

	<p align="center"><b>Full Council</b> 22 November 2021</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Report from the Assistant Chief Executive</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report</b></p>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non Key Decision</b>	Council
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b>	Open
<b>Appendices:</b>	One Appendix A: Committee Work Programme 2021-2022
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	<p>Lorna Hughes, Head of Strategy and Partnerships 0208 9377 4458 <a href="mailto:lorna.hughes@brent.gov.uk">lorna.hughes@brent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Angela d'Urso, Interim Strategic Partnerships, Policy and Scrutiny Manager <a href="mailto:angela.d'urso@brent.gov.uk">angela.d'urso@brent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Michael Carr, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer 020 8937 2855 <a href="mailto:michael.carr@brent.gov.uk">michael.carr@brent.gov.uk</a></p>

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At each meeting of Council, the Chairs of Scrutiny Committees may submit written reports on any matter in respect of which the committees have been consulted or which it has been reviewing and to speak to highlight significant issues to Council, in accordance with Part 2, paragraph 36 of the Brent Council Constitution.
- 1.2 This report provides a brief complementary summary of the activities of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

## 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the updates from the Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

## 3 Detail

- 3.1. Brent Council has two scrutiny committees; the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The Council is also a party to the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2. Brent Council Standing Orders allow for the chairs of the scrutiny committees to report to ordinary council meetings on the activities of their committees<sup>1</sup>.

### The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

- 3.3. 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. The remit of the committee is:

*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.*

- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. On Tuesday 14 September 2021 the committee considered Regeneration and Housing Zones in Brent and Brent Council Legal Services, with reports and oral evidence from the respective Cabinet members and departmental officers.

### Regeneration and Housing Zones in Brent

- 3.6. The committee considered Regeneration and Housing Zones in Brent and heard from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property and Planning, and the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, and received a report on regeneration across the borough and progress with achieving the objectives for the Wembley Housing Zone and Alperton Housing.
- 3.7. The committee considered a number of key points, including affordable housing, the use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 funding, local employment, such

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<sup>1</sup> Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.

<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s98196/part%202%20May%202020%20Procedural%20Rules.pdf>

as apprenticeships, in both Housing Zones, community spaces and affordable work spaces, transport infrastructure and public consultation.

3.8. At the end of considering this topic, the committee suggested the following area for improvement;-

*To consider an easier way to communicate with the public when regeneration or housing zone action is taken as a result of consultation with the public.*

#### Brent Council Legal Services

3.9. The committee considered Brent Council Legal Services and heard from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and the Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations, with a report providing an introduction to the Council's legal service, giving an overview of its work and operation and its role in the Council's governance.

3.10. The committee considered a number of key points, including; the work related to the Regeneration and Environment department on prosecutions, property leases, leasehold acquisition and contracts and work related to the Children and Young People department on care proceedings, which had seen an increase in demand during the pandemic, and the outsourcing and insourcing of work as required.

3.11. It was noted that the Constitutional Working Group (CWG) was an informal, cross-party member/officer group which met to discuss any changes to the Constitution, whether that be in response to legislation or organisational need, before being presented to Council.

3.12. Regarding the emergency powers brought in during the pandemic, it was noted that the Constitution gave the Chief Executive the power to make decisions in the case of an emergency, which was utilised, logged and reported to the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee, Scrutiny Committees and Full Council. Additional temporary delegated powers were also given to the Chief Executive during the pandemic to ensure online committee meetings could be held, as agreed by Full Council.

3.13. At the end of considering this topic, the committee suggested the following areas for improvement;-

(i). *To make a central database for all constitutional changes made in recent years available to the public.*

(ii). *To increase democratic overview and transparency within the Constitutional Working Group, ensuring member involvement in decision-making.*

3.14. The work plan of the committee is attached for reference at Appendix A.

#### **4 Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5 Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6 Equality Implications**

6.1 There are no equality implications.

#### **7 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

7.1 Councillors will discuss this report at the Council meeting.

**Report sign off:**

Shazia Hussain  
Assistant Chief Executive