

## Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Scrutiny Tracker 2021-22

These tables are to track the progress of scrutiny recommendations and suggestions for improvement made by the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, with details provided by the relevant lead departments. It is a standing item on the Committee's agendas, so that the Committee can keep track of the recommendations, suggestions and requests it has made, and the related the decisions made and implementation status. The tracker lists the recommendations, suggestions and information requests made by the committee throughout a municipal year and any recommendations not fully implemented from previous years.

The tracker documents the scrutiny recommendations to Cabinet made, the dates when they were made, the decision maker who can make each decision in respect of the recommendations, the date the decision was made and the actual decision taken. The executive decision taken may be the same as the scrutiny recommendation (e.g. the recommendation was "agreed") or it may be a different decision, which should be clarified here. The tracker also asks if the respective executive decisions have been implemented and this should be updated accordingly throughout the year.

Scrutiny Task Group report recommendations should be included here but referenced collectively (e.g. the name of the scrutiny inquiry and date of the agreement of the scrutiny report and recommendations by the scrutiny committee, along with the respective dates when the decision maker(s) considered and responded to the report and recommendations. The Committee should generally review the implementation of scrutiny task group report recommendations separately with stand-alone agenda items at relevant junctures – e.g. the Executive Response to a scrutiny report and after six months or a year, or upon expected implementation of the agreed recommendation of report. The "Expected Implementation Date" should provide an indication of a suitable time for review.

### **Key:**

**Date of scrutiny committee meeting** - For each table, the date of scrutiny committee meeting when the recommendation was made is provided in the subtitle header.

**Subject** – this is the item title on the committee's agenda; the subject being considered.

**Scrutiny Recommendation** – This is the text of the scrutiny recommendation as it appears on the minutes – **in bold**.

**Decision Maker** – the decision maker for the recommendation, (**in bold**), e.g. the Cabinet (for Council executive decisions), full Council (for Council policy and budgetary decisions), or an NHS executive body for recommendations to the NHS. In brackets, (date), the date on which the Executive Response was made.

**Executive Response** – The response of the decision maker (e.g. Cabinet decision) for the recommendation. This should be the executive decision as recorded in the minutes. The Executive Response should provide details of what, if anything, the executive will do in response to the scrutiny recommendation. Ideally, the Executive Response will include a decision to either agree/reject/or amend the scrutiny recommendation and where the scrutiny recommendation is rejected, provide an explanation of why. In brackets, provide the date of Cabinet/executive meeting that considered the scrutiny recommendation and made the decision.

**Department** – the Council directorate (and/or external agencies) that are responsible for implementation of the agreed executive decision/response. Also provided, for reference only, the relevant Cabinet Member and strategic director.

**Implementation Status** – This is the progress of any implementation of the agreed Executive Response against key milestones. This may cross reference to any specific actions and deadlines that may be provided in the Executive Response. This should be as specific and quantifiable as possible. This should also provide, as far as possible, any evidenced outcomes or improvements resulting from implementation.

**Review Date** - This is the expected date when the agreed Executive Response should be fully implemented and when the scrutiny committee may usefully review the implementation and any evidenced outcomes (e.g. service improvements). (Note: this is the implementation of the agreed Executive Response, which may not be the same as the scrutiny recommendation).

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**Recorded Recommendations from  
RPRSC on Tuesday 13 July 2021**

Subject	Scrutiny Recommendation	Decision Maker & Executive Response	Department, Cabinet Member and lead officer	Implementation Status	Review date
EURO 2020 Final at Wembley Stadium	That it be recommended to Cabinet; to hold a public review into the Council's actions taken before, during and after the Euro 2020 Final to establish the lessons learnt.	<p><a href="#">Cabinet 13 September 2021</a></p> <p><b>Cabinet Decision:</b> That Brent Council will:</p> <p>i). Undertake an assessment of Council activities relating to its responsibilities around safety, licensing and enforcement at Wembley Stadium as part of the Euro 2020 Finals in order to support the overarching Review led by Baroness Casey;</p> <p>ii). Fully support the Baroness Casey Review throughout;</p> <p>iii). Consider fully any recommendations relevant to the Council's duties that arise from the Review and;</p> <p>iv). Oversee and implement any actions and priorities for change.</p> <p><a href="https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s113587/6a.%20Executive%20Response%20to%20the%20Resources%20and%20Public%20Realm%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf">https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s113587/6a.%20Executive%20Response%20to%20the%20Resources%20and%20Public%20Realm%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf</a></p>	<p>Cabinet Members: Cllrs Sheth and Knight</p> <p>Lead Department: Regeneration and Environment</p> <p>Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment</p>	Implementation by: By July 2022	July 2022

**Recorded Recommendations from  
RPRSC on 14 July 2020**

Subject	Scrutiny Recommendation	Decision Maker & Executive Response	Department, Cabinet Member and lead officer	Implementation Status	Review date
The Public Realm	That the new parking strategy ensure that it is always cheaper to park a bike than park a car in Brent, and ensure that the cheapest resident parking permit is more expensive than using a bike hangar.	<p>Cabinet 12 October 2020</p> <p>Cabinet Decision/Response: Cabinet RESOLVED to approve the Executive Response.</p> <p>Cabinet Decision: That consideration be given to raising the lowest parking permit price to the equivalent of the starting price for using a cycle hanger.</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Environment and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property &amp; Planning</p> <p>Strategic Director and Regeneration Environment</p>	<p>The department will look to raise the lowest parking permit price to the equivalent of the starting price for using a cycle hanger i.e. from the current £25 to £36.</p> <p>The Council uses two suppliers for the provision and management of Cycle Hangars in the borough, residents pay £36 for 3 years (subsidised) rising to £72 per annum for a space. This charge includes administration and also cleaning and maintenance of the hangar. The lowest resident annual permit is £25 per year, this is to encourage ownership of greener vehicles in the borough. We have no plans for changes to the emission based permit charges at present, but this can be considered when reviewed in the future.</p> <p>We have secured £300k of S106 developer funding for the expansion of the boroughs cycle hangar network over the next 2 years. Officers have been exploring the options to reduce the cost of a bike hangar space following the 3 year subsidy and have contacted our current suppliers to see if they have the scope to manage this on our behalf and reduce the annual charge residents would have to pay, or whether this can be managed in-house. The team have been focussing on the introduction of school streets in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, but will further explore options in the Spring / Summer. If the option is for a supplier to manage cycle hangar</p>	<p>March 2021</p> <p>New review date: July 2022</p>

				<p>requests, this will require procurement / contract arrangements.</p> <p>This will not be progressed during the current pandemic restrictions, with the target start date for consultation on this proposal no earlier than June 2022.</p>	
The Public Realm	That 20mph be adopted as the default speed on Brent roads, subject to an environmental audit, and that a timetable be drawn up for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit across the borough.	<p>Cabinet 12 October 2020</p> <p><i>Cabinet Decision:</i> That consideration be given to introducing 20mph as the default speed on Brent roads to an extent that reasonably accounts for the feasibility, the cost, the value, the actual impact on traffic and speeding at any given location, and the capacity of the department to deliver this policy at this time.</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Environment and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property &amp; Planning</p> <p>Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>Approximately 45% of the borough is already 20mph and new safety schemes introduce 20mph speed limits when introduced. Further consideration to a borough wide approach will be given in line with the new review date (March 2022), but with limited funding available it may not be cost effective at this time.</p>	<p>March 2021</p> <p>New review date: March 2022</p>
The Public Realm	That any future transport strategies and plans include clear measurements and modelling for active transport and the impact on air quality.	<p>Cabinet 12 October 2020</p> <p>Cabinet Decision: That consideration be given, when reviewing and updating the Long Term Transport Strategy or drafting any new strategies for future transport strategies and plans, to include clear measurements and modelling for active transport and the impact on air quality.</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Environment and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property &amp; Planning</p> <p>Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>The Draft Long Term Transport Strategy is currently being reviewed. The draft strategy will be approved by Cabinet in February before a period of public and stakeholder consultation/engagement during spring 2022.</p>	<p>March 2021</p> <p>New review date: March 2022</p>

## Suggestions for improvement / information requests tracker

### Recorded suggestions for improvement / information requests from RPRSC

Meeting date and agenda item	Suggestions for improvement and information requests made by RPRSC	Department	Responses / Status
Budget Scrutiny Task Group 2020/21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The budget scrutiny process should start much earlier next year with at least three months lead in time until the public consultation is published</li> <li>2. Budget panel meetings should take place in public in the interests of transparency and accountability to the public.</li> <li>3. We recommend less emphasis from the council on savings proposals alone and more focus on how the entire budget is shaped and spending allocated across the whole organisation</li> <li>4. It was felt that more detailed budget line information would be required to see the entire departmental budget to have a full picture of the budget.</li> <li>5. We recommend that a focus group of front line council staff is organised for the next budget scrutiny round and for budget decisions to be discussed with them with the task group</li> <li>6. We recommend that councillors in the task group</li> </ol>	Assistant Chief Executive / Finance	<p>The process recommendations were made as part of the budget scrutiny process 2020/21. The budget scrutiny process 2021/22 responded to many of these recommendations.</p> <p>1 - This year's budget scrutiny task group was established by R&amp;PRSC 13 July 2021, compared the previous year's task group, which was established on 1 December 2020. Sessions were held August – December 2021/22, compared to November - December 2020/21. A number of additional sessions were agreed as part of this year's budget scrutiny process, and the final list of sessions was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An initial session to agree approach and consider any early evidence – 26 August 2021</li> <li>• A focus group with key voluntary and community sector partners</li> <li>• An evidence session focused on community and wellbeing services, including hearing testimony from our school partners</li> <li>• An evidence session focused on public realm and resources services, including hearing testimony from the Brent Hubs manager.</li> <li>• An evidence session to consider the 6 December 2021 Cabinet papers, the local government financial settlement and emerging recommendations</li> </ul> <p>2 - Budget scrutiny meetings did not take place in public. It should be noted that a new approach was taken with the submission of formal reports to the budget scrutiny task group in advance of meetings. Based on this successful new approach it may be possible to hold some budget scrutiny sessions in public.</p> <p>3 - The budget scrutiny task group looked at the savings proposals, but also considered a much wider budget evidence base across council resources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pressure within the Dedicated School Grant and the robustness of approaches taken to ensure that the council is managing spend as far as is possible.</li> <li>• The £17m Covid19 Recovery package agreed at Full Council in July 2021 – specifically what this has been allocated to and the speed of delivery.</li> </ul>

	<p>should be able to have a full and frank discussion following evidence sessions with only the scrutiny support officer present</p> <p>7. We recommend that the budget scrutiny group looks into and follows national guidance on budget scrutiny ahead of the next process, for example, from the centre for public scrutiny</p> <p>8. We recommend an improvement to the culture around budget scrutiny that is more open and less defensive, recognising that rigorous questioning is part of the democratic scrutiny process and that questions around performance and the budget in no way reflect the individual performance track records of individual members of staff or councillors.</p> <p>9. Further discussions should be undertaken between the Chair of the Audit Committee and the two chairs of the Scrutiny Committees to agree on the shape of budget scrutiny throughout the year. It was agreed that this process needs to be improved.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implications of Covid19 on the adult social care budget, particularly on mental health and long Covid19.</li> <li>• The plan to manage the work undertaken on health inequalities when the £700k DLUHC grant comes to an end.</li> <li>• The impacts of Covid19 on income from business rates, council tax and HRA rents and whether this is sufficiently taken into account in the proposed budget</li> <li>• To test whether the assumptions that were agreed for the 2022/23 budget in February 2021 were still valid.</li> </ul> <p>4 - The budget book – a full budget breakdown - was made available to the budget scrutiny task group this year.</p> <p>5 - A focus group of community and voluntary sector partners was held this year, which gave additional insight to the pressures faced by partners and our communities. The approach was successful and can be incorporated into future budget scrutiny processes for next year onwards.</p> <p>6 - All evidence sessions had agenda time allocated at the end for task group deliberation, supported by the scrutiny officers. This allowed for the earlier development of recommendations from the task group, based on immediate reflections from the evidence sessions.</p> <p>7 - Budget scrutiny task group members received training in 2020 from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. Relevant training sessions - including guidance for conducting budget scrutiny – can be booked by officers for future budget scrutiny task groups to access. Officers continue to share best practice across scrutiny and finance networks.</p> <p>8 - The budget scrutiny task group process was transparent and collaborative, with rigorous questioning and full and open responses given.</p> <p>9 - A meeting was held 16 September 2021 between the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and the Audit Committee Chair. The agenda provided time to review areas of cross over between the work plans of the committees, including budget and resources. Dates and frequency of future joint meetings were also discussed.</p>
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<p>10 November 2021, hot topic - flooding</p>	<p>Improvement suggestion: To include more emphasis on climate change and RPs when reviewing the flood risk management strategy within the next 12 months.</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>The council is obliged to review and update the Flood Risk Management Strategy regularly. The next review of the flood risk management strategy is scheduled to be completed by Autumn 2022. When reviewing, officers will include content on climate change and a commitment to communicate on climate change.</p> <p><b>Review Autumn 2022</b></p>
	<p>Improvement suggestion: That the Planning Committee be given training opportunities on flood risk management.</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>Officers will ensure a training session on planning and climate change impacts and mitigations, to include flood risk. This will be part of the training programme for the new committees on an ongoing basis.</p> <p><b>Review June 2022</b></p>
<p>18 January 2022 – Healthy Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Information request: To receive a breakdown of the funding received by Brent Council for the Schools Streets and Healthy (Low Traffic) Neighbourhood schemes and the proportion of this funding that remains unspent.</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>School Streets Tranche 1 - (£121,000)</b> Consultation, signs, equipment, staff time, traffic surveys, air quality monitoring, traffic orders, safety audits, assessments.</li> <li>• <b>School Streets Tranche 2 - (£58,000)</b> Consultation, signs, equipment, staff time, traffic surveys and air quality monitoring, traffic orders, safety audits, assessments.</li> <li>• <b>LTN Tranche 1 – (£352,000)</b> Planters, bollards, signs, surveys, bus mitigation, traffic surveys, air quality monitoring, staff time, consultation, traffic orders, (implementation of 5 HNs)</li> <li>• <b>LTN / School Streets Tranche 2 – (£471,000)</b> Consultation, engagement, assessments, information boards, commonplace engagement software, planter maintenance, scheme amendments, 16 ANPR CCTV cameras, staff.</li> <li>• <b>Healthy Streets and Places – (£220,000)</b> 10 ANPR CCTV cameras, enabling surveys</li> <li>• <b>Remaining funding approx. £130,000 (uncommitted)</b> Can only be used for TfL approved measures or handed back to TfL.</li> </ul>
	<p>Improvement suggestion: For the Council to demonstrate how the lessons learned in relation to public consultation undertaken on the Schools Streets and Healthy (Low Traffic) Neighbourhood schemes will inform the Council's wider consultation and engagement approach.</p>		<p>Officers are considering the future approach to community engagement and co-design for Active Travel schemes in order to meet local needs and priorities. There will be a focus on the 'Healthy Streets' approach and the benefits of these schemes in encouraging active travel, improving air quality, health and wellbeing and responding to the climate and ecological emergency.</p>



18 January 2022 - Covid-19 Recovery	<p>Information request: To receive a breakdown of the Covid-19 grant funding received by the Council including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Total received</li> <li>b) Total spent</li> <li>c) Total unspent</li> <li>d) Outputs/outcomes</li> <li>e) Cut off points for grant applications and spend</li> <li>f) Total allocated from Council core funding/additional grant funding</li> </ul>	Finance	<i>PENDING</i>
	<p>Information request: To receive a breakdown of the outputs/outcomes (in line with outputs/outcomes provided for other work in report) for Covid-19 support provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Brent Hubs</li> <li>b) Financial Inclusion and Welfare workstream</li> </ul>	Customer and Digital Services	<p><u>Financial Capability Upskilling programme in the community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of workshops to residents and community leaders within community settings between January and March 2022. Expected outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase in financial confidence and resilience within Brent communities</li> <li>○ Increase in community leaders financial upskilling skills and knowledge, and ability to share those skills within the community</li> <li>○ Train community leaders on how to offer early intervention to guide residents on support pathways</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Training to upskill Brent Hubs staff and residents in debt management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of training sessions to residents and Brent Hubs staff between November 2021 and March 2022. Expected outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased knowledge on strategies for dealing with existing debt, identifying priority debtors, and dealing with creditors</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Debt advisory support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the capacity of an independent debt advisory charity to enable ongoing information sharing between the Council's debt recovery team and the independent agency to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Free independent professional debt advise for Brent residents which meets their individual financial needs</li> <li>○ Streamlined Council processes to ensure data driven decisions on how we target debt recovery actions for particular groups including vulnerable residents</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<p><u>Financial Upskilling learning programme in Brent Hubs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of a learning programme to improve individual and family financial budgeting and management from within a Brent Hubs location from November 2021 to March 2022. Expected outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improvement in resident's money management skills, increase resident's knowledge on a range of financial topics, and improve their general financial wellbeing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Information request: To receive a list of organisations that have signed up to the Foodbank Network and details on where the organisations are located within the borough.		<i>PENDING</i>
	Information request: To receive a list of contracts that have been given outside of the Council's procurement rules during the Covid-19 pandemic.		<i>PENDING</i>
	Information request: To receive a list of the Council's live strategies.	Assistant Chief Executive	<p>These are the strategies listed on Brent Council's Strategies and Plans section on the website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Physical Activity Strategy for Brent 2016-2021</li> <li>• Brent Borough Plan 2021-2022</li> <li>• Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-2030</li> <li>• Brent Digital Strategy</li> <li>• Brent Museum and Archives Strategy</li> <li>• Community Safety Strategy</li> <li>• Equality Strategy 2019 - 2023</li> <li>• Flood Risk Management Strategy</li> <li>• Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy</li> <li>• Housing Strategy</li> <li>• Inclusive Growth Strategy</li> <li>• Parking Policy 2020</li> <li>• School Place Planning Strategy 2019 -23</li> <li>• Sport and Active Recreation Facilities Strategy</li> <li>• Stronger Communities Strategy</li> </ul>

	<p>Improvement suggestion: For the Council to consider increasing the amount of grant funding provided to Brent foodbanks.</p>		<p><i>PENDING</i></p>
	<p>Improvement suggestion: For the council to engages with the largest employers within the borough to seek assurance around potential future job losses. If necessary, appropriate support should be given to large employers to ensure job losses are limited.</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>The Economic Development, Employment and Skills team are developing and engagement and support plan for working with largest employers in the borough. 'Supporting your business in 2022' brochure is being distributed to all business rate players in March 2022.</p>
	<p>Improvement suggestion: For the council's town centre managers to assess how many local businesses are in need of "critical support" and increase support for these businesses in line with their need.</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>This audit is currently being carried out.</p>
	<p>Improvement suggestion: For the Council to ensure that Covid-19 related financial support for victims of domestic abuse and violence is well communicated to residents.</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p><i>PENDING</i></p>
	<p>Improvement suggestion: For the Council to consider commissioning business and/or financial professionals to provide support to those high street businesses that may be struggling to recover from the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Customer and Digital Services</p>	<p><i>PENDING</i></p>

18 January 2022 - Budget Scrutiny	Information request: To receive details of any lobbying and/or media communications undertaken by the Council and other local authorities calling for additional funding to recover the Dedicated School Grant deficit.	Finance	<i>PENDING</i>
	Improvement suggestion: For the Council to continue to lobby central government for a sustainable solution to funding the Dedicated School Grant deficit, with active involvement from Cabinet.	Finance	<i>PENDING</i>
18 January 2022 - VAWG Scrutiny Task Group Update	Information request: To receive a breakdown of the corporate training offered to Council staff including: a) Type of training b) Take up of training c) Take up of training by department d) Evaluation measures	Regeneration and Environment	<i>PENDING</i>
	Information request: To receive a breakdown of the number of women with older male children housed through the council house-building programme including: a) Total figures b) Type of accommodation	Regeneration and Environment	<i>PENDING</i>
	Information request: To receive details of the work undertaken to ensure that domestic abuse and VAWG	Regeneration and Environment	<i>PENDING</i>

	services are accessible to all residents including those that share a protected characteristic.		
	Improvement suggestion: For the Council to ensure emphasis is given to the initiatives to support for perpetrators within the VAWG strategy	Regeneration and Environment	<i>PENDING</i>
	Improvement suggestion: For the Council to ensure that the business training provided to the night time economy (local pubs, bars, restaurants etc.) around supporting vulnerable women and safeguarding is offered more widely to local businesses	Regeneration and Environment	Town Centre Managers will continue to promote this training to businesses, and it is highlighted in the business newsletters.
18 January 2022 - Progress tracker	Information request: To receive further information on the changes implemented as a result of the out of hours emergency crisis response review (Hot Topic Item – Flooding, 10 November 2021)	Customer and Digital Services	<i>PENDING</i>