporting affected residents.

3.2.17 In light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations and suggestions for improvement:

<u>Recommendations to Cabinet Member</u>

- Develop stronger joint working arrangements with Thames Water, Affinity Water and the Environment Agency, including a jointly agreed action plan to address recurring flooding hotspots within the borough, and facilitate attendance at a future meeting to review responsibilities, planned investments, commitments, delivery timescales and opportunities to reduce flood risk and improve flood resilience across Brent.

<u>Suggestions for Improvement to Neighbourhoods and Regeneration Directorate</u>

- Further develop the existing climate dashboard to provide clearer reporting on the relationship between resources allocated and outcomes delivered, a more considered approach to target setting, and clearer identification of those indicators that fall within and outside of the Council’s direct control and influence.

- Strengthen arrangements for the maintenance and long-term resilience of trees across the borough, including adequate watering and aftercare for newly planted and stressed mature trees, greater community stewardship, and clear accountability for ongoing maintenance.

- Identify and pursue further opportunities for improved partnership working between Thames Water and the Council to support borough growth and improve residents' experience of water and wastewater services.

Suggestions for Improvement to Thames Water

- Increase investment in wastewater and drainage infrastructure across Brent, particularly in response to recurring concerns regarding capacity and blockages in the main sewer system that results in associated surface water drainage issues.

Quarter 2 Financial Forecast 2026/27:

3.2.18 The Committee then heard from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and received the Quarter 2 Financial Forecast Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources. Within the General Fund, members examined significant financial pressures within Adult Social Care. Discussion focused on the increasing cost of Adult Social Care provision, with new care packages typically 14-16% more expensive than those ending due to increasing complexity of need and market pressures. Members sought assurance regarding the effectiveness of procurement and commissioning arrangements in securing value for money and controlling expenditure and also considered the potential impact of winter demand pressures on the service's financial position. Attention was also given to the pressures within Resident and Housing Services arising from temporary accommodation, driven by driven by rising homelessness demand, increasing costs and limited supply. Discussion focused on the effectiveness of mitigation measures designed to reduce reliance on high-cost placements, including the speed at which these measures are being implemented and the extent to which they are helping to contain rising costs.

3.2.19 In response to the forecast overspend and ongoing General Fund pressures, members assessed both the delivery of savings agreed as part of the 2026/27 budget and the additional in-year mitigations being implemented to support the Council's financial position. The Committee reviewed delivery of the £10.4m savings programme agreed as part of the 2026/27 budget, noting that whilst overall savings targets remained broadly on track, some savings had been delivered through alternative measures to those originally proposed. Assurance was sought regarding the realism and deliverability of savings assumptions and emphasised the importance of clear delivery plans, accountability and transparency in how savings are achieved and monitored. Discussion also covered the additional £2.7m of in-year savings identified since Quarter 1, including how these savings had been generated and monitored, what had

been delivered to date, what remained outstanding, and the extent to which they would be sufficient to reduce budget overspends.

3.2.20 The Committee explored the growing financial pressures within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), including a forecast £20.8m in-year deficit driven primarily by rising demand for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Members considered the projected growth in the cumulative DSG deficit, sought assurance regarding the effectiveness of the Council's SEND reform programme in addressing underlying cost pressures and highlighted the financial risks associated with uncertainty over future Government support beyond 2026/27. Clearer future reporting on EHCP growth, placement demand and expenditure trends was also requested to support ongoing scrutiny.

3.2.21 Delivery and performance against the capital programme were also reviewed, including the reprofiling of £78.3m of expenditure into future years. Members highlighted the importance of transparency with residents regarding project delays, revised delivery timescales and the implications of changes to planned investment.

Council Tax Collection and Debt Recovery Performance:

3.2.22 The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director, Residents and Housing Services on Council Tax Collection and Debt Recovery Performance, with contributions from the Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Cost-of-Living Support and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources. In-year Council Tax collection performance formed a key part of the review, particularly given Brent's comparatively low position within both the London and national rankings. Members explored the factors contributing to this position, the gap between Brent and comparable authorities achieving stronger collection rates, and the Council's long-term strategy for improving performance. Assurance was sought that lessons are being learned from comparator authorities and that improvement initiatives are capable of delivering sustained gains over time. Governance, monitoring and assurance arrangements supporting Council Tax collection and recovery were also addressed, including how performance is monitored, audited and reported, and how these arrangements are being used to drive continuous improvement and support delivery of the Council's collection objectives.

3.2.23 Recognising the relationship between current collection performance and the accumulation of historic debt, members questioned the Council's approach to debt recovery, including recovery rates for older debt, trends in debt write-offs and the extent to which the likelihood of recovery declines as debt ages. Discussion explored whether alternative approaches to debt management could be adopted to maximise recovery before debts reach the point at which write-off becomes necessary, whilst ensuring appropriate support remains available for residents experiencing financial hardship.

3.2.24 In light of the discussion, the Committee made the following suggestion for improvement:

- Strengthen arrangements for monitoring, reviewing and learning from errors and complaints arising from council tax collection and recovery processes, in order to support continuous improvement.

Next meeting: 26 January 2027

3.2.25 The next meeting of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee will be held on 26 January 2027. As it currently stands, members will review the following items:

- Complaints Annual Report 2025/26
- ASB in Brent
- Borough of Sanctuary: Support for Migrant Communities

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 Members of the Committee continue to be fully engaged in the development and delivery of the scrutiny work programme.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 There are no financial considerations for the purposes of this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 There are no legal considerations for the purposes of this report.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 There are no EDI considerations for the purposes of this report.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 There are no climate change and environmental considerations for the purposes of this report.

9.0 Communication Considerations

9.1 There are no communication considerations for the purposes of this report.

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel
Corporate Director, Finance & Resources

	Full Council 16 November 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Update

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
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Chatan Popat, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny Democratic and Corporate Governance 020 9837 5068 chatan.popat@brent.gov.uk James Kinsella, Governance and Scrutiny Manager Democratic and Corporate Governance 020 8937 2063 james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk Amira Nassr, Deputy Director, Democratic and Corporate Governance 020 8937 5436 amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.0. To update Full Council on the meetings and activities of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee since the last update to Full Council on 14 September 2026.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That Full Council

2.1 Note the report and the updates provided for the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 Note that an update on the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the 2026/27 municipal year will be provided as part of the

next update report to Full Council once it has been renewed. This follows the establishment of the new Housing Scrutiny Committee, subsequent changes to its remit and reduction to the number of annual meetings held from six to five.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1.1 The work of the committee contributes to the delivery of all of the strategic priorities within the Borough Plan as it seeks to support, advise and enhance the Council's activity. The recent activity outlined in this report contributes most specifically to the "A Healthier Brent," "The Best Start in Life," "Prosperity and Stability in Brent" strategic priorities within the plan.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 Brent Council now has three scrutiny committees: the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and the newly formed Housing Scrutiny Committee. The council also participates as a full voting member in the North West London Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC). Councillor Sai Karthik Madabhushi has been elected as chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2026.

3.2.2 A scrutiny committee can review anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit. The remit of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council's Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees which includes:

Adult social care; Safeguarding; Children's services; Cultural services; Education; Health; Public Health and Wellbeing.

Members are reminded that all elements of Housing are now to be considered by the Housing Scrutiny Committee.

3.2.3 As part of its remit set out in the constitution, and its role to review the provision and operation of health services within the borough, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can scrutinise, and make recommendations to NHS organisations or relevant health service providers.

3.2.4 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's 2026/27 work programme was approved at its last meeting held on 16 September 2026. However, the Committee are in the process of renewing the programme following the establishment of the Housing Scrutiny Committee. It continues to outline the policy areas and council decisions the committee plan to review during the 2026/27 municipal year. In developing its work programme, Committee members prioritise items to include on the work programme based on a set of criteria. Prioritisation ensures that items included on the committees work programme are (i) a strategic priority as set out in the council's 2023-27 Borough Plan (ii) of concern for a significant number of the borough's residents

(iii) a significant cabinet decision or (iv) part of a forthcoming policy review or a new strategy being developed by the Cabinet. This is undertaken to ensure that scrutiny has a significant impact and adds value to the council's policy process. Statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny recommends that for scrutiny to be effective, scrutiny committees focus on conducting fewer in-depth reviews of highly significant topics[1].

3.2.5 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met for its second meeting of the 2026-27 municipal year on 16 September 2026. The meeting focused on three substantive items relating to Childhood Asthma, Implementation of the Brent Youth Strategy and progress against the Brent Cultural Strategy for Inclusion, Wellbeing and Growth. Across the items, the Committee placed particular emphasis on demonstrating measurable outcomes, strengthening the quality and consistency of performance information, identifying geographical and demographic inequalities, and ensuring that interventions and investment were reaching those communities with the greatest need.

3.2.6 Whilst discussing Childhood Asthma, the Committee noted that the condition remained a significant health priority in Brent, reflecting historically high levels of asthma-related hospital admissions and continuing health inequalities. Members were advised that targeted case-finding had identified approximately 1,300 children with potentially undiagnosed asthma and that increased diagnostic testing had contributed to a 50% increase in new diagnoses. Approximately 900 children identified as being at higher risk had also received more detailed clinical reviews, with around 20% requiring changes to their medication. Whilst noting indications of reduced emergency admissions, the Committee raised concerns regarding inconsistencies within the performance information presented and requested clearer and more reliable data in future reporting. Members also considered specialist asthma nursing capacity, the Asthma Friendly Schools programme, vaccination rates, air pollution, inequalities between different communities and areas of the borough, and the impact of damp and mould within housing. Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening links between health and housing services and providing more detailed ward-level information.

3.2.7 The second item discussed at the Committee meeting was the progress in implementing the Brent Youth Strategy, one year following its publication. Members noted the partnership approach to delivery, involving the Council, voluntary and community organisations and young people, together with the £4 million investment in youth provision. The Committee emphasised the importance of demonstrating the outcomes arising from this investment rather than focusing primarily on levels of activity. Members requested stronger performance measures relating to youth violence and offending, NEET levels, mental health and wellbeing, feelings of safety and participation, supported by demographic and ward-level data to enable assessment of the accessibility and equitable distribution of provision. The discussion also addressed preventative activity within schools, access to school facilities for community-based youth

[1] *Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities* (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government), p21

provision and the continuing role of Brent Youth Parliament. Members also recognised the importance of ensuring that information provided to young people was accessible and that young people were meaningfully involved in the development and evaluation of services affecting them.

3.2.8 The final item considered at the meeting was the implementation of the Brent Cultural Strategy for Inclusion, Wellbeing and Growth. The Committee noted progress in strengthening partnerships, widening cultural participation and attracting external investment. Members were informed that approximately £1.5 million of external funding had been secured for Creative Community Brent and more than for Vibrant, alongside activity aimed at creating pathways into creative employment for young people and strengthening collaboration through the Cultural Compact. Members welcomed the progress made but highlighted the need for a stronger framework to demonstrate the outcomes and wider impact of cultural investment. Particular consideration was given to supporting smaller and grassroots organisations to access funding, providing capacity-building support, protecting grassroots cultural and music venues, making effective use of existing community spaces and ensuring an equitable geographical distribution of cultural investment. Members also sought improved monitoring of organisations applying for and successfully securing funding, together with ward-level analysis of investment.

3.2.9 Overall, for all three items, the Committee identified a consistent need for stronger evidence of impact, more robust performance measures and greater transparency regarding the geographical and demographic distribution of services and investment. Members emphasised the value of ward-level data and clear outcome-focused KPIs in enabling the Committee to assess whether strategies were delivering tangible improvements for residents and addressing inequalities. The discussions also reinforced the importance of effective partnership working across Council services, health partners, schools and the voluntary and community sector, alongside meaningful engagement with residents and young people in the design, delivery and evaluation of services.

3.2.10 Following the establishment of a new Housing Scrutiny Committee and the decision made at Full Council to reduce the number of meetings for each Committee to five per municipal year, the meeting scheduled for 24 November 2026 has now been cancelled. Therefore, the Committee will meet for its third meeting of the year on 18 January 2027.

3.2.11 Officers from across the North West London region are working closely with the newly established West and North London Integrated Care Board (ICB) to re-establish the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC). Preparations are now underway to convene a work programming session, agree updated Terms of Reference, and establish a schedule of meetings for the remainder of the year.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 Members continue to be fully engaged in the development and delivery of the scrutiny work programme, which is intended to be a flexible, living document

that can adapt and change throughout the municipal year in response to the Committee's needs.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 There are no equity, diversity or inclusion implications arising from this report.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 There are no communication implications arising from this report.

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel
Corporate Director, Finance and Resources

This page is intentionally left blank

	Full Council 16 November 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

Housing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Update

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
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Chatan Popat, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny Democratic and Corporate Governance 020 9837 5068 chatan.popat@brent.gov.uk James Kinsella, Governance and Scrutiny Manager Democratic and Corporate Governance 020 8937 2063 james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk Amira Nassr, Deputy Director, Democratic and Corporate Governance 020 8937 5436 amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.0. To update Full Council on the activities of the Housing Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That Full Council

2.1 Note the report and the updates provided for the Housing Scrutiny Committee which was formed earlier this year.

2.2 Note that the Housing Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the 2026/27 municipal year will be provided as part of the next update report to Full Council

once it has been officially agreed at its first official meeting scheduled for 24 November 2026.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1.1 The work of the committee contributes to the delivery of all of the strategic priorities within the Borough Plan as it seeks to support, advise and enhance the Council's activity. The activities outlined in this report contributes most specifically to the "Prosperity and Stability in Brent" "A Cleaner, Greener Future," "Thriving Communities" and "The Best Start in Life," strategic priorities within the plan.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 Brent Council has three scrutiny committees: the newly established Housing Scrutiny Committee, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Fleur Donnelly-Jackson has been elected as chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee at the Full Council Meeting held on 14 September 2026.

3.2.2 A scrutiny committee can review anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit. The remit of the Housing Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council's Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees which includes:

Housing needs and support; Homelessness and rough sleeping; Temporary Accommodation; Tenancy sustainment and compliance; Tenant and leaseholder engagement; Homes Adaptation Service; Fire safety in housing; Private Rented Sector support; Landlord licensing and forum; Renters' Rights Bill enforcement; New Council Housing delivery; Affordable Homes Programme; Housing compact with registered providers; i4B and First Wave Housing; Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing spend.

3.2.3 The Housing Scrutiny Committee's 2026/27 work programme has been drafted. Scheduled to be formally agreed at the committee's first meeting on 24 November 2026, it will outline the policy areas and council decisions the committee plan to review during the 2026/27 municipal year. In developing its work programme, the committee held a work programming meeting, attended by Committee members, the Cabinet member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters and the Corporate Director of Residents and Housing Services. At this session Committee members prioritised items to include on the work programme based on a set of criteria. Prioritisation ensured that items included on the committee's work programme were (i) a strategic priority as set out in the council's 2023-27 Borough Plan (ii) of concern for a significant number of the borough's residents (iii) a significant cabinet decision or (iv) part of a forthcoming policy review or a new strategy being developed by the Cabinet. This was undertaken to ensure that scrutiny has a significant impact and adds value to the council's policy process. Statutory guidance on overview and

scrutiny recommends that for scrutiny to be effective, scrutiny committees focus on conducting fewer in-depth reviews of highly significant topics[1].

3.2.4 As the Committee was established part-way through the municipal year, three meetings are scheduled to take place between November 2026 and April 2027. These will be held on 24 November 2026, 17 February 2027 and 27 April 2027.

3.2.5 Future reports to Full Council will include updates on the meetings and activities of the Housing Scrutiny Committee.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 Members continue to be fully engaged in the development and delivery of the scrutiny work programme, which is intended to be a flexible, living document that can adapt and change throughout the municipal year in response to the Committee's needs.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 There are no equity, diversity or inclusion implications arising from this report.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 There are no communication implications arising from this report.

[1] *Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities* (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government), p21

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel
Corporate Director, Finance and Resources

Brent	**Full Council** 16 November 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – Vice Chair's Report

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
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Minesh Patel, Corporate Director of Finance and Resources Tel: 020 8937 4043 Email: minesh.patel@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Council's Audit and Standards Advisory Committee and the Audit and Standards Committee since the last update provided to Full Council in September 2026.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 Council is asked to note the contents of the report.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1.1 The Council's Audit and Standards Advisory Committee (ASAC) and the Audit and Standards Committee (ASC) play an important role in ensuring the good governance of the Council. The committees are a key component of the Council's governance framework. They contribute to the overall success of the Council by providing an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements to provide assurance and confidence to those charged with governance.

3.1.2 The ASAC is responsible for considering and advising the relevant council bodies on various governance matters relating to audit activity, the council's regulatory framework, and members' standards of conduct. The ASC is responsible for various governance matters including reviewing and approving the Annual Statement of Accounts, adopting the council's Annual Governance Statement and promoting high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 Since the previous update to Full Council, the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee has met once, on 23 September 2026. A summary of the substantive items considered at that meeting is set out below.

3.2.2 Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – 23 September 2026

a. Performance and Management of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd

The Committee received assurance on the governance and oversight arrangements for the Council's housing companies, including performance, risk, financial sustainability and compliance. Members also considered progress against matters raised at the Committee's previous review, including smoke and carbon monoxide detector compliance, reporting from Shareholder and Guarantor meetings and improvements to the presentation of risk registers.

b. Update on the Response to Housing Regulator Findings

The Committee reviewed progress following the Council's self-referral to the Regulator of Social Housing and the continuing C3 judgement. The report highlighted the rebuild of compliance data, progress in closing fire-risk actions and increasing stock-condition survey coverage, while recognising that significant work remained to demonstrate sustained compliance, complete legacy actions and secure independent assurance over the improved arrangements.

c. Strategic Risk Report

The Committee considered the updated Strategic Risk Register. The update reflected a heightened overall risk environment, including an increase in cyber risk, reductions in the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block and artificial intelligence risk scores, and the addition of business continuity as a new strategic risk. Members also considered the continuing high risks relating to affordable accommodation and statutory housing compliance.

d. Statement of Accounts 2025–26 and External Audit Findings

The Committee received the draft Audit Findings Reports for the Council and Pension Fund, together with the Auditor's Annual Report. The external auditor anticipated unmodified opinions, subject to completion of outstanding work. The Committee considered audit adjustments, control recommendations and additional audit fees, and made the necessary recommendations to the Audit and Standards Committee regarding the letters of representation and delegated sign-off of the final accounts.

e. Forward Plan and Work Programme 2026–27

The Committee reviewed its work programme for the remainder of the 2026–27 municipal year and noted the planned schedule of audit, finance, governance, risk and standards items.

3.2.3 Forward Plan Items

The next meeting of the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee is scheduled for 30 November 2026. Based on the 2026–27 Forward Plan and Work Programme, the following items are currently scheduled for consideration:

- Internal Audit Plan Progress Update
- External Audit Progress Report
- Auditor's Annual Report
- Treasury Management Mid-Year Report
- Standards Report, including Gifts and Hospitality

Treasury Management training will take place on 30 November 2026, before the next Audit and Standards Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee continues to review its training and development needs and will undertake a maturity assessment to identify areas for improvement.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 None.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 The report is for noting and so there are no direct financial implications.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 The report is for noting and there are no direct legal implications.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 None.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 None

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 None

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 None

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

	Full Council 16 November 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
	Lead Member – Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources (Councillor Gwen Grahl)

Believe in Brent: Council Plan 2026 - 2030

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
List of Appendices:	Three Appendix A: Believe in Brent 2026 – 2030 Appendix B: Council Plan Evidence and Engagement Report Appendix C: Council Plan Equality Impact Assessment
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Amira Nassr, Deputy Director Democratic & Corporate Governance 020 8937 5436 amira.nassr@brent.gov.uk Grace Hall, Policy & Performance Manager 020 8937 1471 grace.hall@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the Brent Council Plan, *Believe in Brent 2026 – 2030*, to Full Council for adoption.

1.2. The purpose of the Council Plan is to set our direction of travel as an organisation for the next four years. It sets the high-level priorities which will guide our decisions on how we spend money and where we focus our resources to deliver high-quality services and good outcomes for residents. The strategic, high-level nature of the Plan gives us a clear direction, as well as the

flexibility to remain agile to changing circumstances, emerging pressures and new opportunities, and responsive to the Council's budget setting process.

1.3. The Council Plan sets out three priorities: 'A borough to be proud of' and 'A borough where people thrive', which set out **what** we will deliver for residents; and 'A council that delivers for you', which explains **how** we'll change the way we work to deliver for residents. The first two priorities are supported by a series of focus areas. These bring our priorities to life by setting out the tangible changes and improvements residents can expect to see as a result of our work.

1.4. Subject to adoption of the Council Plan by Full Council, an annual Delivery Plan will be developed alongside the Council's budget to translate the Council Plan's priorities into specific actions that we will take to deliver our ambitions. The Delivery Plan will support us to measure the impact that our work is having, and communicate regularly and transparently with residents about the progress we're making to deliver the Plan.

1.5. The Council Plan will inform our budget setting process, where spending commitments will be developed to enable delivery of Council Plan priorities. Through the budget setting process, decisions will need to be made about what to prioritise, and where trade-offs may be needed, to support delivery of the Council Plan's ambitions.

1.6. To develop the Council Plan, extensive engagement was undertaken with Leaders of the four Political parties in the Council, Councillors, residents and Brent Council staff. Officers drew on this engagement, analysis of the manifestos of each political party, given the Political operating context of the organisation, and data and local evidence to ensure that residents are central to, and have been reflected, in the Council Plan. More detail on the engagement and evidence that has informed the Council Plan is included in Appendix B.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That Council:

2.1 Adopt the Council Plan, *Believe in Brent 2026 – 2030*.

2.2 Agree that the Council Plan, *Believe in Brent 2026 – 2030,* replace the Borough Plan with immediate effect.

2.3 Agree, for the purposes of amending the Policy Framework as set out in the Brent Constitution, that the Corporate Plan be renamed the Council Plan, and that the Interim Director of Law and Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Constitution as necessary to reflect these changes.

2.4 Note the Evidence and Engagement Report and Equality Impact Assessment which accompany the Council Plan.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Cabinet Member Foreword & Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1.1 The Council Plan is our commitment to residents. It sets out our vision for how we will support our residents and communities and the priorities that will guide our work over the next four years. It reflects our strong ambition for Brent to be a great place to live, work, visit, study, do business and raise a family, and the role the Council will play in achieving that.

3.1.2 This Plan has been shaped by what residents have told us matters most. We have listened carefully to feedback from our communities about their aspirations for Brent, the challenges they face, and the changes they want to see. We've drawn on what we've heard and looked carefully at the opportunities and challenges we face to shape our priorities.

3.1.3 This Plan is ambitious. We know that to make a real difference to residents' lives, we need to be bold and curious about how we can work differently. This Plan will help us to make choices about where we should focus our work to make life better for our residents and communities.

3.1.4 To deliver this Plan, we will develop an annual Delivery Plan, which will set out the key actions we'll take, how we will prioritise activity and how we will monitor our performance. We know that we can't do everything at once. The annual Delivery Plan will ensure that we can remain agile in a changing world, while maintaining our focus on the goals set out in the Council Plan.

3.1.5 The proposed Council Plan *Believe in Brent 2026 – 2030*, resets our priorities for the next four years and will act as the foundation for our decision making, service delivery, budgeting and allocation of resources. It will replace the previous Brent Borough Plan, which is due to expire in 2027.

3.1.6 At its heart, the Council Plan is about what Brent Council will do as an organisation to deliver for residents. The Council Plan that has been developed is a Corporate Plan in that it sets out the Council's organisational priorities and ways of working. It sets out both what the Council will do to deliver value for residents, and how we will work to achieve our goals. While delivering our priorities will often require us to work closely with partners, the Council Plan is focused primarily on the Council's role, commitments and contribution.

3.1.7 The Council Plan sets out three priorities: 'A borough to be proud of' and 'A borough where people thrive', which set out **what** we will deliver for residents; and 'A council that delivers for you', which explains **how** we'll change the way we work to deliver for residents.

3.1.8 The first two priorities are supported by a series of focus areas, which identify where we will concentrate our efforts to improve residents' lives. They bring our priorities to life by setting out the tangible changes and improvements residents can expect to see as a result of our work.

3.2 Background

The purpose of the Council Plan

3.2.1 The purpose of the Council Plan is to set our purpose and direction of travel as an organisation for the next four years. It sets out the priorities that will guide the decisions we make, help us focus our resources and shape the work we do to deliver for residents. It sets out what we will deliver for residents, and how we will work to deliver those things.

How we will deliver the Plan

3.2.2 The Council Plan is a high-level, strategic document, which sets out our ambitions and the outcomes we want to achieve for residents. It will help us to clearly identify the actions that we should take, and investments we should make, to deliver on our ambitions. It builds on our existing work, by setting a renewed focus on what we're already doing well, while also identifying and embracing new opportunities to do more for residents.

3.2.3 The Council Plan will sit alongside and inform our budgeting process. The budgeting process will be guided by the priorities set out in the Council Plan, to ensure that our resources are directed towards the areas that matter most to residents. Our Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) will be kept under review and adapted to reflect the Council Plan priorities, focus areas and Delivery Plan actions, ensuring that our resources are aligned with our ambitions and allocated where they can have the greatest impact.

3.2.4 An annual Delivery Plan will sit alongside the Council Plan and Council's budget. It will set out in more detail some of the key actions that we will take to deliver the ambitions in the Council Plan. It will focus on the actions that will make the biggest difference to residents and communities. It will align with the Council's budget and allow us to prioritise and stagger activity over the lifespan of the Council Plan, given that we won't be able to do everything at once.

3.2.5 The Delivery Plan will align with a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) that will be developed to help us measure, monitor and report on the progress we're making to deliver the Council Plan. Regular reporting on these indicators will be provided, so Members and residents can scrutinise performance, hold both Members and officers to account as well as identify areas for improvement.

3.2.6 Keeping residents informed about the progress we're making is important, so we will use both the Council Plan and Delivery Plan to share regular updates on the progress we're making and impact being delivered.

How the plan was developed

3.2.7 The Council Plan has been informed by detailed analysis of political parties' manifestos, engagement over several months with Group Leaders, councillors, residents, staff and partners and key data sets such as the Census. Officers have used this feedback and evidence to identify key themes about what

matters most to residents, the challenges they're facing and the opportunities that there are to make Brent a better place to live, work, study, visit and do business. Those key themes have informed the priorities and focus areas which make up the Plan, and which have been regularly tested with Members. The process of developing the Plan has been iterative, with the emerging priorities and focus areas refined throughout the process as a result of ongoing engagement and feedback.

3.2.8 The Evidence and Engagement Report in Appendix B provides a detailed overview of the evidence, data and engagement that has shaped the Plan. Below is a high-level summary of the key engagement activities and evidence drawn from:

3.2.9 As well as speaking with Members about residents' views, we engaged directly with residents in a few key ways (the Resident Attitude Survey and the Council Plan Survey) to inform the development of the Council Plan. Further work to shape the Plan was also undertaken and is set out below.

Resident Attitudes Survey

3.2.10 The Resident Attitudes Survey (RAS) is a face-to-face survey of a representative sample of residents, which provides a snapshot of residents' views on their neighbourhoods, the council and their priorities. It is conducted every 4 to 5 years. The survey was carried out independently by DJS Research, an accredited Market Research Society Company Partner.

3.2.11 The sample was deliberately designed to reflect Brent's population, with quotas for age, sex, ethnicity, economic status and disability within each ward and sampling locations selected to reflect different levels of deprivation. The statistically reliable data was essential in understanding more about our residents and what their views and priorities are.

3.2.12 A summary of the key findings from the RAS is included in the Evidence and Engagement Report contained in Appendix B.

Council Plan survey

3.2.13 An online resident survey was conducted between 16 July to 30 August 2026 to gather insight on what residents wanted to see reflected in the Council Plan. 752 responses were received from individuals, community group representative and businesses. A detailed summary of the responses received, engagement approach adopted and benchmarking against other local authorities can be found in the Evidence and Engagement Report in Appendix B.

3.2.14 This survey was widely promoted to residents, businesses, community and voluntary sector organisations, faith groups and resident forums. Officers used a multi-channel approach to engagement which included promotion through our digital platforms, community outreach events, community engagement networks and partnerships to increase awareness of the survey.

3.2.15 During the consultation period, the Council Plan consultation page received **2,523 visits**, indicating strong awareness and interest, even where residents chose not to submit a survey response. Benchmarking data suggests Brent achieved a comparatively strong level of participation when measured against similar Council Plan consultations undertaken by other local authorities.

Political party manifestos

3.2.16 Officers analysed the manifestos of each political party elected to represent Brent, to understand where their priorities align and what residents voted for. The commitments set out in the various manifestos helped to inform the Council Plan priorities and focus areas, which were then tested and adapted through subsequent engagement activities with members, residents and staff.

Member engagement

3.2.17 Members engage with residents every day in many different ways. A crucial part of developing the Council Plan was drawing on Members' significant insight into what residents most value and want to see from their Council. Engagement with Members included:

- **Multiple conversations with the Administration Leader and Deputy Leader** throughout the development of the Plan, to get ongoing strategic input and direction.

- **Various individual briefings with each Opposition Political Group Leader** to get feedback on the overall approach and emerging priorities and focus areas. Political Group Leaders were also briefed on the findings of the Resident Attitudes Survey and how they informed the Council Plan.

- **A briefing with each Cabinet member** to get feedback on the overall approach to the Plan and its emerging priorities and focus areas, with a specific focus on each Cabinet members' area(s) of responsibility.

- **Discussions with Cabinet** where the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet discussed the approach to the new Council Plan and its priorities and focus areas.

- **A Political Group Leader Task and Finish meeting** where all Political Group Leaders were invited to provide feedback on the final draft of the priorities and focus areas.

- **A Pre-scrutiny meeting, where** Scrutiny members from the three scrutiny committees were invited to consider the draft Council Plan priorities and focus areas, ask questions, provide challenge and feedback, and contribute to the Plan's final development.

Staff and service insight

3.2.18 Small working groups of key officers met on a regular basis to review progress on development of the Council Plan and to provide key strategic and operational insights.

3.2.19 A staff survey was also conducted to ask staff what residents were telling them, what they believe the Council should focus our work on and what should change.

3.2.20 A summary of the key themes from staff feedback is included in the Evidence and Engagement Report in Appendix B.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 As noted above, there has been considerable engagement with Members, residents, staff and other partners throughout the development of the Council Plan. The process of developing the Plan has been iterative, in response to feedback from these different stakeholders.

4.2 The Engagement and Evidence Report in Appendix B provides more detail on the consultation and engagement undertaken, and summarises the feedback that was received.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 The Council Plan sets the Council's priorities for the next four years and will inform the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and annual budget setting processes. This will ensure that decisions on the allocation of resources support delivery of the Council's priorities, whilst maintaining financial sustainability and securing value for money for residents.

5.2 The annual Delivery Plan will translate these priorities into more detailed activity and will be reflected through the Council's Integrated Business Planning process. This will bring together delivery and financial planning, enabling any associated resource requirements, savings or investment to be considered and incorporated into the MTFS.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 In accordance with Part 3, Table 3, s1 of the Constitution, Full Council is responsible for the consideration and adoption of the Borough and Corporate Plan, amongst others, that form the Council's Policy Framework.

6.2 The current Borough Plan ends in 2027. The Council Plan will replace it, in setting the Council's vision for the next four years. As it forms part of the Council's Policy Framework documents it must be adopted by Full Council. Once adopted by Full Council, it is the responsibility of Cabinet and the Cabinet Committees to implement, in so far as it relates to Executive functions.

6.3 Part 2, Financial Regulations, paragraph 2.1.2 of the Constitution provides that long-term financial planning should be developed alongside the Council's overarching strategic plan.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty, as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not share that protected characteristic. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. The council also internally recognises care experience and socio-economic status as protected characteristics.

7.2 The Council Plan has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment, attached as Appendix C, and Officers believe that there are no adverse equality implications, and that the Plan will assist in advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relationships between different group.

7.3 The Council Plan is intended to benefit all residents, businesses and communities across Brent. However, some groups may experience particular benefits because of the Plan's focus on improving neighbourhoods, addressing inequalities, improving access to services and opportunities, and supporting those facing the greatest barriers or disadvantages. In particular, it is expected to have a positive impact on residents experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, those at risk of and experiencing homelessness, and children and young people. Further analysis and review of the EIA will be conducted regularly as the Plan is implemented

7.4 Actions taken to deliver on the Plan's priorities will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment as required.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 The draft Council Plan includes several commitments to tackle the climate and ecological emergency, addressing all three key aspects: reducing emissions, supporting nature and biodiversity and adapting to extreme weather. Specific commitments include:

- Doing all we can to achieve Net Zero for our own corporate estate and operations by 2030.
- Driving progress towards cleaner air across the borough.
- Exploring making homes more resilient to changing climate conditions, including hotter, drier summers and colder, wetter winters.

- Investment in our parks and open spaces: creating greener spaces across the borough, planting more trees and expanding our green corridors programme.

8.2 The Council is currently consulting with the public on updating the Brent Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy (2021-2030) for the remaining period from 2027 -2030. The strategy update will include a detailed programme for delivery, aligned to the commitments above, for the term of this Council Plan.

9.0 Communication Considerations

9.1 It's important that we're transparent and open with residents about the progress we're making to deliver the Council Plan. To achieve this, a comprehensive programme of story-led communications will be delivered to demonstrate the progress, outcomes and impact being made against our priorities and focus areas. The Delivery Plan will provide a strong starting point for these communications, helping us to keep residents informed about the things that are most meaningful to them. We will be open about the progress we're making, challenges we're facing and the opportunities that we are seizing. This approach will include ongoing regular stories, digital content and targeted campaign activity, quarterly 'You Said, We Did' updates led by Lead Cabinet Members, and annual progress summaries.

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

This page is intentionally left blank

Version subject to Cabinet approval on 9 November 2026.

Brent

Believe in Brent

Council Plan 2026 - 2030



What's in this Council Plan

A message from our Leadership ____ **3 - 4**

Our vision for Brent ____ **5**

About this Council Plan ____ **6**

Understanding Brent ____ **7 - 9**

What Brent Council does for you ____ **10 - 11**

Priority 1:
A borough to be proud of ____ **12 - 16**

Priority 2:
A borough where people thrive ____ **17 - 20**

Priority 3:
A council that delivers for you ____ **21 - 23**

Turning ambition into action ____ **24**

A message from our Leadership

Councillor Muhammed Butt
Leader of Brent Council

Councillor Gwen Grahl
Deputy Leader of Brent Council

Brent is a borough with enormous strengths. It is home to diverse and ambitious communities, thriving businesses, fantastic parks, vibrant high streets, and one of the most recognisable sporting landmarks in the world. It's a place with a strong identity, a rich history and so much untapped potential. That's why we believe Brent's best days are still ahead of us.

That belief must translate into changes that people can see and feel in their everyday lives. This Council Plan sets out what we want to deliver over the next four years, and the standard by which we should be judged. It will shape the decisions we take, the way we use the council's resources and the work council officers carry out every day.

We want to be honest about the context in which this Plan will be delivered: Brent has huge opportunities, but significant challenges too. Many families are struggling with the cost of living, and affordable housing is increasingly out of reach. Demand for council services is increasing while our resources to deliver them are getting tighter. There are stark differences in health outcomes and life chances across the different parts of Brent. Our changing climate is creating new challenges and will shape the borough for generations to come. These are some of the defining challenges of our time, and they demand sustained and urgent action from us all.

As well as facing into these challenges, we want this Plan to say something about how we can help people live better lives. Health, culture, sport and play are central to that ambition: they are part of the foundation of a good life, pride in our place and strong communities.

Brent has every reason to be bold about this. We are the home of the national football stadium. We have high-quality parks, green spaces and community organisations, and a proud sporting tradition that stretches well beyond the arch of Wembley. We have real opportunities ahead to transform our existing leisure facilities, invest in our parks and playgrounds, and bring forward new amenities, including a new outdoor lido for the borough.

For us, that is part of putting belief back into the borough. People should be able to look around their neighbourhood and see that things are getting better. A young person growing up in Brent should see opportunities ahead of them. Families going through a difficult period should know their circumstances today do not have to define their future. Good health, security and opportunity should not depend on your postcode or how much money is in your pocket.

As we deliver this Plan, the critical questions we will return to will be: are we making Brent cleaner, safer, healthier and more resilient to a changing climate? **And are we making Brent a better place, helping people build better lives, and creating a better Council that delivers for them?** If we're focused on these things, we can build on everything that makes Brent a place to be proud of. There's still lots to do, but we believe Brent's best days are yet to come.



Kim Wright
Chief Executive of Brent Council

Like councils across the country, Brent is facing significant financial pressures. The challenges our residents face are becoming more complex, expectations from our services continue to grow, and we must continue to make every pound count.

Behind all of this are real people and real lives. More residents are coming to us for support because they are dealing with the impact of rising living costs, housing insecurity, poor health and other challenges that often overlap. The reality is that people's lives do not fit neatly into organisational structures. Someone experiencing poor mental health may also be struggling with debt or housing costs. A family seeking housing support may also need help with childcare or special educational needs.

That is why our response cannot simply be to keep doing the same. We need to work differently.

We are building a council that is both more modern and more human. A council that makes the best use of technology, focuses relentlessly on what matters most, and works across organisational boundaries to provide more joined-up support. Just as importantly, we are strengthening our partnerships with the voluntary and community sector, the NHS, the Metropolitan Police, schools and businesses because the best outcomes for residents are achieved when we work together.

This Council Plan sets out the next chapter for Brent. It reflects what we have learned, the ambitions we have for our borough, and the commitments we are making to residents over the next four years.

The priorities set out here are deliberately focused on the things that matter most to our communities. They will guide our decisions, shape our investments and help us deliver meaningful improvements to people's everyday lives. It is a commitment to our residents, our communities and our partners about the kind of borough we want Brent to be and the role we will play in making that happen.

But this Plan is about more than what we will do. It is about *how* we will do it.

The challenges ahead are significant, but so too are Brent's strengths. We are one of the most diverse, dynamic and resilient places in the country, with ambitious communities, dedicated Council staff and strong partnerships. By working together, focusing on what matters most, staying bold and curious and remaining relentless in our pursuit of better outcomes, we can meet those challenges head on.

Over the next four years, we will continue to listen, learn and adapt. We will be ambitious for our residents, courageous in how we lead change, and focused on delivering real results. Above all, we will be a council that people can trust to stand alongside them, champion their aspirations and create opportunities for everyone to thrive in Brent, making it an even better place to live, work, study and visit.



We believe in Brent

A Brent that is a great place to live, work, visit, study, do business and raise a family.

A Brent that is safe, clean and green.

Where people have a good, affordable place to call home.

Where every young person can succeed.

Where people live healthy, active and independent lives.

Where we're open for business and connected to London and the world.

Where differences are celebrated and communities come together.

Where innovation and technology make life better.

Where everything we do is for our communities and residents.

A Brent to celebrate.

A Brent to believe in.

A Brent to be proud of.



About this Council Plan

This Council Plan sets out our priorities for the next four years. These priorities will guide the decisions we make, help us focus our resources and shape the work we do to deliver for residents.

Our **Priorities**



The first two priorities are supported by **focus areas**, which identify where we will concentrate our efforts to improve residents' lives. They bring our priorities to life by setting out the tangible changes and improvements residents can expect to see as a result of our work.

Understanding Brent

Brent is known around the world for Wembley Stadium, but it is the people, places and communities beyond the arch that make the borough unique.

Over 340,000 people call Brent home, and residents speak around 150 languages. Our communities take huge pride in Brent being one of the most culturally diverse areas in the country. This diversity is at the heart of Brent's identity.

As London's fifth largest borough, Brent has thriving town centres, from Kilburn to Ealing Road, that draw visitors from all over. It has award-winning parks and green spaces, and a vibrant small business community.

The figures below provide a snapshot of life in Brent, and some of our biggest opportunities and challenges. This Council Plan is focused on making the most of the opportunities and supporting our communities to overcome the challenges we face.

You can learn more in our Engagement and Evidence Report, which sets out the feedback and data that has helped us to develop this Council Plan.

Our opportunities



Neighbourhoods to be proud of

76% of residents are proud to live in Brent.

90% of Resident Attitudes Survey respondents are satisfied with their local area.

Up to £40m in long-term Pride in Place investment for Harlesden and St Raphael's.



Our diversity is our strength

56% of residents were born outside the UK – the highest proportion of any local authority in the country.

85% of residents say people from different backgrounds get on well together.

£238m estimated annual contribution of Brent's cultural economy.



A global destination creating local opportunities

Almost 16,000 businesses call Brent home.

90,000 seats at Wembley Stadium – the UK's largest stadium and Europe's second largest.

£4.35m+ spent locally by crowds at each non-sporting event at Wembley Stadium.



Building on what residents are telling us

77% of respondents to the Resident Attitudes Survey are satisfied with the way the council runs things and

71% feel the council responds to residents' concerns.

The top four things most valued by residents are a safe area free from crime (32%), health services (31%), public transport (29%) and rubbish collection and recycling facilities (26%).

Investing in the future of Brent

Over the life of this Council Plan, and the years beyond, we'll be working hard to invest in major infrastructure and regeneration projects to benefit Brent's residents, businesses and communities.

Our new Local Plan will sit alongside the Council Plan and help us decide where new homes, jobs, shops and community facilities should be built, how neighbourhoods should grow, and which green spaces, heritage assets and local landmarks should be protected.

Here are some examples of the infrastructure and regeneration projects we're supporting over the coming years with our partners.

- **Continuing our ambitious programme of housebuilding** to build on the delivery of 20,000 new homes over the past decade.
- **Old Oak and Park Royal development**, one of the largest regeneration projects in London, which will deliver 25,000 new homes and 65,000 new jobs.
- **South Kilburn estate regeneration**, including at least 2,400 new homes, new health and education facilities, improved greenspace and retail facilities.
- **Development at Staples Corner,** including new business premises, 3,000 new homes, improved greenspace and new infrastructure.
- **Bridge Park Leisure Centre redevelopment**, which will also deliver 1,300 new homes, an adult education centre and community and green spaces.
- **Working with partners to support the delivery of major public transport projects,** including working with Transport for London and other London councils to secure a new West London Orbital Line (WLO), and an upgrade and extension of the Bakerloo Line.



Challenges

A lack of affordable homes and homelessness

170+ households approach the council as homeless every week.

2,550+ households live in temporary accommodation, including around 4,000 children.

£30m+ spent by the council on temporary accommodation every year.

Brent is the **2nd least affordable** place to live in England.

Poverty and the cost of living

Around 1 in 7 residents are finding it difficult or very difficult to cope with the cost of living.

42% of children live in poverty after housing costs.

29% of Brent's neighbourhoods are among the 20% most deprived in England.

1 in 3 working-age adults were not in work at the 2021 Census.

Health inequalities

7.3 years - the gap in male life expectancy linked to deprivation in Brent, compared with 3.3 years for women.

Almost 1 in 4 Year 6 pupils live with obesity.

Nearly half of residents want to increase the amount of exercise they do (45%).

Keeping our neighbourhoods safe

32% of residents say tackling crime and antisocial behaviour is their top priority.

38% want the council and its partners to prioritise investment in making neighbourhoods safer.

30.6 antisocial behaviour incidents per 1,000 residents, compared with 27.1 across London.

2nd highest in London for hospital admissions related to violent crime, at 57.2 per 100,000 residents.

Growing demand for our services

Around **4,300** adults with no social care support in the previous year were assessed – 80% more than the London average of 2,400.

Over 20,000 children have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

4,452 children have an Education, Health and Care Plan, a 10% increase compared to last year.

Financial pressure on councils

£10m in savings needed by the Council in 2026/27.

£7bn projected funding gap for councils across England by 2028/29.

£5.2bn collective budget shortfall facing London councils over the next four years.

What Brent Council does for you

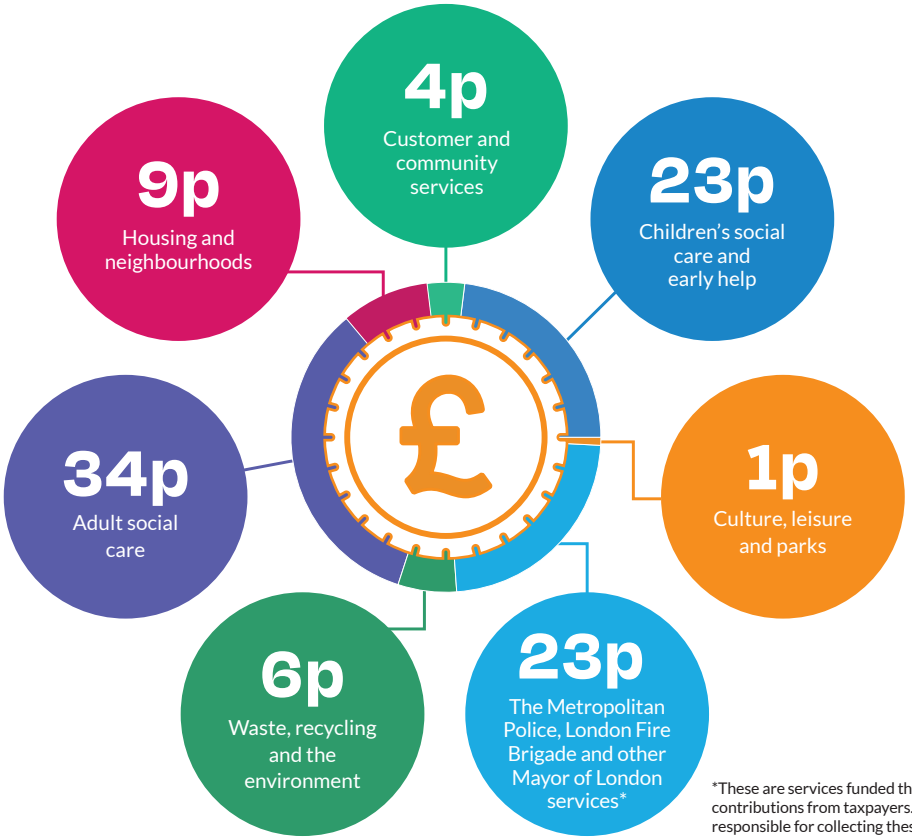
Whether you live, work, study or do business in Brent, or are visiting, you are likely to use council services.

Take a look below to see some of the different services we provide

- Adult social care
- Children's social care and early help
- Housing
- Homelessness support
- Education and schools
- Community safety
- Responding to anti-social behaviour
- Supporting local businesses for economic growth
- Community engagement
- Waste collection and recycling
- Registration of births and deaths
- Marriage and citizenship ceremonies
- Environmental issues and climate action
- Council tax and business rates
- Elections
- Benefits and financial advice
- Libraries, culture and heritage
- Parking, roads and transport
- Parks and green spaces
- Leisure
- Public health
- Neighbourhood planning and building control

Where we spend most of our money

Like most councils in England, most of our money is spent on adult social care and children's social care and early help. The diagram below shows how every pound we spend has been allocated across Council services in the 2026/27 budget.



*These are services funded through contributions from taxpayers. The Council is responsible for collecting these contributions.

For adult social care, this includes short-term help and longer-term support for people with more complex needs. We provide support with independent living, including transport, housing and care for residents who are finding it difficult to manage at home.

We are committed to providing the best start in life for our children and young people. Our services for Brent's children and young people include, but aren't limited to, overseeing community schools and ensuring access to high-quality education, support for children in care and foster families, youth offending services, and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Working with others to deliver services

To make sure we're delivering the services our communities need, we work with partners like the NHS, Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade and other government agencies, as well as with local voluntary organisations, community groups and businesses. We're also committed to supporting residents to take action in their local areas.

We always want to hear from our communities to help us shape services around their needs within the resources we have available. Whether that is online through the Have Your Say platform, in person at one of our many events, or putting questions to elected officials at Council meetings, we have a range of opportunities for people who live and work in Brent to be involved in decision making.

Priority 1

A borough to be proud of

We want Brent to be the best place to live, work and build a future, with neighbourhoods that are safe, welcoming and vibrant. We want it to be a place that people are proud of and celebrate.

We will work with residents, communities and businesses to invest in our homes, town centres, streets and green spaces, so people of all ages have places and spaces where they can live good lives.

Our focus areas

To see these ambitions come to life, we'll focus on three key areas:

- A good place to call home
- Thriving town centres and high streets
- Cleaner, greener, safer neighbourhoods


Brent
VEOLIA
GLADSTONE PARK
Brent
GUEST
GUEST
GUEST

A good place to call home

This means:

- We will do everything possible within our means to end homelessness in Brent.
- We will help everyone in Brent to access a safe, secure, quality and affordable home that meets their needs and supports them to live a good life.
- More people are supported to stay in their homes, because early help prevents problems from escalating and reduces the risk of homelessness.
- People experiencing homelessness are supported into stable accommodation and given the right support to regain independence.
- Council tenants live in safe, well-maintained homes and receive reliable and responsive services that are focused on their needs.
- Private renters live in good quality homes, understand their rights and are protected from unlawful and unfair treatment.



To deliver this we will:

- Work with partners and across services to help people stay in their homes, including by providing access to the early advice and support they need.
- Increase access to affordable and suitable homes, through new supply and better use of existing housing.
- Explore making homes more resilient to changing climate conditions, including hotter, drier summers and colder, wetter winters.
- Reduce the need for, cost of, and time spent in temporary accommodation, by helping more people move into stable homes.
- Improve the quality, safety and maintenance of council homes, and act as a responsible and reliable landlord to our tenants.
- Work with landlords and housing providers, and act where needed, to improve housing conditions in the private rented sector.
- Launch a Housing Compact between the Council and social housing providers that sets out how we'll work together to address the housing crisis and deliver better outcomes for residents.

Thriving town centres and high streets

This means:

- Residents, visitors and business owners experience high streets and town centres that are safe, clean, welcoming, green and well-maintained places to visit, spend time and do business.
- Residents have easy access to a diverse mix of essential services, independent businesses, culture and leisure opportunities close to where they live, with fewer vacant shops and premises.
- Communities see fewer concentrations of businesses that undermine wellbeing, such as vape shops and gambling arcades.
- Residents feel proud of thriving high streets and town centres that reflect the character, identity and ambitions of their communities, with attractive public and green spaces.
- Local businesses are recognised for the contribution they make to the local economy and supported to thrive, with more businesses choosing to invest in Brent.

To deliver this we will:

- Work with local people and businesses to make Brent's high streets and town centres safer, cleaner, greener and more attractive.
- Continue to take strong action to reduce the concentration of premises that undermine community wellbeing, including vape shops, rogue traders and gambling arcades.
- Continue to invest in and support Brent's small businesses to start, grow and succeed.
- Work to secure local control over income from the new local visitor levy, so that we can invest in Brent and maximise benefits for local businesses and residents.
- Develop a new Town Centres Strategy, that sets out how we'll invest in town centres and high streets, and work directly with businesses and communities to identify opportunities to improve them.
- Embed culture and creativity into our high streets and town centres through community-led events, public art and creative use of spaces.
- Review parking arrangements across the borough to make sure they remain fit for purpose and work well for everyone.
- Work to make sure our businesses benefit from Brent being home to Wembley Stadium and hosting major national and international events such as UEFA EURO 2028.



Cleaner, greener, safer neighbourhoods

This means:

- Residents take pride in their neighbourhoods, feel a strong sense of belonging, and have opportunities to shape and improve the places they call home.
- Residents enjoy streets and public spaces that are safe, clean, green, vibrant and welcoming, and designed around how people live, move and spend time.
- Everyone feels safe and secure where they live, and as they go about their day-to-day activities, because crime and violence are tackled effectively by the Police working collaboratively with the Council and other partners.
- People can choose from a range of transport modes to get around and access the services and amenities they need, including having more opportunities to walk, wheel and cycle.
- People can travel around Brent easily on safe, well-maintained roads and pavements.
- Everyone can access high-quality parks, open spaces and tree-lined streets across the borough, which help to address the impacts of climate change and support a more resilient Brent.
- Air quality is improved across the borough, and action is taken in hotspots where pollution is at its worst.



To deliver this we will:

- Work with partners, including the Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, voluntary sector and others to tackle violent crime and strengthen safety in our communities.
- Develop and deliver our new Community Safety Strategy with key partners.
- Install emergency bleed kits in key locations across the borough and continue working with partners on knife amnesty and tackling knife crime.
- Work in partnership with the Police to identify options to strengthen neighbourhood policing.
- Invest in our roads and pavements, including repairing potholes and making our pavements safe.
- Build on our Don't Mess with Brent campaign to tackle fly-tipping and keep streets clean and well-maintained.
- Work with communities to support local initiatives that improve streets and public spaces, such as community skips and clean up days.
- Continue to take action to support our communities to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Work with communities to plant more trees and create greener spaces across the borough.
- Continue our work to introduce more green corridors throughout the borough, to link active travel routes and green spaces.
- Continue to monitor and report on our air quality status to drive progress towards cleaner air across the borough.
- Do everything possible within our means to try to achieve net zero for our corporate estate and operations by 2030.
- Work with partners and continue to invest to ensure that residents have access to a range of transport options, including more options to use public transport, walk, wheel and cycle.
- Develop new, and expand existing, School Streets where they can improve safety and reduce congestion and pollution around schools.

Priority 2

A borough where people thrive

We want Brent to be a place where everyone has the opportunity to build and live a good life, with access to the support, skills and opportunities they need to succeed. By supporting residents of all ages to learn, work, stay healthy and live independently, we will help people achieve their ambitions and build secure futures. We will focus more on intervening early where we can, providing the right support at the right time to prevent needs from escalating as well as helping people navigate cost of living pressures.

Our focus areas

To see these ambitions come to life, we'll focus on two key areas:

- Tackling the cost of living by unlocking potential
- Healthy, active communities

Tackling the cost of living by unlocking potential

This means:

- Residents can access the advice and support they need to manage the cost of living early, to prevent financial difficulties from becoming a crisis.
- Partners across Brent work together to reduce poverty and inequality and support residents to live secure and independent lives.
- Doing all we can to alleviate poverty for children and young people, by putting support in place to help them reach their full potential.
- Everyone can overcome barriers to opportunity, with no one held back by disadvantage, or prevented from reaching their full potential.
- Every child and young person across Brent gets the best start in life and has the confidence, skills and opportunities they need to reach their potential.
- Children and families in Brent can continue to access high-quality schools.
- More residents have the skills, qualifications and opportunities they need to secure good jobs and progress in their careers.
- Brent has a thriving, inclusive economy where businesses can access the skilled local workforce they need to grow and succeed.

To deliver this we will:

- Provide targeted support for residents facing financial hardship through programmes including the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, Resident Support Fund – Crisis Payments, and Council Tax Support Scheme.
- Provide residents with easy access to cost of living and financial and debt management advice and support through neighbourhood-based services such as Brent Hubs, the New Horizons Centre, Best Start Family Hubs and libraries.
- Support residents to identify, access and navigate financial support they may be entitled to, including pensions and the Personal Independence Payment (PIP).
- Introduce an Education Maintenance Allowance to help remove barriers to education and opportunity.
- Launch a School Uniform Grant and encourage more school uniform Swap Shops to help families manage the cost of school essentials.
- Develop a new Inclusive Growth Strategy to raise skill levels, improve routes into good quality employment, support business and attract investment into the borough, to make sure that growth benefits Brent's communities.
- Continue our work to invest in and support schools so they can support children and young people to reach their full potential.
- Work with schools, colleges, universities and employers to help residents develop the skills they need for future opportunities.
- Create more opportunities for residents to access training, apprenticeships and employment support.
- Use council-owned spaces such as libraries and Best Start Family Hubs to help residents access support, develop new skills and take part in cultural and community life.



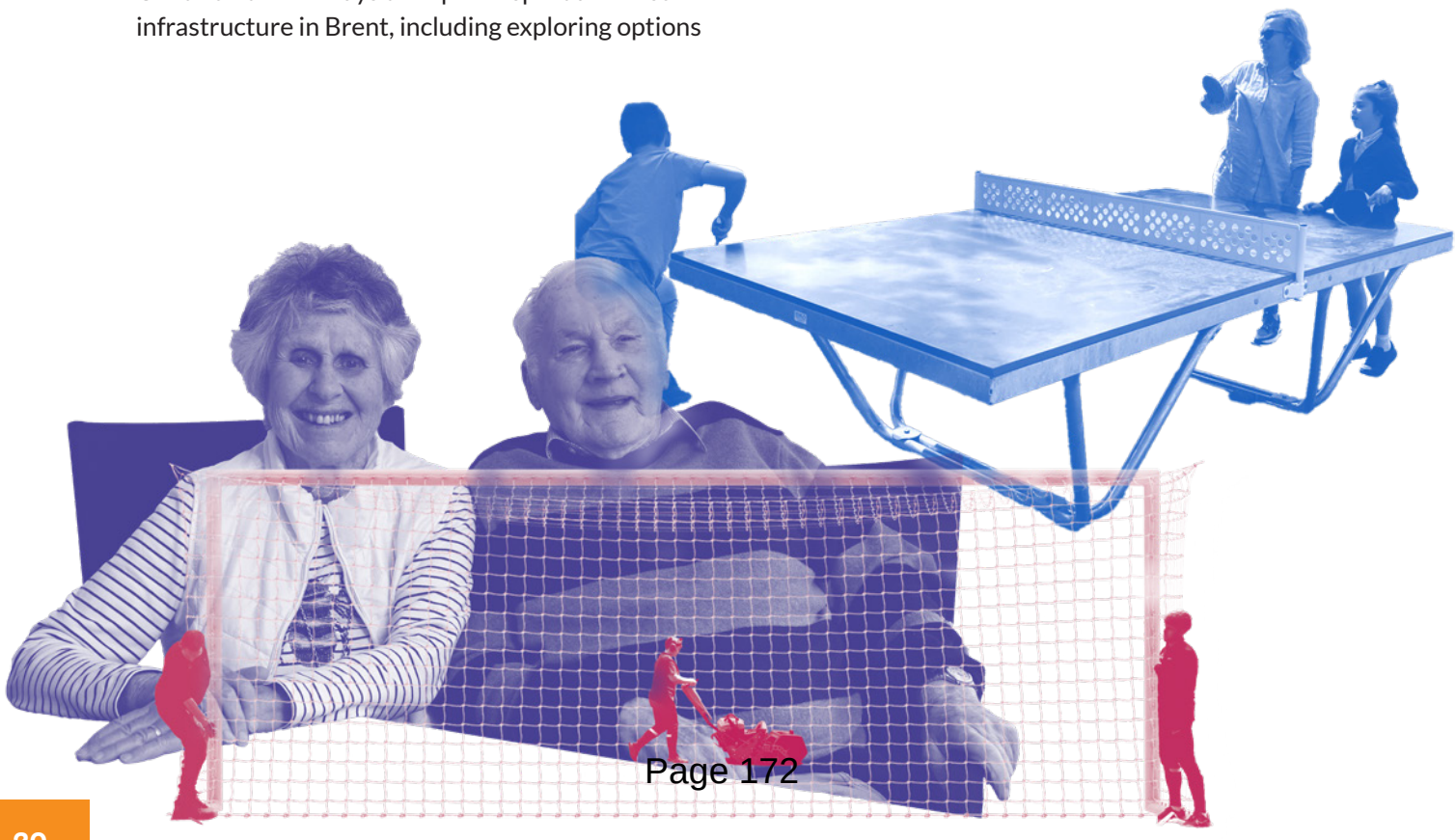
Healthy, active communities

This means:

- Residents can access the health, care and wellbeing support they need at the right time, helping them stay healthy, independent and connected to their communities.
- Brent is a borough where everyone can be active, play and lead a healthier life.
- Everyone can access affordable opportunities to be active, regardless of their age, background or income.
- Every resident can enjoy parks, playgrounds and leisure facilities close to home that are safe, welcoming and vibrant spaces to play, exercise and spend time outdoors.
- People can walk and cycle safely and easily across the borough, with more opportunities to choose healthier and greener ways to travel.

To deliver this we will:

- Work with communities where health outcomes are poorer, including through our Public Health services, the Brent Health Matters and Brent Active Together programmes, to reduce health inequalities and make it easier to get the right support early, so people can stay well and independent for longer.
- Work with partners to encourage more residents to be active, improve their health and wellbeing and live independent lives.
- Invest in our parks and playgrounds to create better spaces for residents to be active and spend time outdoors.
- Continue to find ways to improve sport and leisure infrastructure in Brent, including exploring options for a lido in the borough, renovating existing sites and looking at ways to ensure developers contribute to improving open space.
- Improve access to affordable physical activity opportunities, particularly for children and young people.
- Build on the opportunities created by Brent being home to Wembley Stadium to enable more residents to take part in sport, leisure and recreation, and ensure that hosting UEFA EURO 2028 leaves a lasting legacy of better facilities, infrastructure and opportunities for our communities.



Priority 3

A council that delivers for you

We are committed to delivering the best possible outcomes for the residents and communities we serve – and delivering the things we've said we'll do in this Plan.

To make sure we deliver our ambitions within the financial and organisational constraints we face, we need to work differently. Over the next four years, we'll be working hard to make changes to how we do things *with* and *for* our residents.

While much of this priority is about how we work as an organisation, it's also about how we work with others. Every day, community groups, voluntary organisations, businesses and individuals across Brent work tirelessly to make a difference in their communities. We want to support them, work alongside them and build on what they do to achieve the best possible outcomes for our communities.

We will:

- Put residents and customers first, **organising our work around their needs and outcomes**, instead of how our departments are set up, so that it is easier for residents to access and use the services they need.
- **Take early, preventative action** to prevent people from reaching crisis point and reduce demand for services, especially homelessness and social care services.
- **Ensure financial sustainability** so that we can continue to afford to deliver the services that matter to residents.
- **Work in neighbourhoods** and in a joined-up way with partners to deliver services and support in the places people live and spend time.
- **Empower our communities** to shape a better Brent, by involving them in decision-making, enabling local action and working with them to improve services.
- **Empower our staff to question, innovate and lead** by developing the leadership, culture, workforce and skills that we need, so that we continue to find ways to do things differently.
- **Use data, insight and digital tools** so that our decisions are evidence-based and we can deliver services more efficiently.
- **Lead by example** by using the Council's spending, jobs, buildings, contracts and relationships to deliver benefits for the local economy by supporting local people, community and voluntary organisations and businesses.

Our work to change how we're doing things will mean that you:

- Find it easier to get the support you need, because our services are simpler, more responsive and designed around what matters to you.
- Only need to tell us your story once, because our council teams and partners will work in a more joined-up way around your needs, rather than you having to navigate separate services.
- Will see more of the council's time and resources focused on the things that matter the most to residents.
- Benefit from a council that is better able to manage its resources and respond to future challenges, because we make clearer choices about how we spend our money, and focus on preventing problems and managing demand.
- Receive better services from a council that continues to improve, because we invest in the right leadership, skills, technology, data and culture to develop new, innovative and better ways of working.
- Are more confident that the council is delivering on its commitments, because we have clearer plans, measures and governance arrangements in place to ensure we're accountable for the priorities that matter to residents.
- See us supporting and working more closely with public services, businesses, voluntary and community organisations and other partners to improve outcomes for Brent's communities.
- Hear more regularly about the work we're doing and have more opportunities to share your views, get involved and help shape decisions about what happens in your local area.
- Have more opportunities to work with us to improve how we're delivering services, and have our support to take action in your local area to address challenges and make the most of opportunities.

Our values

As well as being guided by our commitment to delivering good outcomes for residents, our organisational values will guide everything we do.

COLLABORATE PROACTIVELY

This means collaborating and working together to create change and build a stronger, more inclusive Brent.

LEAD INCLUSIVELY

This means celebrating diversity and embracing fairness and respect, because every voice matters at Brent.

EMBRACE CHANGE

This means being flexible and agile, taking bold steps towards our ambitions and building resilience with every change we make.

BE BOLD AND CURIOUS

This means being creative, curious and bold, breaking barriers and embracing innovation to find better ways of delivering for residents.

CELEBRATE AND SHARE OUR SUCCESS

This means celebrating our strengths and achievements, and the pride that we have in Brent, so that we can unlock greatness and reach new heights together.


Brent
Brent
Lenovo

Turning ambition into action

The Council Plan sets out what we want to achieve over the next four years. Delivering on our ambitions will require focus, accountability and a commitment to working together and doing things differently. This section explains how we will turn our ambitions into action, how we will measure progress, and how we will keep residents informed about the progress we're making.

How we'll deliver on this plan

This Plan will guide the council's decisions, investment and day-to-day activity over the next four years. Each priority is supported by a set of outcomes and actions that will help us focus our efforts on the things that matter most to residents.

We'll develop an annual Delivery Plan that will sit alongside the Council Plan, which will set out in more detail what exactly we're doing to deliver on the promises we've made in the Council Plan.

Delivering our ambitions will require us to work closely with our communities, partners and businesses, making the most of the strengths that already exist across Brent.

Monitoring our progress and keeping residents informed

We will be accountable for delivering this Plan and ensure that progress is regularly reviewed by councillors and senior leaders.

We will use a range of performance measures to track our progress against the priorities in this Plan and to understand the impact our work is having. We will report regularly to Cabinet and via our communications channels on the outcomes we're achieving and difference our work is making.

Regular reporting on our progress will help us to celebrate successes, identify where more action is needed and continuously improve the services we provide.

We will continue to listen to feedback and use a range of channels to keep residents informed and involved.

Spending every pound with purpose

Like all councils across the country, we face increasing demand for services alongside significant financial pressures. This means we cannot do everything at once and must make careful choices about where we focus our resources. Through the annual budget setting process, we will prioritise spending on the services residents rely on most, invest in prevention where it can reduce future demand, and target resources where they will have the greatest impact on people's lives. Our decisions will be guided by the priorities set out in this Council Plan, so that every pound we spend, every decision we make and every service we deliver is aligned to the outcomes that matter most to residents.


VEOLIA
THE LIBRARY
Brent



How we developed the Council Plan

Engagement and Evidence Report

Brent

COLLABORATE PROACTIVELY

LEAD INCLUSIVELY

EMBRACE CHANGE

BE BOLD AND CURIOUS

CELEBRATE AND SHARE OUR SUCCESS

About this report

This guide explains what's in this Engagement and Evidence Report, and how to navigate through it.

The evidence and what we've heard

This report sets out the engagement that took place to inform the Council Plan. It sets out the key things we heard from residents, Members, staff and partners, and the other evidence sources we drew on to develop the Council Plan.

How we developed the Council Plan

Page three of this report sets out the process that we followed to develop the Council Plan. It shows how we used evidence and information to reach the final structure and content of the Council Plan and explains the difference between Council Plan priorities and focus areas.

How the feedback and evidence shaped the Council Plan

Throughout this report we've explained how we used what we heard and the information we gathered to inform the Council Plan's priorities and focus areas. You can find this information inside purple boxes like the one shown on the right.

How this shaped the Plan

You can find more detail on each page inside purple boxes like this one.

Brent

COLLABORATE PROACTIVELY

LEAD INCLUSIVELY

EMBRACE CHANGE

BE BOLD AND CURIOUS

CELEBRATE AND SHARE OUR SUCCESS

How the Council Plan was developed

What informed the Council Plan: the evidence

Resident views
- Resident Attitudes Survey
- Council Plan survey
- Existing resident feedback and community insight

Political priorities
- Analysis of party manifestos
- Member engagement

Staff and service insight
- Staff surveys
- Discussions with key services

Partners and stakeholders
- Conversations with our strategic partners

Other data and local evidence
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Brent Wellbeing Index
- Indices of Deprivation 2025
- Poverty and inequality data
- Census 2021

Bringing it all together

- We brought together everything residents, Members, staff, partners and key datasets told us.
- We then identified the biggest themes, opportunities, needs and gaps.
- This helped us to understand where we could have the greatest impact and make the most meaningful difference for residents and communities.
- We balanced this against the Council's statutory responsibilities, financial position, and available resources, because we can't include everything people told us in the Council Plan.
- We thought about the things that we will need to do in partnership with others – because we can't do everything on our own.
- We turned this evidence and analysis into a focused set of priorities and activities to test with Members.

Council Plan



Our priorities
The ambitions we have for our communities and outcomes we want to deliver

Focus areas
Visible, high-profile commitments that will help us to achieve our ambitions

Delivery
- Directorate Plans
- Budget
- Partnership working
- Measuring and reporting on our progress
- Keeping residents informed

Brent

Resident Attitudes Survey (RAS) – Key Results

Every four – five years the Council carries out a Resident Attitudes Survey (RAS), with an independent research partner, DJS Research. The RAS provides a snapshot of residents' views on their priorities, their neighbourhood and the service the Council provides. The survey took place between 15 May – 30 July 2026, with a total of **2,207 people** interviewed. The RAS involved face-to-face interviews – 1,846 at the doorstep and 361 in the street. There were approximately 100 interviews carried out in each of Brent's 22 wards, with targets for characteristics like age, gender, disability, ethnicity and working status to reflect the demographics of Brent's overall population. We acknowledge that this is only one set of data, captured at a particular point in time, and needs to be read alongside other insights and sources of data.

Satisfaction with local area

90% ↑

2021: 81%
LGA: 72%

Satisfaction with Council

77% ↑

2021: 72%
LGA: 51%

Value for money

56% ↑

2021: 51%
LGA: 38%

Council acts on concerns

71%

2021: N/A
LGA: 53%

Council keeps residents informed

80% ↑

2021: 64%
LGA: 49%

Experiencing some form of financial difficulty

38%

2021: N/A
LGA: N/A

Struggling with the Cost of living

15%

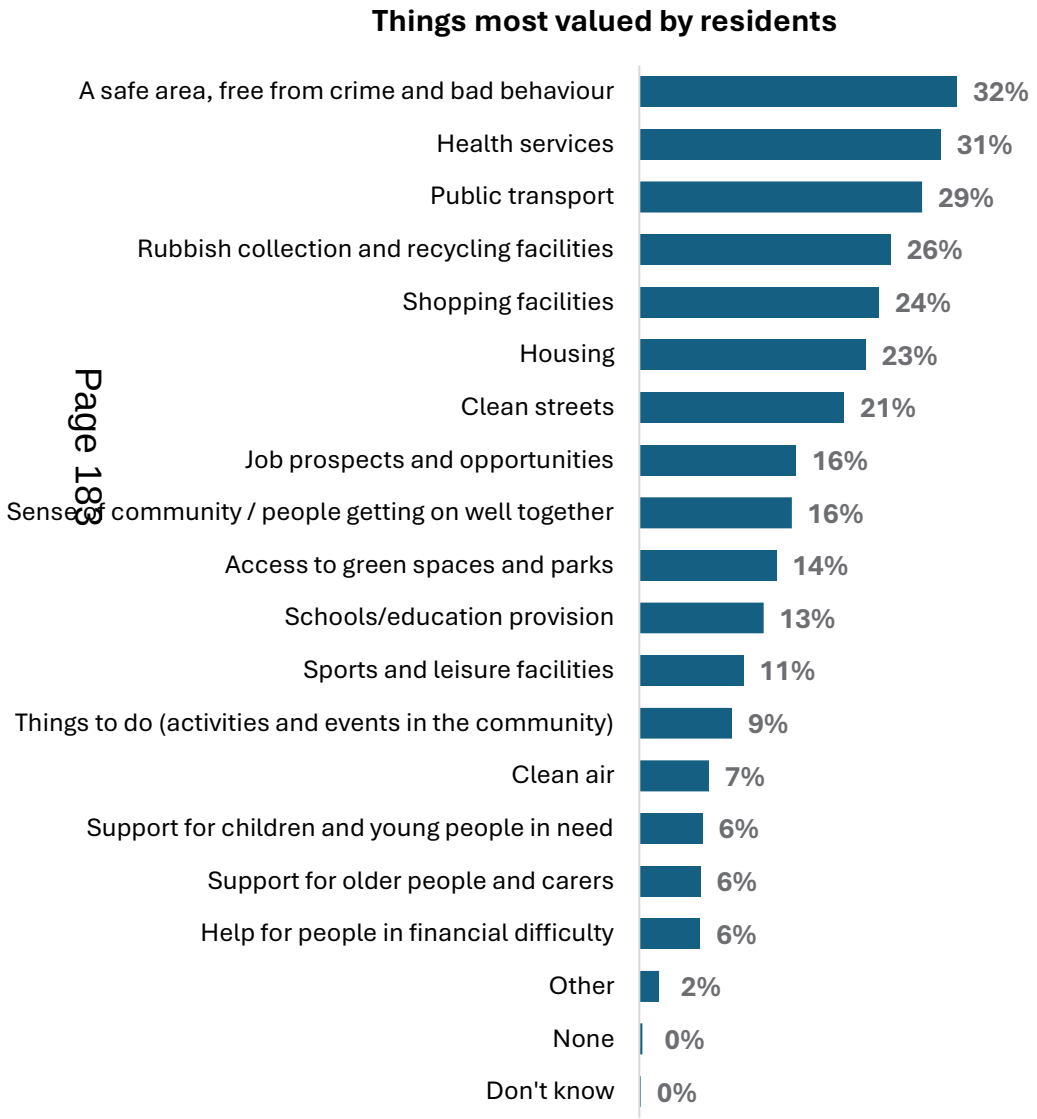
2021: N/A
LGA: N/A

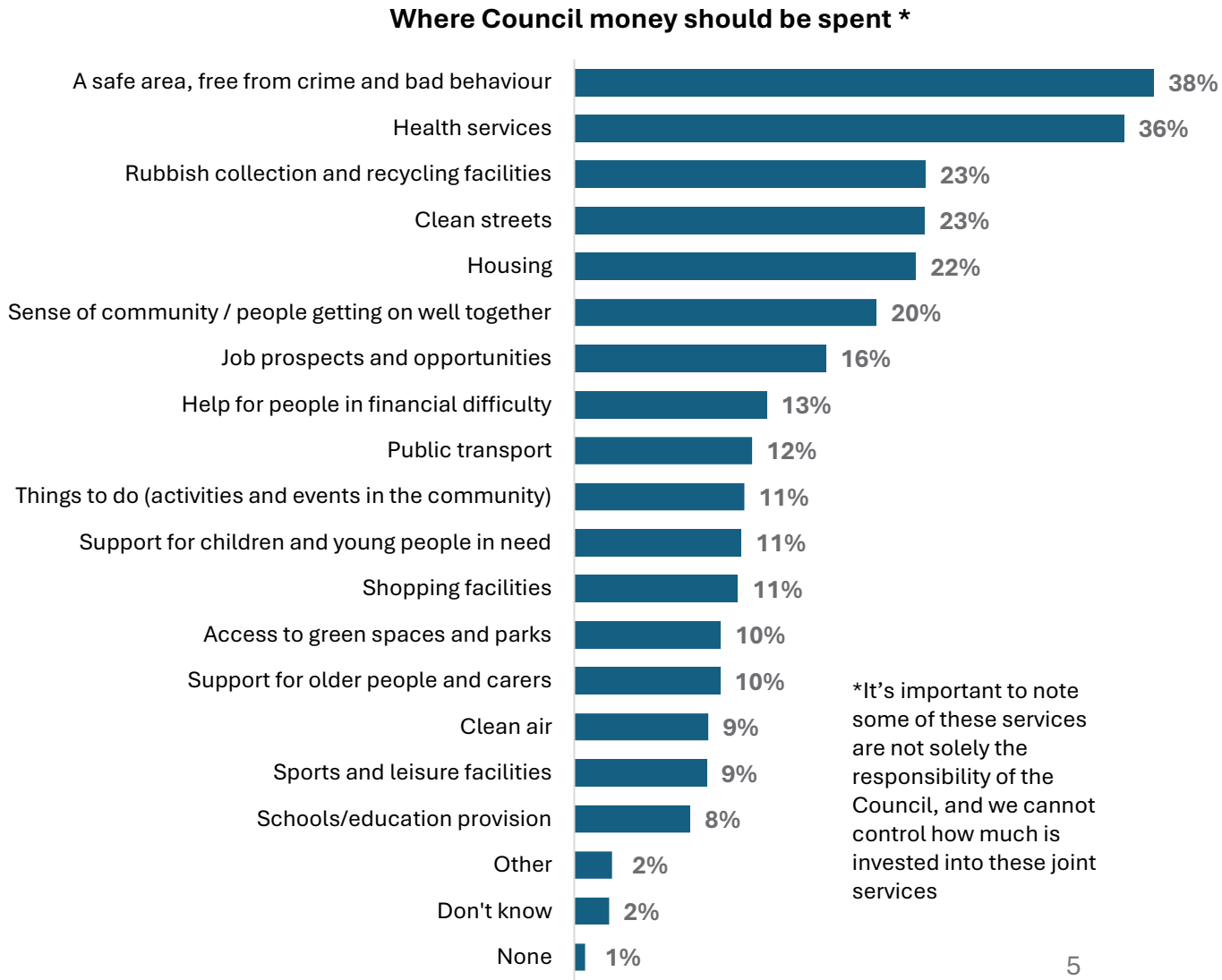
Arrows display a significant change vs. 2021.

How this shaped the Plan

RAS data helped us to make sure that the Council Plan is focused on the things that matter most to residents. The data points strongly to residents' concerns about safety and struggles with the cost of living - both of which are addressed through the Council Plan's focus areas, ***Cleaner, greener, safer neighbourhoods*** and ***Tackling the cost of living by unlocking potential.***

RAS – Things most valued by residents





*It's important to note some of these services are not solely the responsibility of the Council, and we cannot control how much is invested into these joint services

RAS respondent profile

Gender

48% Man

52% Woman

Economic activity status

69% Active

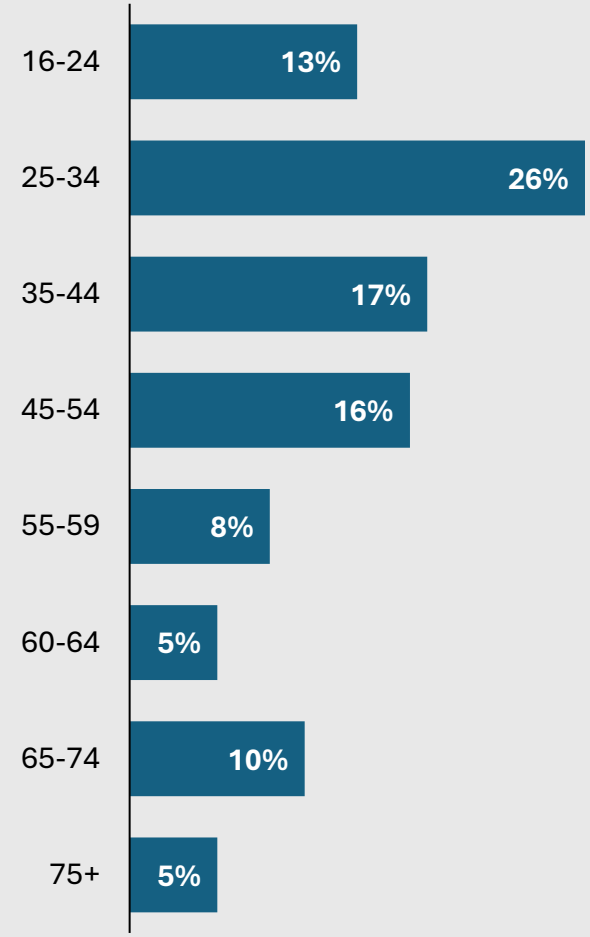
31% Inactive

Disability

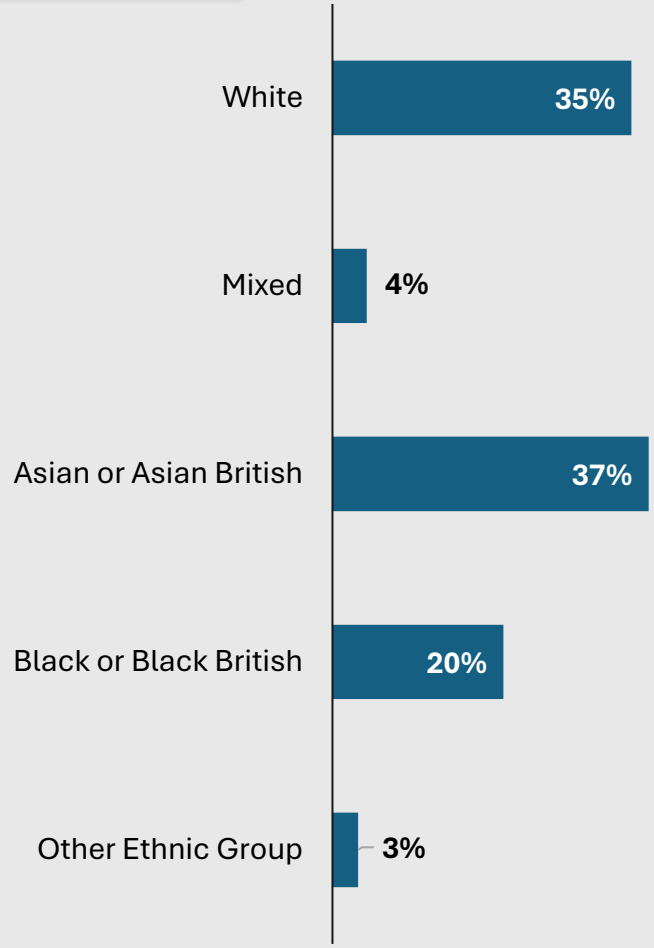
15% Yes

85% No

Age



Ethnicity



Figures may not sum to 100% due to refusals (not charted) or rounding. Weighted figures shown.

Help shape Brent's next Council Plan survey

During July and August 2026, we asked residents via a short online survey to tell us what makes Brent a great place to live, and what should be improved. We received **752 responses from residents, business owners and community and voluntary sector organisations**. A summary of the survey responses is on the other side of this page.

To make sure we heard from as many people as possible, we promoted the survey via our digital channels, at community events and to key partners, including voluntary and community organisations and faith groups. More detail on how we did this is included on slide 9.

Who did we hear from?

- Most respondents were aged 45-54 (20.3%) and 65+ (19.1%)
- 42.6% responses were from people working full time, 17.4% of respondents are retired
- 6.3% responses were from business owners/representatives
- 7.5% responses were from voluntary and community sector organisations

How this shaped the Plan

In response to this feedback, the Council Plan makes a number of commitments around improving the safety, cleanliness and attractiveness of public spaces, and improving town centres and high streets. It also commits to providing residents with cost of living support, and support to access good employment, skills and training opportunities. Improving the service that the Council provides to residents is at the heart of the Council Plan.

What makes Brent a great place to live?

- Our mixed communities and vibrant multicultural character.
- Good transport links, and strong connectivity.
- High streets that are easy to visit.
- Compared to neighbouring boroughs, residents feel Brent is relatively affordable.

What should be improved in Brent over the next four years?

- Local streets to be cleaner, safer and more pleasant to walk along, with less visible drug use, harassment and anti-social behaviour.
- A better mix of shops on high streets, rather than concentrations of betting and vape shops.
- Concerns around overdevelopment – need for a better balance between accommodating new residents and supporting existing communities.
- More help with housing, food banks and employability.
- Local jobs and opportunities should be prioritised for Brent residents.

If Brent could improve just one thing over the next four years, would make the biggest difference to you, your family or your community?

- The condition, safety and attractiveness of local streets and town centres.
- Improved traffic and street management, including safer walking and cycling, fairer parking/event day permit arrangements and better handling of roadworks.
- Faster and more compassionate council support for older and disabled residents, with non-digital options available.
- More community-run indoor and outdoor spaces.

Help shape Brent's next Council Plan survey

Here are some of the things you told us:

"Improve our environment, so we can [be] proud to live in Brent..."

"Closing down betting shops and fighting new ones opening."

"Prioritise children and young people. They deserve to feel safe both at school and in their community, receive a good standard of education and have safe places to go after school, at weekends and during holidays."

"We need cleaner streets, free from rubbish."

"Every family should have somewhere safe and healthy to live."

"Invest in leisure facilities, allow young people and all people to enjoy."

"Support local businesses so they are able to open and thrive."



Help shape Brent's next Council Plan survey – getting communities involved

This page shows the work that we did to make sure that as many residents and communities were aware of the survey and had the opportunity to share their thoughts with us.

Benchmarking – We compared the number of responses to our Council Plan survey with responses received by other local authorities that used the Go Vocal survey platform for their Council Plan engagement in 2025. The number of responses we received compares favourably, indicating strong levels of engagement.

Council	Survey respondents
Brent Council	**752**
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	584
Wokingham	433
Reading Borough Council	163

During the consultation period, the Council Plan survey page received **2,523 visits**, indicating strong awareness and interest, even where residents chose not to submit a survey response.

Community Network Promotion
The survey was circulated through established community engagement networks including:
- Faith groups
- Disability networks
- Pensioners groups
- Community and voluntary sector organisations
- Other key stakeholders

Community Outreach Activity
The Council promoted the survey at a number of community events and forums across the borough:
- Summer Streets events in Wembley, Willesden, Kingsbury and Kenton
- Brent Pensioners Forum
- One Kilburn Forum
- Brent Health Matters pop-up events
- Free Health Conversations session at Willesden Library

Faith Community Engagement
The survey was promoted through the Brent Multi Faith Forum and shared directly with a range of faith organisations and places of worship including:
- Central Mosque Willesden
- BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Neasden
- Kingsbury Mandir
- St Gabriel's Church
- Brazilian Evangelical Church
- Brahma Kumaris
- Willesden Baptist Church
- Hillside Islamic Cultural Centre
- Wembley Synagogue
- Brondesbury Park Synagogue
- Makor Hayim Synagogue
- Brent Sikh Centre (Kingsbury)

Community and Voluntary Sector Engagement
The survey was promoted through a variety of community and voluntary sector organisations, including:
- Ashford Place
- Higher Potential
- South Kilburn Trust
- Divine Purpose
- Brent Indian Association
- United Borders
- Asian People's Disability Alliance (APDA)
- Brent Punjabi Association
- Connect Stars
- Civil Litigation For All

Member engagement

We began our work to develop the Council Plan by analysing the manifestos of each political group elected to Brent Council. Manifestos reflect political priorities developed through extensive engagement with residents.

We met with Cabinet Members, Political Group Leaders and Councillors throughout the development of the Council Plan to help us to understand what Members hear from the residents and communities they represent and speak to everyday. We continually adapted the Council Plan in response to the feedback we heard.

What we did:

- Confirmed with Members that our manifesto analysis was accurate
- Had multiple conversations with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council
- Had a number of conversations with each Political Group Leader
- Had a conversation with each Cabinet member, focused on making sure the Council Plan reflects their area(s) of responsibility
- Had a number of discussions with Cabinet
- Gave all Political Group Leaders the opportunity to come together to discuss and provide feedback on the Council Plan's emerging priorities and focus areas
- Invited Members from all three scrutiny committees to consider the draft Council Plan, ask questions and provide challenge and feedback

How this shaped the Plan

Councillors' insights shaped the structure, priorities and focus areas of the Council Plan at every stage. We listened to and incorporated their feedback, while balancing the needs and priorities of each party.

Staff Insights - survey and discussions

We asked staff for their feedback (via a survey and a number of discussions) about what they hear from residents, partners and communities; what work they think the Council should continue doing; and what changes they think the Council needs to make. The table below sets out some of the key themes we heard.

What feedback do you hear most often about your service from residents, communities, businesses or partners?

- Importance of Council services that are easy to access and understand, and responsive to residents' needs.
- A need for clearer communication and more regular updates.
- Concerns about waiting times and the challenge of navigating multiple different services, especially when dealing with complex issues.
- Concerns about street cleanliness, rubbish collection and safety of roads.
- Challenges accessing affordable housing.
- Challenges with the cost of living.
- Residents value being able to access services locally.
- Positive feedback about helpful staff and support that has made a difference to people's lives.

What work is the Council doing well that should continue for the next four years?

- Maintain strong face-to-face support.
- Help for residents facing challenges such as homelessness and financial hardship.
- Continue to create a cleaner, greener and more sustainable borough, including by investing in tree planting, active travel, recycling and climate action.
- Continue to invest in public spaces, libraries and community facilities.
- Taking strong action to improve housing standards for private renters.
- Making efforts to join up Council services and with partners.
- Improving technology, data dn innovative ways of working.

Recognising the constraints we have, what changes should the Council make in the next four years?

- Make Council services simpler, more joined up and easier to access.
- Streamline processes and improve communication between teams to reduce the need for residents to repeat information and navigate multiple services.
- Focus resources on supporting residents who are facing the most significant cost of living and housing pressures.
- Invest in digital services, technology and staff skills to improve efficiency and service quality.
- Continued investment in improving housing and neighbourhoods.

How this shaped the Plan

Staff feedback has largely been reflected in the ***Council that delivers for you*** priority. This priority outlines how we will work as an organisation, and with partners, to deliver meaningful improvements to people's lives. It commits the Council to taking early, preventative action; better joining up Council services and working closely with partners; and using technology and data to improve service delivery.

Feedback from our key partners

We work closely with partners across the public, private and community sectors. Earlier in 2026, we hosted a meeting with key strategic partners to discuss the most critical challenges and opportunities we have in Brent, and that we can work on collectively to improve the lives of Brent residents. Although the Council Plan is focused on the things that Brent Council can deliver as an organisation, incorporating perspectives from other sectors and partners helps to ensure that the Council Plan's priorities reflect local needs, support partnership working and help improve the lives of our communities. Below are lists of the biggest opportunities and challenges facing Brent's residents and communities that our partners identified.

Opportunities to improve things for residents and communities in Brent

- Employment and apprenticeship pathways
- More recruitment of local people to local jobs
- Stronger links between education and employment
- Stronger partnership working and communication
- Supporting local and small businesses
- Community wealth building
- Retaining economic value within Brent
- Enhancing Brent's creative and cultural sectors and building on Brent's cultural assets
- Climate adaptation and environmental improvement
- Using AI and innovative technology

Challenges facing Brent's residents and communities

- Youth and general unemployment/work instability
- Young people losing hope and ambition
- Lack of work readiness and experience
- Limited coordination across organisations
- Housing affordability
- Poverty/Deprivation

How this shaped the Plan

Our Council Plan priorities and focus areas reflect the challenges and opportunities that are top of mind for our partners. In particular, there's a strong focus on improving employment, training and skills opportunities for local people, and especially our young people, in our ***Unlocking potential by tackling the cost of living*** focus area. The ***Council that delivers for you*** priority has a strong focus on making sure that the Council continues to work with partners to deliver good outcomes for residents, because we recognise that we can't do everything ourselves.

Challenges

This data is pulled from a range of sources and shows the different challenges Brent and the Council are facing. Footnotes are located on the last page of this report.

A lack of good quality, affordable homes and homelessness

170+ households approach the council as homeless each week[1], with over **2,550** households – including around **4,000** children – living in temporary accommodation[1].

We spend over **£30 million** each year on temporary accommodation for homeless residents[2].

According to recent data, Brent is the **second least affordable place to live** in England[3].

Poverty and the cost of living

Around **42%** of children in Brent are living in poverty after housing costs, compared with a London average of **31%** (without housing costs, the figure falls to 18.5%)[4].

29% of Brent's neighbourhoods are among **the 20% most deprived** in England[5].

At the last Census, **1 in 3 working-age adults were not in work**. 6% were seeking work while 28% were economically inactive[6].

Health Inequalities

The deprivation related gap in life expectancy in Brent is **7.3 years for men** and **3.3 years for women**[7].

Almost **one in four Year 6 pupils** in Brent are living with obesity (24.7%), **higher than the number in both London** (23.2%) **and England** (22.2%)[8].

Keeping our neighbourhoods safe

A safe area, free from crime and anti-social behaviour was the top priority for **32%** of residents – and **38%** said it's where they most want the council and its partners to invest[9].

Anti-social behaviour remains a challenge in Brent, with **30.6 police-recorded incidents per 1,000 residents**, which is **above the London rate of 27.1**[10].

Brent has the second-highest rate of hospital admissions for violent crime in London, at **57.2** per 100,000 people[11].

Growing demand for our services

In 2026/27 alone, the council needs to find around **£10m** in savings while protecting the services we're required to provide by law.

Nearly **4,300** adults received an Adult Social Care assessment in Brent in the last 12 months. This was around **80% higher than the London average** of 2,400 adults[12].

At the end of March 2026, **295 children** were in Brent's care. The average cost of a residential home placement is **over £7,000 per child per week**[13].

Financial pressure on councils

Councils in England are expected to face a funding gap of **£7.0 billion by 2028/29**[14]. This is due to a wide range of factors including demographic growth, inflation, wage growth and new national requirements.

By 2028/29, councils will face **extra cost pressures equivalent to 22%** of their current spending[15].
Councils in London face a collective budget shortfall of **£5.2 billion** over the next four years[16].

Opportunities

As well as the challenges presented on the previous page, Brent also has many strengths, which are opportunities for us to build on. Footnotes are located on the last page of this report.

Maintaining the quality of our neighbourhoods

90% of **residents** are satisfied with their local area and **76%** are proud to live in Brent[17].

Building on this strong sense of local pride, up to **£40 million** of long-term Pride in Place investment in Harlesden and St Raphael's creates a major opportunity to revitalise neighbourhoods, improve public and community spaces, and give local people a greater say in shaping their local area.

Using Brent's global profile to create local opportunity

Brent is home to almost **16,000 businesses,** providing jobs, services and opportunities across the borough[18].

Wembley Stadium is built for big moments. It holds **90,000 people**, which makes it the UK's largest stadium and second-largest in Europe.

With non-sporting events crowds **spending more than £4.35 million locally** each time there is an event, visitors create opportunities for local shops, restaurants, hotels and other businesses to grow, invest and create jobs[19].

As London introduces a **visitor levy**, Brent will look to maximise this for the benefit of local communities.

Championing cultural diversity as a great strength

Brent's diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

56% of Brent's residents were born outside the UK – the highest proportion of any local authority in the country[20].

85% of residents say Brent is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together[21].

Brent's rich mixture of cultures contributes to a vibrant cultural economy, which contributes an estimated **£238 million** annually, supporting jobs, skills, businesses and tourism[22].

We will keep building an inclusive Brent where everyone feels that they belong, and a Council that is proudly anti-racist.

Building on residents' satisfaction with council services

Most residents have a positive experience of the council. **77%** are satisfied with the way council runs things and **71%** feel the council responds to residents' concerns[23].

How this shaped the Plan

The opportunities and challenges that are set out above and on the previous page have directly informed the Council Plan's priorities and focus areas. The Council Plan is focused on both supporting residents and communities to manage the impacts of some of the key challenges we're facing in Brent but also responds to the opportunities that there are to improve on the things we're already doing well and to make the most of new and emerging opportunities.

Brent Wellbeing Index

The Brent Wellbeing Index is an interactive data tool that measures how Brent's 22 wards are performing across a wide range of social, environmental and economic outcomes. It focuses on what life is like for Brent's communities, covering areas such as health, safety, education, access to services and community wellbeing. Access the full dashboard to find more information.

It is broken down into four key pillars:

Security and Stability: Looks at whether people can meet their essential needs, stay safe, and maintain stability in their day-to-day lives.

Health and Longevity: Assesses whether residents have the foundations for good health and long lives, and where preventable health challenges may exist.

Opportunity and Social Mobility: Assesses whether people have access to education, skills, and opportunities that help them achieve their potential and improve their lives.

Belonging and Trust: Looks at how connected, engaged, and supported communities are, and whether residents trust and contribute to the places where they live.

The next page shows you how Brent's 22 wards measure against the four pillars

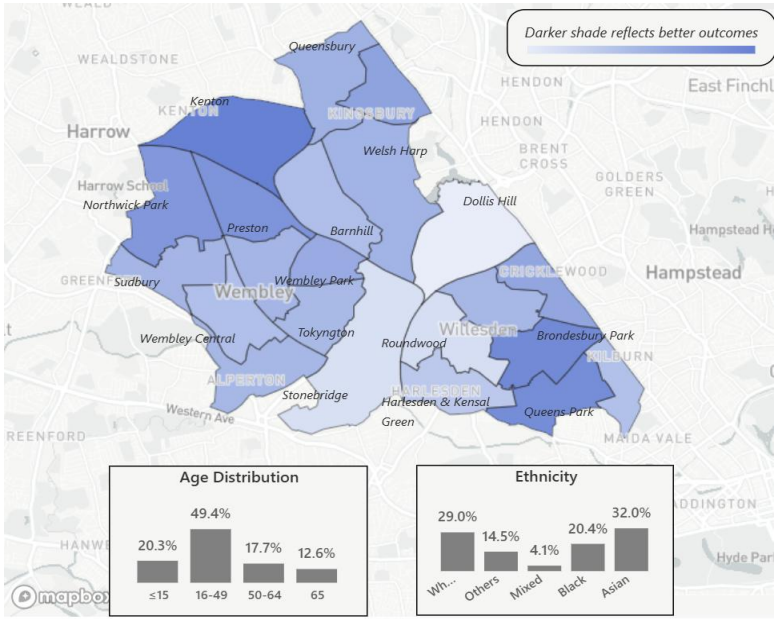
How this shaped the Plan

The Index shows us that wellbeing outcomes vary across the borough – particularly in the Security and Stability and Health and Longevity pillars. In response to this, the Council Plan includes a number of commitments to make sure residents can access housing and cost of living support, and good employment, training and skills opportunities. It includes a strong focus on improving health outcomes in the ***Healthy and active communities*** focus area.

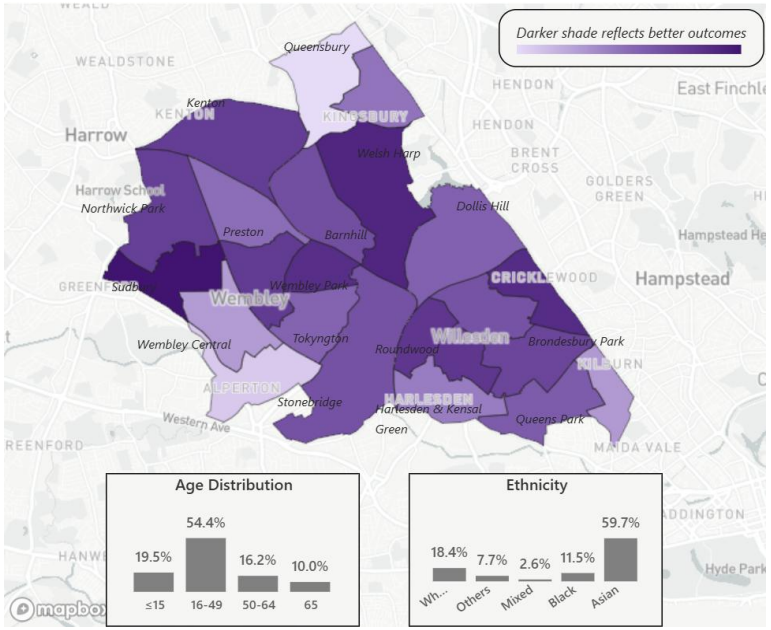
Brent Wellbeing Index Data

The following maps of Brent show how each of the 22 wards perform against the four Wellbeing Index pillars. Darker areas reflect better outcomes for that pillar, while lighter areas reflect worse outcomes.

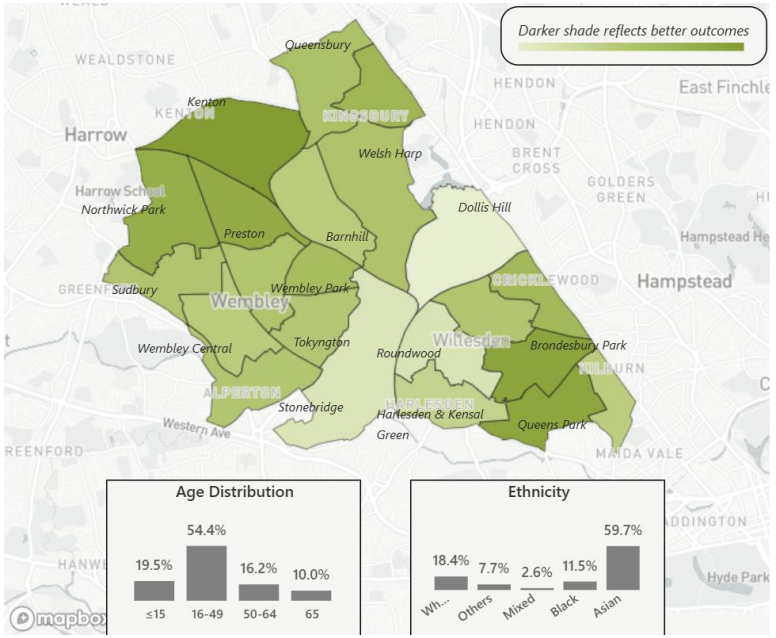
Security & Stability



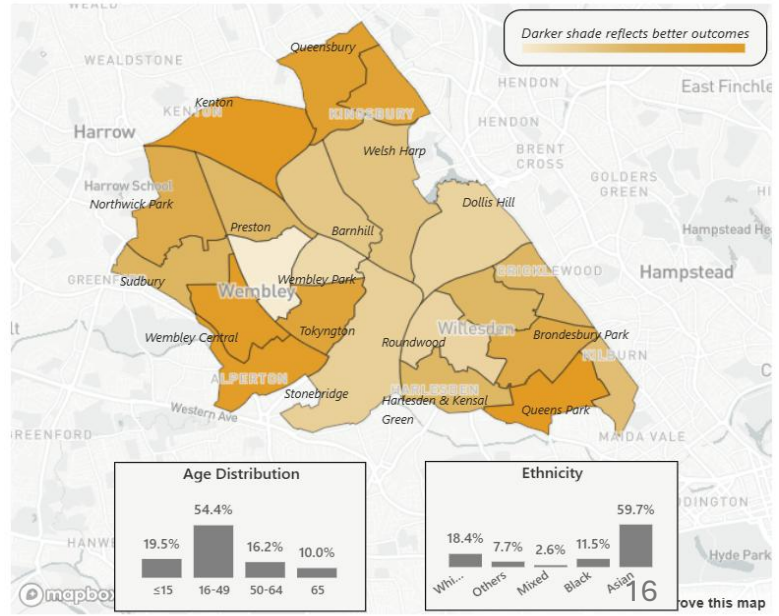
Opportunity & Social Mobility



Health & Longevity



Belonging & Trust



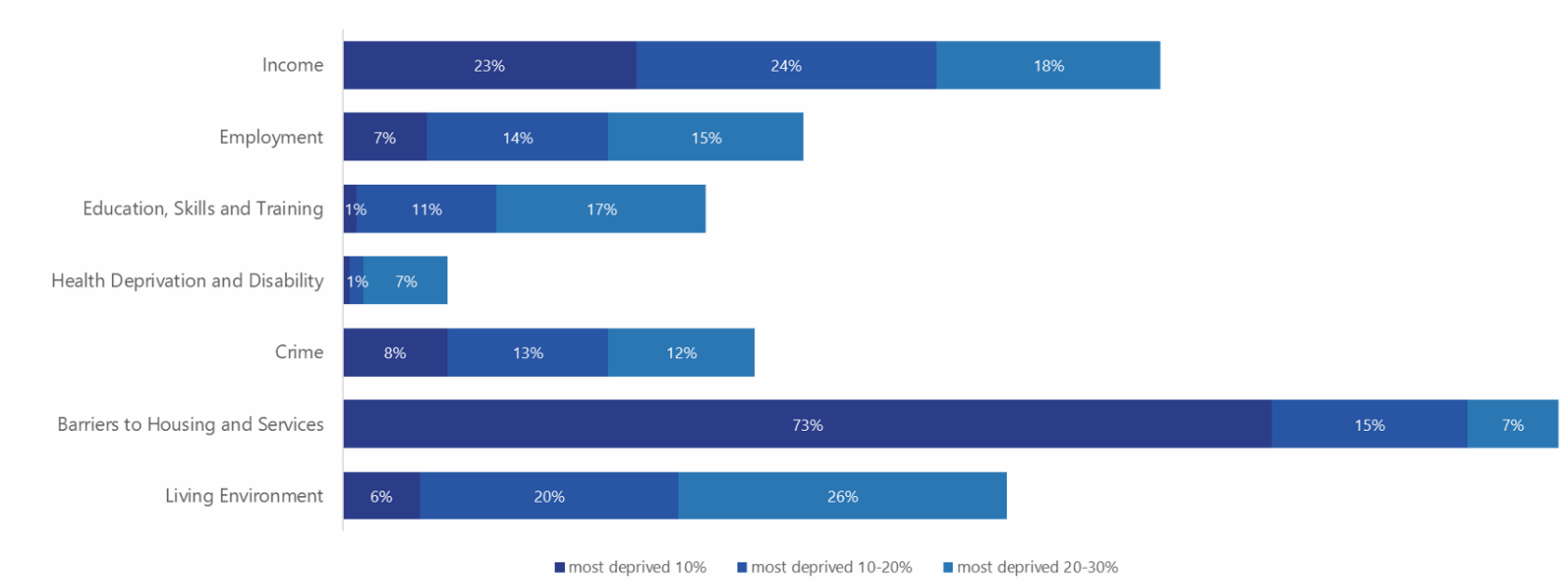
Indices of Deprivation 2025

The Indices of Deprivation are published by the government and are the primary measures of deprivation for small areas in England called LSOAs (Lower layer Super Output Areas). The Index of Multiple Deprivation combines seven distinct aspects (domains) as seen in the graph on the right.

Brent's level of relative deprivation varies between the domains. The **highest level of deprivation is in Barriers to Housing and Services**, where nearly half of wards (10/22) are in the most deprived 5% nationally. Brent's lowest level of relative deprivation is in the Health Deprivation and Disability domain, where zero wards are in the most deprived 20% nationally.

How this shaped the Plan

Because the Indices of Deprivation tell us that Brent has high levels of deprivation in the Barriers to Housing and Services domain, the Council Plan includes a strong focus on working to increase access to affordable housing, doing all we can to end homelessness, and helping people to live in good-quality, safe and secure homes. More detail on how we'll support people to access affordable, good-quality, safe and secure housing is set out in the Council Plan's focus area ***A good place to call home***.



Poverty and Inequality data

We gathered data on poverty and inequality in Brent from Trust for London, an independent charitable foundation that fights to tackle poverty and inequality in London.

The data highlights Brent's key social and economic challenges, and where targeted action is needed. The indicators show pressures relating to child poverty, income, unemployment and out-of-work benefits, where Brent is performing worse than the London average.

Read the full rankings.

How this shaped the Plan

The Council Plan's focus area, ***Tackling the cost of living by unlocking potential*** is about trying to address the poverty and inequality challenges that this data shows us. The focus area includes a number of commitments around supporting residents to access and navigate financial support and advice, and creating more opportunities for young people to access training, apprenticeships and employment. Our work in these areas is about trying to help residents out of poverty and achieve their ambitions.

Child poverty

42.3%

of children lived in households with an income below **60% of the UK median** after housing costs (2024/25).

Higher than the London average

Below the living wage

22.6%

of residents were estimated to be **earning below the Living Wage** (2025).

Higher than the London average

Pay inequality

2.28

pay ratio between higher and lower earners (2025)

Around the same as the London average

Qualifications

8.7%

of adults had no recognised qualifications (2025).

Around the same as the London average

Household income

£64,100

Average gross household income (2022/23)

Lower than the London average

Income after housing costs

33%

of the borough lived in households with an **income of less than 60% of the UK median after housing costs.**

Around the same as the London average

Census 2021

This page shows you what makes Brent unique. We got this information from the Census, which is carried out by the Office for National Statistics every 10 years. This data paints a reliable picture of our population. By understanding who lives in our borough, and how communities are changing, we can identify current and emerging needs, spread resources effectively and ensure Council Plan priorities reflect the needs of our residents.

Total population

339,800

9% increase from 2011–2021

Population rank in London's boroughs

5th largest borough population

Population density

7,859 people per km²

Gender

51% female

49% male

Main language

34% of residents use a main language other than English.

This is the second highest rate in England and Wales.

Age profile

More adults aged 20 – 44, and less older residents.

Around 12% of Brent residents were over 65, compared to 19% nationally.

Place of birth

56% of residents are born outside the UK, the highest rate in England and Wales.

Ethnicity

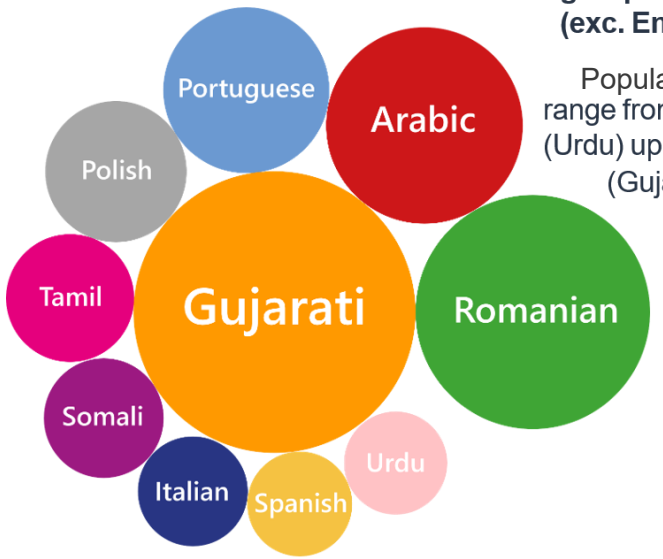
65% of residents are from Black, Asian or multiethnic populations.

How this shaped the Plan

The Census data reminds us that Brent is made up of a large number of distinct communities. Because of this, we recognise that we can't have one-size-fits-all services. That's why the Council Plan us to working closely with communities to understand their needs, and making sure that we tailor the services that we provide to meet those needs.

Top 10 language groups in Brent (exc. English)

Populations range from 3,015 (Urdu) up to 21,513 (Gujarati)



Challenges and Opportunities - Footnotes

The footnotes on this page refer to the challenges and opportunities on pages 13 and 14

1. Brent Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-31
2. Brent Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-31
3. Analysis of the 2025 Indices of Deprivation
4. Trust for London
5. Analysis of the 2025 Indices of Deprivation
6. Open data: Brent 2021 Census analysis
7. Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Fingertips
8. Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Fingertips
9. Residents' views that are referenced are based on responses from over 2,000 people who took part in the 2026 Resident Attitudes Survey carried out by an independent researcher, DJS Research, over Summer 2026. Results were weighted to ensure they are representative of Brent's population and provide an accurate picture of what matters most to residents. Resident Attitudes Survey, Brent Open Data
10. Resident Attitudes Survey, Brent Open Data
11. Safer Brent Partnership, annual report 2024-25
12. LGInform. **Note:** Data includes only adults who were new to Adult Social Care and those who had not received ongoing support in the previous 12 months. ASC also carries out a significant number of short-term assessments.
13. Brent internal data
14. Autumn Budget 2026: LGA submission | Local Government Association
15. Councils warn of £7bn funding black hole threatening local services in three years | Local Government Association
16. London Councils: Budget 2026 press release
17. Resident Attitudes Survey, Brent Open Data
18. Labour Market Profile – Brent (Nomis)
19. Wembley Stadium: planning application
20. Brent 2021 Census analysis
21. Resident Attitudes Survey, Brent Open Data
22. Brent Cultural Strategy
23. Resident Attitudes Survey, Brent Open Data

Page 88

Brent

COLLABORATE PROACTIVELY

LEAD INCLUSIVELY

EMBRACE CHANGE

BE BOLD AND CURIOUS

CELEBRATE AND SHARE OUR SUCCESS

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

POLICY/PROPOSAL:	Council Plan 2026-2030
DEPARTMENT:	Democratic & Corporate Governance
TEAM:	Policy and Performance
LEAD OFFICER:	Grace Hall
DATE:	9 September 2026

EIA Guidance is available online, please reach out to equality@brent.gov.uk for any further support.

SECTION A – SCREENING

1. Briefly and clearly describe the policy, proposal, change, or initiative, and what it is trying to achieve.

The Brent Council Plan 2026–2030 aims to improve outcomes for residents by focusing on ensuring people have a good place to call home, live in cleaner, greener and safer neighbourhoods, and can access thriving town centres and high streets. It also focuses on helping people to address cost of living pressures, unlock their potential through access to education, skills, training and employment opportunities, and access opportunities to live active and healthy lifestyles. The Plan commits to changing the ways that the Council works in order to deliver these outcomes for residents.

The Plan sets out the Council's priorities and commitments for the borough over the next four years. It is structured around three strategic priorities: A borough to be proud of; A borough where people thrive; and, A council that delivers for you.

The Plan has been informed by engagement with Councillors, residents, communities, staff and partners, and responds to both the opportunities and challenges facing Brent. It seeks to address issues including housing pressures, health and socio-economic inequalities, the continuing impact of the cost-of-living crisis, and the financial challenges facing local government, while creating opportunities to improve outcomes, reduce inequalities and ensure that all residents can access the support, services and opportunities they need.

These outcomes will be supported through prevention and early intervention, partnership and neighbourhood-based working, improved access to services, evidence-based decision-making and organisational improvement.

2. Are there any groups who may be impacted by your proposal? For reference, Q4 lists all protected groups.

The Council Plan is intended to benefit all residents, businesses and communities across Brent. However, some groups may experience particular benefits because of the Plan's focus on improving neighbourhoods, addressing inequalities, improving access to services and opportunities, and supporting those facing the greatest barriers or disadvantages. It is expected to have a positive impact on residents experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, those at risk of and experiencing homelessness, and children and young people.

3. If no groups are affected, explain why.

N/A

Mark with an “X” the potential impact of the policy or proposal on different groups. You can mark more than one box for each group.

Characteristic	IMPACT		
	Positive	Neutral/None	Negative
Age - People of different age groups.	**x**		
Care Experience - People who have been in care for any period of their childhood.		**x**	
Disability - People with physical, sensory, learning, and mental health disabilities, long-term conditions, and non-visible disabilities.		**X**	
Gender reassignment - Transgender and non-binary people, including anyone who is proposing to, started, or who has completed a process to change their gender.		**x**	
Marriage and Civil Partnership - Applies mainly in the workplace, people who are married or in a civil partnership.		**x**	

Pregnancy and Maternity - People who are pregnant, on maternity leave, or new parents.		**x**	
Race and Ethnicity - People of different ethnicity, nationality, and skin colour.		**x**	
Religion or belief - People of all faiths, and those with no religious belief.		**x**	
Sex - Differences between men and women, including disparities in pay, career progression, and health outcomes.		**x**	
Sexual Orientation - People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, asexual, or any other non-heterosexual identity.		**x**	
Socio-Economic Status – People who are experiencing poverty or socio-economic disadvantage.	**X**		
Other relevant groups* *people at risk of or experiencing homelessness*	**X**		

* Other relevant groups could include Carers, Refugees or Asylum Seekers, Veterans, among others. Review the EIA Guidance for more information.

4. Complete **each row** of the checklist with an "X".

SCREENING CHECKLIST		
	YES	**NO**
Does the policy or proposal have implications for eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations among different groups?	**x**	

Does it relate to an area with known inequalities?	**x**	
Would it add, change, or remove services used by any groups listed in Q4?	**x**	
Does it have negative or positive equality impacts on any groups listed in Q4?	**x**	
If you have answered YES to ANY of the above, proceed to section B. **If you have answered NO to ALL the above, proceed straight to section C.**		

SECTION B – IMPACTS ANALYSIS

5. What data and evidence have you used to understand potential impacts? This could include service user data where relevant. If there is little or no evidence, explain why, and note any plans to improve data collection in future, adding this to the Action Plan in Section E.

The development of the Council Plan has been informed by a range of quantitative and qualitative evidence. These include demographic data and protected characteristic data from the 2021 Census, Brent Open Data, service data, performance information, relevant local needs assessments, resident insight, and evidence gathered through engagement activities undertaken to support development of the Plan.

The Council has undertaken engagement to understand the priorities, needs and experiences of residents, communities, elected members, staff and partners. Feedback gathered through this process has informed the development of the Council Plan's priorities, commitments and intended outcomes.

Evidence used to inform this assessment includes:

- Council Plan resident survey findings
- Council Plan staff survey findings
- Resident Attitudes Survey (RAS) findings
- Council All Staff survey findings
- Member engagement
- Demographic and protected characteristic data from Census 2021
- Brent Open Data and other relevant local intelligence sources
- Service and performance data where relevant

Detailed findings from the engagement programme and supporting evidence base are set out within the Council Plan Engagement and Evidence report. This document provides further information on the views expressed by residents and stakeholders.

6. For each characteristic:
    a. Provide detail for the impact listed in the response to Q4 in the left-hand box.
    b. Provide data and evidence to explain how you reached your conclusion in the right-hand box.

Relevant data sources for Brent and its residents can be found in the EIA Guidance document.

Age	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.
The Plan includes commitments specifically aimed at children and young people, including piloting an Education Maintenance Allowance, introducing a School Uniform Grant and increased access to affordable physical activity opportunities. Older residents may also benefit from early intervention, health and wellbeing support, and neighbourhood-based services. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	Brent is a relatively young borough. According to the 2021 census, the median age of Brent residents is 35 years, lower than the England average of 40 years. Around 24% of residents are aged under 20, while approximately 12% are aged 65 and over.

Care Experience	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.
No specific impacts relating to care experience have been identified. The Council Plan's commitments are intended to improve outcomes for all residents regardless of whether they are care experienced. However, while we have set a high level of ambition we are also operating within a difficult financial context which may impact or limit what we are able to achieve and the support we can provide for residents.	

The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	

Disability	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.
No specific impacts relating to disability have been identified. The Council Plan's commitments are intended to improve outcomes for all residents regardless of whether they have a disability. However, while we have set a high level of ambition we are also operating within a difficult financial context which may impact or limit what we are able to achieve and the support we can provide for residents. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	The 2021 Census found that approximately 14% of Brent residents (around 47,500 people) reported that their day-to-day activities were limited by a long-term physical or mental health condition, illness or disability.

Gender Reassignment	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.

No specific impacts relating to gender reassignment have been identified. The Council Plan's commitments are intended to improve outcomes for all residents regardless of whether they are transgender or non-binary. However, while we have set a high level of ambition we are also operating within a difficult financial context which may impact or limit what we are able to achieve and the support we can provide for residents. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	We do not have an accurate demographic understanding of trans and non-binary residents of Brent, as ONS advised following the 2021 census that local authority-level gender identity data should be interpreted with caution because of known data quality issues, particularly in areas with higher levels of linguistic diversity such as Brent. The LGBTQ+ population in Brent - 2021 Census topic report | Brent Open Data

Marriage and Civil Partnership	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.
No specific impacts relating to marriage or civil partnership have been identified. The Council Plan's commitments are intended to improve outcomes for all residents regardless of relationship status. However, while we have set a high level of ambition we are also operating within a difficult financial context which may impact or limit what we are able to achieve and the support we can provide for residents. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities	Census 2021 shows that around 42% of Brent residents aged 16 and over were married or in a civil partnership. The remainder were single, divorced, separated or widowed. 2021 Census Profile for areas in England and Wales - Nomis

arising from specific protected characteristics.	

Pregnancy and Maternity	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.
No specific impacts relating to pregnancy or maternity have been identified. The Council Plan's commitments are intended to improve outcomes for all residents regardless of their pregnancy or maternity status. However, while we have set a high level of ambition we are also operating within a difficult financial context which may impact or limit what we are able to achieve and the support we can provide for residents. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	Brent has a relatively young population compared with England overall, with a median age of 35 compared with 40 nationally. The borough also has a substantial population of families with dependent children. As a result, policies affecting housing affordability, access to childcare, household costs and family finances may have a greater impact on parents, expectant parents and households with dependent children in Brent than in areas with older population profiles. Population change in Brent Briefing 2025 How life has changed in Brent: Census 2021

Race and Ethnicity	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.
The Council Plan has priorities to improve the quality of life for all residents and service users, especially those that are in most need of additional support and assistance. While we have set a high level of ambition we are also operating within a difficult	Brent is one of the most ethnically diverse boroughs in England. According to Census 2021, approximately 64% of residents identified with Asian, Black, Mixed or Other ethnic groups, while around 36% identified as White. Brent Census Atlas 2021 - Ethnicity | Brent Open Data

financial context which may impact or limit what we are able to achieve and the support we can provide for residents. Some commitments may be particularly relevant to ethnic groups that experience poorer outcomes or greater barriers in areas such as housing, health, employment, income and access to services. The Plan's focus on reducing inequalities, providing earlier and more joined-up support, and improving access to opportunities therefore has the potential to contribute to more equitable outcomes. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	Nomis - 2021 Census Area Profile - Brent Local Authority

Religion or Belief	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.
No specific impacts relating to religion or belief have been identified. The Council Plan's commitments are intended to improve outcomes for all residents regardless of their religion or belief. However, while we have set a high level of ambition we are also operating within a difficult financial context which may impact or limit what we are able to achieve and the support we can provide for residents. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the	Brent residents are more likely to have a religion than those elsewhere: overall, 80% of residents had a religion compared with 57% nationally – the 4th highest rate in England and Wales. Census 2021 data shows that approximately 34% of residents identified as Christian, 21% as Hindu, 18% as Muslim and 8% as Sikh. Around 10% reported having no religion. Religion in Brent – 2021 Census factsheet | Brent Open Data

Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	

Sex	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.
No specific impacts relating to sex have been identified. The Council Plan's commitments are intended to improve outcomes for all residents regardless of their sex. However, while we have set a high level of ambition we are also operating within a difficult financial context which may impact or limit what we are able to achieve and the support we can provide for residents. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	The Census 2021 shows Brent's population is broadly evenly split between women (approximately 51%) and men (approximately 49%). 2021 Census - First release | Brent Open Data

Sexual Orientation	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.
No specific impacts relating to sexual orientation have been identified. The Council Plan's commitments are intended to improve outcomes for all residents regardless of their sexual orientation.	The 2021 Census was the first to collect information on sexual orientation. In Brent, 85.1% of residents aged 16 and over identified as heterosexual or straight, while 3.2% identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or another minority sexual orientation, equivalent to approximately 8,800

However, while we have set a high level of ambition we are also operating within a difficult financial context which may impact or limit what we are able to achieve and the support we can provide for residents. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	residents. A further 11.7% chose not to answer the question, which was considerably higher than the national non-response rate of 7.5%, meaning the figures are likely to be a minimum estimate of Brent's LGBT+ population. LGBTQ+ population in Brent - 2021 Census topic report - revised

Socio-Economic Status	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.
The Council Plan is expected to have a positive impact on residents experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. A significant proportion of the Plan focuses on reducing poverty, supporting residents through the cost-of-living crisis, preventing homelessness, improving access to employment and skills opportunities, improving access to opportunities to participate in sport and leisure activity, and ensuring residents can access support at an earlier stage before problems escalate into crisis. The Council Plan includes a number of commitments intended to reduce the impact of poverty and increase opportunities for residents, including: • Providing targeted support for residents facing financial hardship through programmes including the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, Resident Support Fund Crisis Payments and Council Tax Support Scheme.	Brent has comparatively high levels of socio-economic disadvantage and poverty. Data on poverty and inequality indicate that around 33% of Brent residents live in poverty, compared with 22% across England, and the child poverty rate is estimated to be 42%, significantly above both the England and London averages. Poverty & Inequality Data Brent | Trust For London | Trust for London

• Piloting an Education Maintenance Allowance and School Uniform Grant to help reduce financial pressures on families and improve opportunities for young people. • Creating more opportunities for residents to access education, training, skills development, apprenticeships and employment support. • Creating more opportunities for residents to access opportunities to participate in sport and leisure activity. • Investing in and supporting the delivery of more affordable homes. • Supporting residents to prevent homelessness, including through targeted initiatives to sustain private rented sector tenancies. • Making services easier to access, providing earlier support to prevent problems from becoming crises, and improving how services work together to help residents receive the right support at the right time. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	

Other Relevant Groups – People at risk of or experiencing homelessness	
Provide detail for the impact listed in Q4.	Provide supporting data and evidence.

The Council Plan is expected to have a positive impact on people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. It includes commitments to prevent homelessness through earlier advice and support, help more residents remain in their homes, increase access to affordable and suitable housing, and support people experiencing homelessness into stable accommodation with the support they need to regain independence. The Plan also aims to reduce the need for, cost of, and time spent in temporary accommodation, improve housing conditions in the social and private rented sectors, and make council services easier to access and more joined-up. Together, these commitments should help address both the immediate impact of homelessness and some of the wider factors that contribute to housing insecurity. The Delivery Plan will set out the detailed activities, timescales and key performance indicators that will support delivery of the Council Plan. This will provide a basis for monitoring outcomes and identifying whether further action is needed to address any differential impacts or inequalities arising from specific protected characteristics.	As of early 2026, 2,450 Brent households were living in temporary accommodation, with 60% placed in nightly-paid accommodation. During 2025, 1,069 households entered temporary accommodation and 866 exited, resulting in a net increase of 203 households. 9. Temporary Accommodation Supported Exempt Accommodation and Homelessness Prevention.pdf An average of 170 households approach the Council each week as homeless or at risk of homelessness, and around 20 new households enter temporary accommodation each week. Around 4,600 children were living in temporary accommodation, with nearly one in ten households in temporary accommodation sharing facilities. Temporary accommodation use increased from 2,088 households in September 2019 to 2,400 in August 2025. Over the same period, the number of households in bed and breakfast accommodation increased from 49 to 208. London Borough of Brent Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy

7. Summarise any engagement activities with relevant groups (this may replicate some of the information listed in Q7). State whether those involved represent the people affected by your proposal, or whether more engagement is needed, which should be added to the Action Plan in Section E.

All engagement was with relevant stakeholders, including those that will be affected by the Plan. A broad spectrum of engagement, through a range of different methods and platforms, ensured that as many voices as possible were captured, including from marginalised and minority groups. Engagement responses have been used to identify the

priorities, concerns and ambitions of residents, and have informed Council Plan content and future council activity and service delivery.

8. Provide more detail on any areas identified as requiring further data or detailed analysis.

N/A

SECTION C – CONCLUSIONS

9. Summarise your overall conclusions based on the analysis:
    - If there are no impacts, state that here, and **do not complete sections E or G.**
    - If you decide not to move forward, explain why, and **do not complete sections E or G.**
    - If there are negative impacts, explain what you'll do to reduce them. If you choose to continue despite negative impacts, or if negative impacts remain following your action plan, provide a justification for your decision.
    - If there are positive impacts, explain how these could be strengthened, where possible.

Overall, the Council Plan should have a positive impact on our residents, communities and service users. Performance monitoring and reporting arrangements, which will be developed in conjunction with the Council Plan, will enable efficient monitoring and evaluation of progress against key priorities going forward.

SECTION D - RESULT

Select one of the following options with an "X".		
A	**CONTINUE WITH THE POLICY/PROPOSAL UNCHANGED**	**X**
B	**JUSTIFY AND CONTINUE THE POLICY/PROPOSAL**	
C	**CHANGE/ADJUST THE POLICY/PROPOSAL**	
D	**STOP OR ABANDON THE POLICY/PROPOSAL**	

SECTION E - ACTION PLAN AND MONITORING

Unless your proposal has no equality impacts or you are not moving forward, complete the table below to track specific actions to:

- Reduce negative impacts and increase positive outcomes.
- Monitor actual or ongoing impacts.
- Record plans to improve data collection.
- Plan any further engagement or analysis that may be required.

Use the 'Status' column on the right to indicate whether the action is yet to start, is in progress, or has been completed.

Issue Identified	Action	Lead Officer	Completion Date	Status
Positive impacts are anticipated for children and young people, but these will depend on implementation of relevant Council Plan commitments	Review the EIA once the Delivery Plan and associated monitoring arrangements are established, updating the assessment and action plan if new equality impacts or evidence are identified.		At first EIA review	Not started
Positive impacts are anticipated for residents experiencing socio-economic disadvantage and people at risk of or experiencing homelessness	Review the EIA once the Delivery Plan and associated monitoring arrangements are established, updating the assessment and action plan if new equality impacts or evidence are identified.		At first EIA review	Not started
The detailed Delivery Plan is still in development, so further or differential equality impacts may emerge as commitments are implemented	Review the EIA once the Delivery Plan and associated monitoring arrangements are established, updating the assessment and action plan if new equality impacts or evidence are identified.		Within six months of Delivery Plan approval	Not started

10. Describe how you will monitor the actual, ongoing impact of the policy or proposal?

A detailed delivery plan and key performance indicators will be developed to support delivery and demonstrate progress. Work is also being undertaken to reset Brent's performance monitoring and reporting approach, to ensure robust consideration of the progress that the Council is making to deliver the Council Plan and the outcomes it is delivering for residents. Delivery and performance monitoring and reporting arrangements will be continually reviewed to ensure that the ambitions of the Plan are effectively monitored, reviewed, evaluated and delivered.

SECTION F – SIGN OFF

	Signature	**Date**
Officer:	Grace Hall	7 September 2026
Reviewing Officer or Head of Service	Amira Nassr	10 September 2026

SECTION G – REVIEW

EIAs are live documents and should be reviewed regularly, especially if there are actions still to be completed or if the proposal has significant equality impacts.

<u>When to review</u>

- Review every 6 months until all actions in the Action Plan above are complete.
- If new data, feedback, or changes to the service arise, revisit the EIA to make sure it's still accurate.

<u>Who should review</u>

- The same officer who completed the EIA should carry out the review. If there's been a staffing change, the new lead officer should take over.

<u>What to update</u>

- Use the Status column in the Action Plan above to show progress (e.g. Not Started, In Progress, Completed). Add comments and updates in the table below — include any new data, evidence, or feedback.

<u>When reviews can stop</u>

- Once all actions are complete and no further equality impacts are expected, you can stop reviewing the EIA.
- Add rows to the table below as necessary until all actions are completed.

Date of 1st Review:	
Officer:	
Comment on progress toward specific actions, and provide any data and evidence updates:	
Reviewing Officer or Head of Service:	
Date of 2nd Review:	
Officer:	
Comment on progress toward specific actions, and provide any data and evidence updates:	
Reviewing Officer or Head of Service:	
Date of 3rd Review:	
Officer:	
Comment on progress toward specific actions, and provide any data and evidence updates:	
Reviewing Officer or Head of Service:	

Brent	**Full Council** 16 November 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director Neighbourhoods and Regeneration
	Lead Member - Cabinet Member Regeneration and Planning (Councillor Matt Kelcher)

West London Waste Plan Submission to the Secretary of State for examination

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
List of Appendices:	Appendix A: Regulation 19 Proposed Submission West London Waste Plan Appendix B: Integrated Impact Assessment **Please note, due to their size, the above appendices have been published as a supplementary pack to the main Council agenda** The following additional appendices are available to view under the heading "West London Waste Plan" via the following link: Brent Local Plan (adopted 2022) | Brent Council Appendix C: Schedule of changes between Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 Appendix D: Regulation 18 draft West London Waste Plan Consultation Statement Appendix E: Habitats Regulations Assessment Appendix F: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Appendix G: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Appendix B to the SFRA report) Appendix H: Integrated Impact Assessment Non-technical summary Appendix I: Construction, demolition and excavation waste arising in West London to 2041 Appendix J: Hazardous waste arising in West London to 2041

	Appendix K: Strategically Significant Waste Flows Appendix L: Climate Change Topic Paper Appendix M: Circular Economy Topic Paper Appendix N: Waste management Topic Paper Appendix O: Assessment of existing waste sites for release Appendix P: Assessment of existing waste capacity in West London 2025 Appendix Q: Regulation 22 Proposed Submission West London Waste Plan Consultation Statement Appendix R: Regulation 22 Proposed Submission West London Waste Plan Consultation Statement Appendix 6 (Representations received) Appendix S: Strategic Cooperation Statement
Background Papers:	Adopted West London Waste Plan (2015) National planning policy for waste (2014) GOV.UK
Contact Officer(s):	Hilary Seaton, Principal Planning Policy Officer 020 8937 1427 hilary.seaton@brent.gov.uk Harry Burchill, Planning Policy Team Leader 020 8937 3935 Harry.Burchill@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1. The new West London Waste Plan (WLWP) will form a part of the Brent Local Development Plan and will be used for determining planning applications for waste related development within Brent and across West London. It will replace the current West London Waste Plan, adopted in 2015, which is now outdated and in need of replacement.

1.2. The WLWP has been prepared jointly with the London Boroughs of Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond Upon Thames and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC).

1.3. The WLWP identifies existing sites that accommodate waste facilities in West London and provides planning policies to guide decisions on planning applications for additional capacity, with the overall aim of reducing waste, increasing recycling and ensuring the proper management of waste in line with the waste hierarchy (under Article 4 EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC), as close to source as possible. It is intended to help ensure that waste is managed in the most appropriate locations, protecting residents' living conditions and providing environmental and economic benefits. The WLWP is

concerned with planning policies and planning decisions in relation to waste related development, it does not cover operational matters such as how household waste collections are organised in the borough.

1.4. Full Council approval is sought to submit the Proposed Submission version of the West London Waste Plan, that has now completed public consultation under Regulation 19, to the Secretary of State for independent public examination, under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012).

2.0 Recommendations

Full Council is requested:

2.1 To resolve that it is satisfied that the Proposed Submission version of the West London Waste Plan is sound (in accordance with paragraph 36 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2024) and legally compliant and to authorise submission of the Plan and associated documents to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, for independent public examination.

2.2 To approve delegated authority being given to the Head of Planning and Development Services (in consultation with the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Regeneration) to:

(a) make any inconsequential changes, such as typographical and accuracy amendments and factual updates, to the associated supporting and evidence base documents which will be submitted with the Plan (in conjunction with the other participating authorities) to facilitate submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State.

(b) make a formal request of the Planning Inspector at an appropriate point during the examination of the West London Waste Plan to recommend modifications to the Plan to make it sound and legally compliant in accordance with section 20 (7c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act if that proves to be necessary; and

(c) exercise all examination procedural matters as prescribed by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and associated Regulations, including updates to submission documents, agreeing statements of common ground and agreeing and consulting on further modifications, that may be required to make the Plan sound.

2.3 To note that after completion of the examination process and a determination by the appointed inspector that the Plan can proceed to adoption, the West London Waste Plan will be presented to Full Council to seek its approval for the formal adoption of the Plan.

3.0 Detail

Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1 The West London Waste Plan (WLWP) is one of the key documents in the Council's strategy and policy portfolio and the updated Plan will replace the current version, which was adopted in 2015. It is anticipated that the policies of the new WLWP will contribute to the achievement of the five strategic priorities set out in the Borough Plan. In particular Policy WLWP 1 seeks to retain and optimise essential waste infrastructure and Policy WLWP 2 guides the provision of additional waste management capacity which, together with associated economic activity, will help to deliver the Borough Plan's priority of 'Prosperity and Stability' in Brent. Policy WLWP 4, which promotes high quality and resilient waste facilities and Policy WLWP 6, which requires proposals for waste related development to incorporate circular economy principles and promote resource efficiency, will contribute to delivering the priorities of 'A Cleaner, Greener Future', 'Thriving Communities', 'The Best Start in Life' and 'A Healthier Brent'.

Background

3.2 The WLWP forms part of the Local Development Plan for each of the participating authorities, alongside the London Plan and each authority's Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans. The policies within the document are the main consideration when determining planning applications for waste related development and are also relevant when determining applications for non-waste development on or close to existing waste sites and developments that involve the production of waste.

3.3 The current West London Waste Plan, which was adopted in 2015, is considered in many respects to be 'out-of-date' in the context of newer national and regional planning policy. Plans regarded as not being up-to-date have less weight in planning decision-making. The WLWP therefore needs to be updated or replaced.

3.4 A new WLWP has been prepared with the support of waste planning consultants BPP Consulting and representatives from each of the west London Boroughs and OPDC (the participating authorities). Its production is being managed by the West London Alliance (WLA). The new document will cover the period up to 2041 (the end of the period of the current London Plan).

3.5 The new WLWP will provide an up-to-date set of policies to determine planning applications for waste related development and ensure that sufficient suitable capacity is available to manage waste in West London over the next 15 years. The updated Plan also provides for the combined Borough level Household, Industrial, and Commercial (HIC) waste apportionments and management targets for construction and demolition waste set out in the 2021 version of the London Plan to be met through to 2041.

3.6 The first stage of public consultation, the 'Regulation 18' consultation, took place between 11th December 2025 and 5th February 2026. Ealing Council hosted the consultation portal on behalf of all the local authorities. Details of the Regulation 18 consultation, the responses received and amendments made to

the Plan following the consultation, are available in the Cabinet report of 27th July 2026**.**

3.7 On 27th July 2026, Cabinet approval was obtained to undertake the second stage of public consultation, the 'Regulation 19' stage, for an eight-week period, commencing in August 2026: West London Waste Plan Regulation 19 Consultation decision. The Regulation 19 Proposed Submission version of the WLWP was published for comments relating to soundness and legal compliance. This is the version of the WLWP that the participating authorities intend to submit to the Secretary of State for independent examination. Further details of the Regulation 19 consultation are set out below.

3.8 The Proposed Submission version of the Plan (the same version of the Plan that was published for comment at Regulation 19 stage) is appended to this report. The documents appended to this report also include a Consultation Statement setting out the representations received during the Regulation 19 consultation process and the authorities' responses to these, which identify matters and potential amendments for the Inspector's consideration during the independent examination of the Plan.

3.9 The government set a deadline of 31st December 2026 for the submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination, following which it will be formally adopted (subject to successful examination) by each of the West London planning authorities party to it. On 23rd October 2026 the government issued updated information about deadlines, including a possible time extension, and clarity on the implications of this is currently being sought. Meeting the government deadline is necessary to allow the Plan to be prepared and examined under the current plan-making system, avoid abortive work and prevent significant delays in having a new plan in place associated with the transition to the new plan-making system.

3.10 This report outlines:

(a) The scope and content of the new West London Waste Plan;

(b) An overview of the Regulation 19 consultation and the representations received; and

(c) The next steps in the plan making process, including the submission of the Proposed Submission version of the West London Waste Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

The new West London Waste Plan

3.11 Key elements of the WLWP include an assessment of the amount of waste to be managed in west London over the plan period (waste arisings), an updated list of safeguarded waste sites across west London with sufficient capacity to manage expected and apportioned waste arisings and substantially updated policies reflecting national policy against which planning applications for waste related development will be determined.

Vision and Objectives of the emerging West London Waste Plan

3.12 The WLWP contains a high-level vision which sets out what the WLWP is seeking west London to achieve by the end of the WLWP period and a series of strategic objectives, that provide a framework to realise the vision. These elements have been developed with input from officers, drawing on the content of the various plans and strategies from each of the participating authorities.

Policies in the WLWP

3.13 The policies included in the WLWP are as follows:

- Policy WLWP 1 – Safeguarding and Optimising the Waste Site Network: Keystone policy to make the most of the existing network of waste sites.

- Policy WLWP 2 – Provision of Additional Waste Management Capacity: Policy making provision for compensatory and windfall (additional) capacity.

- Policy WLWP 3 – Residual Waste Management & Energy Recovery: Policy defining specific conditions under which capacity for the management of residual waste may be supported.

- Policy WLWP 4 – Ensuring High Quality and Resilient Waste Facilities: Policy setting out specific requirements/standards that additional waste facilities need to meet.

- Policy WLWP 5 – Recovery and Disposal of Waste to Land: Policy defining specific conditions under which proposals for non-inert landfill and placement of inert waste may be granted planning permission.

- Policy WLWP 6 - Circular Economy & Resource Efficiency: Policy setting out the requirements for proposed development to fulfil certain sustainability criteria.

- Policy WLWP 7 - Provision of Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure: Policy providing for additional wastewater treatment capacity to be developed and existing capacity to be enhanced where needed.

Safeguarded Sites

3.14 To be in general conformity with the London Plan, the WLWP is required to identify sufficient waste management capacity to manage the projected construction and demolition (C&D) waste arisings and the total London Plan household, industrial and commercial (HIC) waste apportioned to each of the West London Boroughs. Existing waste sites across West London need to be safeguarded to ensure that sufficient waste management capacity is retained to meet forecast needs.

3.15 Ten sites in the part of the London Borough of Brent for which Brent Council serves as the local planning authority are proposed to be safeguarded in the new WLWP. These are listed below and site plans are included in Appendix 3 of the WLWP:

Site reference and location	**Operator**	**Types of waste processed**
B04: Neasden Sidings, Drury Way, Wembley	Quattro Limited on behalf of WRG (Midlands) Limited	CDEW* (Excavation)
B05: Atlas Road Wembley	O'Hara Bros. Aggregates Limited	CDEW
B06: Unit 4, Second Way, Wembley	HAWK Rubbish Clearance Limited	CDEW
B07: SRC Aggregates Wembley Depot	Sewells Reservoir Construction Limited	CDEW
B10: Unit 28, Fourth Way WTF	Brent Oil Contractors Limited	Hazardous
B12: Unit 2, Hannah Close	London Energy Ltd	HIC
B13: Alperton Lane Waste Transfer Station	Sortera	CDEW / HIC / Hazardous
B14: Brent Transfer Station, Alperton Lane	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	HIC
B15: Wembley Transfer Station & Recycling Facility	Biffa Waste	HIC
B16: off Great Central Way, Neasden	L & B Haulage & Engineering Contractors Ltd	CDEW

* CDEW = Construction, demolition and excavation waste
HIC = Household, industrial and commercial waste

3.16 Three sites in the part of the London Borough of Brent for which OPDC serves as the local planning authority are proposed to be safeguarded. These are set out in the table below, with their site plans included in Appendix 3 of the WLWP.

Site reference and location	**Operator**	**Types of waste processed***
B01: Twyford WTS Abbey Road	West London Waste Authority	LACW (HIC)
B02: 100 Twyford Abbey Road	Bridgemarts	CDEW
B08: Willesden F Sidings Rail Freight Terminal	Cappagh Public Works Limited	CDEW (Excavation)

* CDEW = Construction, demolition and excavation waste
LACW = Local Authority collected waste

3.17 The WLWP also identifies six existing waste sites across the WLWP area for release from safeguarding, as each falls within areas identified for redevelopment in local planning authority Local Plans for non-waste uses.

These sites are to be released on the basis that their continued safeguarding and use for waste management conflict with wider planning and regeneration objectives. If the waste management capacity offered by these sites were to be lost, sufficient surplus capacity for the management of HIC and C&D waste would still remain.

3.18 Of the six sites, one is in Hounslow, two are in OPDC's area and three are in Brent. The three sites in Brent proposed for release from safeguarding are set out in the table below. These existing waste sites are all within the 'Neasden Goods Yard' site within the area covered by the adopted Local Plan site allocation BEGA1 'Neasden Stations Growth Area' and the adopted Neasden Stations Growth Area Masterplan SPD. Comprehensive mixed-use redevelopment is envisaged across this area.

Site location	**Operator**	**Consented use***
Mitre Works, Neasden Lane	European Metal Recycling Ltd	Metal recycling (HIC waste)
Land at Neasden Goods Yard	X-Bert Haulage	Waste transfer (CDEW)
Unit 6 Neasden Goods Yard	X-Bert Haulage	Waste transfer (CDEW)

* CDEW = Construction, demolition and excavation waste

Key benefits for Brent residents

3.19 Having a Plan for waste land use and development helps ensure that waste produced in west London is managed by the most appropriate means at facilities in appropriate locations. It helps ensure that it happens in a way that has the least impact on people's living conditions or interference with economic activity (for example through the processing of waste itself or the activity generated around it, such as vehicle movements).

3.20 The older a Plan is, the less weight it holds in decision making, opening the borough up to a greater chance of development being granted permission on appeal in sensitive or less suitable locations.

3.21 Safeguarding most existing waste sites will help ensure that sufficient waste management capacity is retained locally. This will be of benefit to Brent residents, Brent-based businesses and those engaged in construction and similar activities across the borough, as sites in the Plan offer opportunities for waste generated locally to be managed locally, with the environmental benefits and cost benefits that brings. As noted above, the Plan making process also allows the Council to consider releasing existing sites for other uses where conditions justify it.

The Regulation 19 final draft plan consultation

3.22 The Regulation 19 consultation involved the following:

- A website-based portal was used to host a questionnaire, provide information about the consultation and opportunities for involvement and to host consultation materials.

- Information was published on Borough and OPDC websites and documents were made available for inspection at main Council Offices and libraries.

- Notification of the process was carried out by each of the participating authorities in line with an agreed Consultation Protocol (based on Statements of Community Involvement), which generally involved emailing stakeholders in their respective area using details held on consultation databases, in addition to other publicity.

3.23 For Brent specifically, emails were sent to those on the planning policy consultation database and a Brent 'Have Your Say' page was created to provide Brent-specific details about the WLWP consultation and a link to the Ealing-hosted portal to complete the survey. In addition, a press notice was published in the Brent and Kilburn Times (jointly with OPDC), a drop-in session was held in the Civic Centre atrium on 20th August and internal notifications were made including articles in two Members' Information Bulletins and a Viva Engage post.

3.24 The 'Regulation 19' consultation is a statutory consultation stage that has specific questions respondents are able to respond to. The purpose of a Regulation 19 consultation is specifically to seek views on whether the Proposed submission WLWP is "sound" and "legally compliant" as defined by the National Planning Policy Framework and planning legislation. It also gives respondents the opportunity to confirm whether they wish to appear at an examination hearing session.

3.25 62 responses were received as part of the Regulation 19 consultation. 20 were from individuals while the other 42 were from bodies including local authorities, non-governmental organisations, infrastructure operators, businesses and landowners. A table has been prepared which sets out representations received during the Regulation 19 consultation process and the authorities' responses to these, which identify key matters and potential amendments for the Inspector's consideration during the independent examination of the Plan. This is available within the Regulation 22 Consultation Statement at Appendix Q to this report.

Summary of other key issues raised within the representations

3.26 **General conformity with the London Plan:** Development Plans in London, including Waste Plans, are required to be in general conformity with the London Plan. At Regulation 19 stage, local authorities must seek the Mayor's formal opinion on whether the plan is in general conformity with the London Plan. The GLA have provided formal comments on the WLWP, its approach, definitions and policies.

3.27 The GLA has identified one area in which it considers the Plan, as currently drafted, is not in general conformity with the London Plan 2021. It states that this is due to the proposed release of six safeguarded waste sites without providing compensatory capacity combined with the failure to offer surplus waste handling capacity to those boroughs in London with a shortfall in the ability to meet their waste needs prior to the release of the identified sites.

3.28 The participating authorities consider that the WLWP is in general conformity with the London Plan. They are engaged in dialogue with Westminster City Council and Tower Hamlets Council about potentially sharing surplus capacity to meet a demonstrated unmet need. The GLA have expressed a willingness to continue to offer support and to work with the participating authorities to provide guidance and to ensure that the WLWP aligns with London Plan 2021 as well as delivering the authorities' objectives. The participating authorities will continue to engage in dialogue with the GLA in an attempt to reach agreement on key matters and achieve a confirmation of general conformity via a Statement of Common Ground.

3.29 **Sharing of surplus capacity:** Requests were made by two other London planning authorities (Westminster City Council and LB Tower Hamlets) to share West London's surplus capacity so that their unmet waste capacity needs are provided for. It should be noted that the participating authorities are engaged in ongoing dialogue with these authorities on the potential sharing of surplus capacity.

3.30 **Heathrow airport expansion:** Two representations were received in relation to the proposed expansion of Heathrow airport. One of these explicitly requested that two sites in Hillingdon, Site HI06 (Unit 1 Wallingford Road Recycling Facility) and Site HI09 (Holloway Lane Materials Recycling Facility), be released from safeguarding to support the Heathrow airport expansion plans.

3.31 **Site specific representations**: A number of comments were received in relation to specific proposed safeguarded sites identified in the WLWP. Many of these comments related to the principle of safeguarding a particular site while others related to fine tuning the safeguarding by adjusting boundaries, capacities and operator details. Representations were received which, overall, requested that seven additional sites, or parts of sites (in addition to the two identified in relation to Heathrow airport expansion and the six sites already earmarked for release) be released from safeguarding. These related to part of Site HI18 in Hillingdon (High View Farm), Site E19 in Ealing (Unit 42a Sheraton Business Park), two sites in Richmond – Site R02 (Kew Gardens) and Site R04 (Arlington Works), two sites in the part of Brent where Brent Council is the local planning authority – Site B12 (Unit 2, Hannah Close) and Site B16 (Land off Great Central Way, Neasden) and one site in the OPDC part of Brent – Site B02 (100 Twyford Abbey Road).

3.32 **Discrepancies in the definition of waste sites:** The GLA and others noted discrepancies between the definition of a waste site to be safeguarded set out in the WLWP and that contained in the current London Plan.

3.33 **Evidence base and waste capacity methodology:** Some concerns were raised regarding the identified capacity of safeguarded sites, the method used to assess site capacity and how waste flows were accounted for.

3.34 **Need for stronger policy protection / more emphasis on certain matters:** These include for heritage assets, registered parks and gardens and archaeology, natural environment, biodiversity and green infrastructure, amenity, health, transport and environmental justice, climate change, energy from waste, carbon, circular economy, waste reduction and plastics and dealing with hazardous waste.

3.35 **Other matters:** Representations were also raised about other matters including the Integrated Impact Assessment, the monitoring framework, infrastructure and asset protection, the deposit of waste on land and wastewater.

3.36 As noted above, the authorities have provided responses to these representations within the Consultation Statement, which identify key matters and potential amendments for the Inspector's consideration during the independent examination of the Plan. The participating authorities do not consider that any of the representations raised matters or identified grounds which would require amendments to be made to the Plan that would materially affect its policy content. The potential amendments identified relate to more minor matters such an improving the clarity and comprehensiveness of the Plan and incorporating factual updates.

3.37 It is important to note that all the representations received will be submitted in full to the appointed Planning Inspector for their consideration. A number of parties have requested to speak during hearing sessions. The Inspector can invite them to attend relevant hearing sessions to express their views in person.

3.38 The Inspector will consider the WLWP, the evidence which underpins it and the representations received at the Regulation 19 consultation. At an appropriate point within the examination process the participating authorities can, if necessary, formally request that the Planning Inspector recommends modifications to the Plan to make it sound and legally compliant if the inspector considers that it is not already.

Engagement and cooperation on strategic matters

3.39 The Government has confirmed that the provisions of the ‘duty to cooperate’ have been removed from the plan-making system. However, the requirement for Councils to engage in relation to strategic matters continues and this is expected to be a key consideration for Inspectors when assessing the soundness of plans submitted for examination.

3.40 Discussions with key stakeholders will continue throughout the forthcoming stages of preparing for submission and examination of the WLWP, including with the London authorities seeking to rely on the surplus waste management capacity identified in the WLWP. ‘Statements of Common Ground’ (SoCG) can

be produced to document cross-boundary matters being addressed, and the progress in cooperating to address these. Once signed, these SoCG will be submitted to the Secretary of State, to demonstrate cooperation. At present, it is anticipated that Statements of Common Ground to be progressed will include the below:

Relevant body	**Summary of issues likely to be covered in the Statement of Common Ground**
Greater London Authority (Mayor of London)	Compensatory capacity for sites proposed for release. Sharing surplus capacity with other boroughs (notably Westminster City Council and LB Tower Hamlets) and how any agreements should be reflected in the Plan. Alignment of 'waste site' definition.
London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH)	LBTH request for sharing of surplus waste capacity. Evidence/monitoring of cross-boundary flows.
Westminster City Council (WCC)	WCC request for sharing of surplus waste capacity. Evidence/monitoring of cross-boundary flows.
Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)	Future management of residual waste from West London by landfill in Oxfordshire, given that Sutton Courtenay landfill site is due to close in 2030.

Submission Documents

3.41 The participating authorities intend to submit the Plan and other submission documents to the Secretary of State by 31st December 2026. The documents will include the WLWP itself, the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and various evidence base documents, topic papers and associated documents that support and justify the Plan.

3.42 The IIA which has been prepared and updated alongside the Plan comprises the Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment, Health Impact Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment. The IIA appraises the likely environmental, social, economic, health and equalities effects of the vision, objectives and policies. The HRA specifically focuses on the potential effects the chosen policies of the new WLWP may have on certain designated nature conservation sites.

Next Stages in the Plan Making Process

3.43 During the remaining plan-making process, other activities will include:

- Maintaining dialogue with the GLA to resolve its concerns about the WLWP not being in general conformity with the London Plan.

- Continuing with engagement activities, including preparing and agreeing statements of common ground with other local authorities and relevant organisations as needed.

3.44 As part of the examination process, the participating authorities can invite the Inspector to recommend main modifications to the plan where necessary to make the plan sound and legally compliant. Substantive changes can be made through a 'main modification', which would necessitate further formal public consultation, as part of the examination process (with a timescale determined by the Inspector) alongside an updated IIA. The Inspector would then consider any representations made on the main modifications as part of the examination. To ensure that the partners can continue to prepare to submit all the necessary material for the examination and that the examination process runs in a timely manner, it is recommended that Council delegates authority to the Head of Planning and Development Services (in consultation with the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Regeneration) to carry out what is necessary to ensure that the inspector can conclude the examination.

3.45 At the end of the examination, the Inspector will produce a report setting out recommendation(s) and the reasons for them. The participating authorities will be required to publish this report. There are three possible outcomes to the examination:

- The Inspector finds the WLWP to be sound and legally compliant as submitted. In these circumstances the Inspector must recommend that the plan is adopted;

- The Inspector finds that the plan is unsound and/or legally noncompliant as submitted, but that it is possible to make it sound and legally compliant by making 'main modifications' to it. In these circumstances the Inspector is to recommend necessary modifications, if requested to do so. The modifications must relate directly to the reasons why the Inspector has found the plan unsound or legally non-compliant; or

- The Inspector finds the plan unsound and/or legally non-compliant as submitted, and that it is not possible to make it sound and legally compliant by making modifications to it.

3.46 Following the receipt of the Inspector's Report and subject to its conclusions, it is expected that the participating authorities will then be in a position to adopt the new WLWP. For Brent, the decision to adopt will be taken by Full Council.

3.47 Whilst 'main modifications' may have to be recommended by the Inspector for the Plan to be found 'sound', these would be proposed to the Inspector by the participating authorities. Any such modifications cannot be so substantial that they fundamentally alter the Plan. This should mean that the Council will not be put into a position where it has a fundamental concern with the version of the Plan the Inspector recommends it adopt. If officers perceive this is a risk, the proposed main modifications the authorities are proposing to the Inspector will be subject to prior consideration by Council.

Options

3.48 There are two options open to Full Council:

a) Proceed with the recommendations that the Plan is sound and legally compliant and agree to authorise the submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State for examination, that the inspector be requested to recommend modifications, along with delegation to the Head of Planning to undertake any inconsequential changes to material prior to submission and exercise all examination procedures that may be required to make the Plan sound.

b) Do not proceed with the recommendations.

Option a)

3.49 The WLWP is one of the key documents in the Council's policy framework. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local plans to be reviewed and updated as necessary at least once every five years. After this, plans are regarded as not being up-to-date and tend to be given less weight in planning decision-making.

3.50 The current WLWP was adopted over 11 years ago. It has been reviewed so that it provides an up-to-date set of policies against which planning applications for waste related development can be determined ensuring that sufficient capacity is available to manage expected waste arisings over the next 15 years, including addressing the HIC waste apportionment targets and the management targets for C&D waste set out in the London Plan.

3.51 The Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) provides a timetable for the review of the documents that form part of the Development Plan, which includes the WLWP. The current LDS anticipates submission of the Plan in December 2026.

3.52 Considering the NPPF requirement for local plans to be regularly reviewed and updated along with the benefits associated with an up-to-date WLWP, it is recommended that Option a) is pursued.

Option b)

3.53 Option b) would involve not submitting the WLWP to the Secretary of State for examination. This decision would delay the adoption of the new WLWP, meaning that the participating west London boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Richmond upon Thames and the OPDC would not have an up-to-date Waste Local Plan in place against which to determine planning applications for waste related development. Significant delay could result in LB Brent not being able to participate in the WLWP production process. This would also prevent the other participant local authorities from progressing towards adoption of the Plan, because the Plan is based on a joint strategy with waste management requirements pooled and capacities shared across the West London area.

3.54 Considering the benefits to the Council of progressing towards an up-to-date WLWP and the lack of compelling reasons for departing from option a), it is recommended that option b) is not pursued.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 The consultation carried out at Regulation 19 stage is outlined in paragraphs 3.22 and 3.23 of this report. This included email mailouts, a notice published in the press, a drop-in session at the Civic Centre and a Viva Engage post. Briefings were provided to Members of all the political parties within the Council prior to the report seeking authority to proceed to Regulation 19 consultation being presented to Cabinet in July 2026. Following on from this, during the Regulation 19 period, an article was published in two Members' Information Bulletins. Appropriate notifications consistent with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement were carried out at Regulation 19 stage and will be carried out for subsequent stages of the plan preparation process.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 The preparation of the WLWP is being led by an officer steering group, coordinated by BPP Consulting, with specialist input from Land Use Consultants (Integrated Impact Assessment) and Metis (Strategic Flood Risk Assessment). The project is being managed by the West London Alliance.

5.2 The total cost of the project, covering consultancy services and project management, is up to £29,500 per borough per annum over the plan preparation period, with Brent's contribution covered by the Local Plan review reserves budget. The costs associated with submission, including using the services of a Programme Officer, venue hire for public hearings, legal and technical support, and document preparation are expected to be covered by the annual contributions which have already been budgeted for. By the end of the examination process, the total cost to Brent is expected to be around £147,500

5.3 The cost of not proceeding with the recommendations for the WLWP (option b)) would likely result in costs greater than the £147,500 for Brent.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 This Plan is being prepared under the 'legacy' plan-making system, in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ("the 2004 Act") and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ("the 2012 Regulations"), as saved by transitional provisions.

6.2 Representations received during the Regulation 18 stage were taken into account in shaping the Regulation 19 submission draft. The statutory procedures set out in Regulation 19 of the 2012 Regulations for the Regulation 19 stage consultation were followed.

6.3 Now that the Regulation 19 publication (consultation) period has finished, approval is sought from Full Council to submit the plan to the Secretary of State for examination under section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The representations received in response to the Regulation 19 publication (consultation) period will be amongst the documents submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration by a Planning Inspector during the formal Plan examination process.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 The Equality Act 2010 introduced the public sector equality duty under section 149. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Council also internally recognises care experience and socio-economic status as protected characteristics. The Council must, in exercising its functions, have "due regard" to the need to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.

2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

7.2 The preparation of the WLWP has been informed by an Integrated Impact Assessment (attached as a background paper to this report), which includes an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). The EqIA and its criteria are embedded within the IIA objectives used to appraise the new WLWP, rather than being undertaken as a separate assessment.

7.3 With regards to equality, the IIA notes that the vision, strategic objectives and policies for the new WLWP are likely to have a negligible effect on protected characteristics given their strategic nature, their focus on waste management issues, and as the Plan does not allocate land for development. However, the WLWP does indirectly give consideration to the potential effects of waste development on specific groups, where there may be increased vulnerability to the effects of waste management facilities and processes, including air pollution, climate change, employment opportunities and social deprivation.

7.4 The publication of the Proposed Submission version of the WLWP and its IIA at Regulation 19 stage allowed stakeholder/resident views on the documents in relation to any likely adverse impacts of policies and proposals on specific groups to be identified and considered prior to the submission of the Plan and its IIA to the Secretary of State for examination. Environmental justice and cumulative-impact issues were raised within one representation and are summarised in the Consultation Statement alongside the authorities' response to these. The authorities' response notes that the IIA (Integrated Impact

Assessment) process tested the Plan to ensure that environmental burdens were minimised. On this basis, no changes to the Plan are considered necessary in relation to these issues. The Inspector will have access to both the summary and the full representation submitted which raised these issues and may wish to explore them further during the examination process. This could potentially result in the Inspector recommending changes to the Plan including its Monitoring Framework.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 Climate change and environmental considerations are central to the Vision of the WLWP, with broad alignment to the five key themes within Brent's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. It has been constructed with due consideration to environmental sustainability via a comprehensive Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment which accompany this report.

8.2 This vision is reflected in the WLWP's five Strategic Objectives and in the seven policies which would be used to determine applications for planning consent for waste related development in west London. Each of the five objectives have factored in the importance of environmental sustainability in some form.

8.3 The Vision reflects this via a focus on allowing waste materials to be managed as a valuable resource, keeping them in circulation through innovative re-use, repair, and high-quality recycling for as long as possible in line with circular economy principles. It also advocates a zero-waste to disposal approach, the establishment of a network of Circular Economy Hubs, minimising carbon emissions from west London's waste management system and improving energy efficiency, encouraging the increased use of low-carbon transport, with greater use of rail and river freight supported by electric and low-emissions vehicles and promotes waste infrastructure that is resilient to extreme weather effects of climate change.

8.4 It also considers the ecological emergency, and the potential impact on biodiversity and habitats. The Plan states that as a general principle, proposed development should have no significant adverse effects on local biodiversity and opportunities to enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure on and around the site should be maximised to improve visual amenity and provide ecological benefit. Biodiversity net gain should also be secured in line with the statutory framework and any local policy requirements set out in the development plans of each local planning authority.

9.0 Communication Considerations

9.1 The Regulation 19 consultation engagement measures set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement were followed, and were supplemented by a drop-in session at the Civic Centre. Advice was also sought from the Communications team regarding additional actions that could be taken. These included placing articles in the Members' Information bulletin and on Viva Engage. Fuller details of the engagement activities are set out in paragraphs 3.22 and 3.23 above.

9.2 As soon as reasonably practicable after submission of the WLWP to the Secretary of State, the post-submission measures set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement will be carried out. These include making copies of relevant documents available on the Council's website, at the Civic Centre and at other locations and publicising details of where, when and how these can be viewed.

Related document(s) for reference:

Cabinet 27/7/26 Decision - West London Waste Plan Regulation 19 Consultation

Report sign off:

Jehan Weerasinghe
Corporate Director Neighbourhoods & Regeneration

Brent	**Full Council** 16 November 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources

Changes to the Constitution

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
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Pameel Crowther-Newman, Interim Director of Law and Monitoring Officer 020 8937 4102 Pameel.Crowther-Newman@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1. This report proposes constitutional changes to Full Council meeting standing orders (Part 2 of the Constitution) relating to appointments and the council tax debate which were previously reported to Full Council on 14 September 2026. Members will recall that these proposed changes were part of the same vote as the statutory Planning Committee reforms and were not approved on that occasion.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That Full Council approve the amendments to Standing Orders 27(a), 30(g), 49 and 28(d) in Part 2 of the Constitution.

2.2 To authorise the Director of Law and Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to the Borough Plan and Strategic Priorities

3.1.1 Ensuring the Constitution is kept up to date and supportive of good governance contributes to the delivery of all the strategic priorities within the Borough Plan by supporting and enhancing the Council's activity.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 A general review of the provisions of the Constitution and its operation is being undertaken on an on-going basis to not only ensure it remains up to date and fit for purpose but also to secure improvements and deliver the objectives of the Council.

3.2.2 The proposals set out in this report have been informed by cross-party discussion at the Constitution Oversight Group (COG). COG is an informal officer/member working group. The political membership of the COG is balanced and COG has considered the proposals on two occasions.

4.0 Proposals

Full Council meeting standing orders

Appointment of the Mayor and Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs

4.1 The appointment of the mayor and committee chairs and vice-chairs is a Full Council function. Whereas, the relevant committee appoints sub-committee chairs and vice chairs. The council's standing orders relating to meetings would benefit from expressly stating the nomination and voting procedure for these appointments as follows:

"SO 27 The Annual Meeting
(a)* Mayor
To elect the Mayor for the following year.

Nominations for the Mayor shall be considered in the order in which they are received by the Deputy Director Democratic & Corporate Governance. Each nomination shall be put to the vote separately. Where a nomination receives a simple majority of the members present and voting, the nominee shall be appointed and no further nominations shall be considered. If a nomination is not approved, the next nomination shall be put to the vote until an appointment is made."

"SO 30(g) Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointments of Chairs/Vice Chairs
If necessary, to agree appointments to committees and outside bodies and to agree the appointment or replacement of Chairs and/or Vice Chairs of committees.

Nominations for committee Chairs and/or Vice Chairs shall be considered in the order in which they are received by the Deputy Director Democratic & Corporate

Governance. Each nomination shall be put to the vote separately. Where a nomination receives a simple majority of the members present and voting, the nominee shall be appointed, and no further nominations shall be considered. If a nomination is not approved, the next nomination shall be put to the vote until an appointment is made."

"SO 49 Appointments to and chairs of Council Committees and Sub-Committees

…

Nominations for sub-committee Chairs and/or Vice Chairs shall be considered in the order in which they are received by the Deputy Director Democratic & Corporate Governance. Each nomination shall be put to the vote separately. Where a nomination receives a simple majority of the members present and voting, the nominee shall be appointed and no further nominations shall be considered. If a nomination is not approved, the next nomination shall be put to the vote until an appointment is made."

Council tax debate

4.2 SO 28(d) states that: *"The Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee shall be allowed up to 10 minutes to present the findings of the committee. A procedural motion shall address the right to speak of the Group Leaders and the Lead Member for Resources including time limits. There will then be [a] general debate. Provision shall also be made in the procedural motion for the Leader of the Council to have the right to make closing remarks with a time limit specified. Following which a vote will be taken."*

4.3 It is recommended that the Council Tax Setting debate rules be codified in standing orders in the interests of transparency, consistency and certainty. It is proposed therefore that the above be replaced with the following*:*

"Subject to Standing Order 19, the debate on the budget and council tax proposals shall proceed as follows:

(i) the Leader of the Council may move the report and speak for up to 15 minutes;

(ii) *the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources may speak for up to 10 minutes;*

~~(i)~~(iii) *the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group may respond to the report and, where applicable, move an amendment or alternative budget proposals and speak for up to 5 minutes;*

~~*(ii)*~~*(iv) the Leader of each other political group may respond to the report and, where applicable, move an amendment or alternative budget proposals and speak for up to 5 minutes;*

(v) *the Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group may speak for up to 5 minutes;*

(vi) *there shall then be a general debate during which the rules in standing order 42 shall apply; and*

(vii) *at the conclusion of the debate the Leader of the Council shall have a right of reply and may speak for up to 5 minutes before the vote is taken. Amendments or alternative budget proposals will be taken en bloc in the order set out in (iii) and (iv) of this paragraph before a final vote on the substantive budget proposals."*

5.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

5.1 The proposed changes have been considered by the Constitution Oversight Group twice.

6.0 Financial Considerations

6.1 None.

7.0 Legal Considerations

7.1 The legal issues are addressed in the body of the report.

8.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

8.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council has a duty when exercising its functions to have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not. This is the public sector equality duty. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

8.2 "Due regard" is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances. The weight to be attached to the effect is a matter for the council. As long as the council is properly aware of the effects and has taken them into account, the duty is discharged. Depending on the circumstances, regard should be had to the following:

- the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision;
- the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- the need to take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not

share it. This includes taking account of disabled persons' disabilities. There can be a positive duty to take action to help a disabled person. What matters is how they are affected, whatever proportion of the relevant group of people they might be;

- the need to encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life (or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low); and

- the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

8.3 No equalities implications arise directly from this report.

9.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

9.1 None

10.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

10.1 None

11.0 Communication Considerations

11.1 None

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel
Corporate Director, Finance & Resources

This page is intentionally left blank

Council Meeting – 16 November 2026

Conservative Group amendment
Agenda Item 15 – Changes to Constitution

To amend the proposals relating to the proposed speaking rights on the Council Tax debate within Section 4.3 of the report as follows:

Amendment to 4.3 (iii): The Leader of the Principal Opposition Group may respond to the report and, where applicable, move an amendment or alternative budget proposals and speak for up to ~~5~~ 10 minutes.

Amendment to 4.3 (v): The Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group may speak for up to ~~5~~ 10 minutes.

Councillor Suresh Kansagra
Leader of Conservative Group

This page is intentionally left blank