

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).



**Recorded Recommendations from RPRS
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>Cabinet 13 September 2021</p> <p>Cabinet Decision: 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>https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s113587/6a.%20Executive%20Response%20to%20the%20Resources%20and%20Public%20Realm%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf</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 & Planning</p> <p>Strategic Director Regeneration and 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 requests, this will require procurement / contract arrangements.</p>	<p>March 2021</p> <p>New review date: July 2022</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.	
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.	Cabinet 12 October 2020 <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.	Regeneration and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment	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.	March 2021 New review date: March 2022
The Public Realm	That any future transport strategies and plans include clear measurements and modelling for active transport and the impact on air quality.	Cabinet 12 October 2020 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.	Regeneration and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment	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.	March 2021 New review date: March 2022

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														
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"> a) Total received b) Total spent c) Total unspent d) Outputs/outcomes e) Cut off points for grant applications and spend f) Total allocated from Council core funding/additional grant funding 	Finance	<p>a) Total received The Council has received over £300m of Covid 19 grants from the start of the pandemic from a variety of government agencies. Some have been granted to directly fund council services or to provide support to residents and businesses, whilst others have been given to the council to distribute on behalf of central governments under their rules and guidelines. See detail in table in annexe A.</p> <p>b) and c) Total spent and total unspent To date over £200m of the grants have been spent on specific projects or providing funding generally towards services the council provides. There is a commitment to spend a further £21m by year-end.</p> <p>For some grants Brent received an allocated amount which they would only be entitled to retain up to the level they actually paid out, with the rest repaid back to the government. In some cases the amount paid out would be restricted to the number of eligible cases or claimants. From these grants Brent is currently due to return £70m. See detail in table in annexe A.</p> <p>d) Outputs/outcomes The grants fall into 5 main categories. The table below shows the amounts received by category.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="999 1118 1845 1386"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Amount £m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Containing the virus and ensuring public safety</td> <td>25.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Providing funding for additional council service</td> <td>5.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Financial support to Businesses</td> <td>214.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Financial support to Residents</td> <td>11.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Grant to support the council's financial impact</td> <td>50.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Grants Received</td> <td>308.1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Amount £m	Containing the virus and ensuring public safety	25.9	Providing funding for additional council service	5.5	Financial support to Businesses	214.4	Financial support to Residents	11.6	General Grant to support the council's financial impact	50.7	Total Grants Received	308.1
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			<p>See detail in table in annexe A.</p> <p>e) Cut off points for grant applications and spend Many of the grants required businesses to apply for funding whilst some were processed without applications but were subject to government cut off dates at which point eligibility ended. Some had to be spent by the council by a specific date. The Council conformed to date restrictions that were set out in the grant conditions. A number of grants, such as the Additional Restrictions Grant, the Hardship fund and Covid Additional Restrictions Fund are ongoing and still being processed for payment.</p> <p>f) Total allocated from council core funding/additional grant funding The council did not allocate any additional core funding to contain the impacts of Covid 19 in 2020/21. The total impact in 2021/22 is being monitored and any funding requirements will be considered alongside specific grants that have been made available during the year-end process.</p> <p>See detail in table in annexe A.</p>
	<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> <p>a) Brent Hubs b) Financial Inclusion and Welfare work stream</p>	<p>Customer and Digital Services</p>	<p><u>Financial Capability Upskilling programme in the community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> ○ Increase in financial confidence and resilience within Brent communities ○ Increase in community leaders financial upskilling skills and knowledge, and ability to share those skills within the community ○ Train community leaders on how to offer early intervention to guide residents on support pathways <p><u>Training to upskill Brent Hubs staff and residents in debt management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> ○ Increased knowledge on strategies for dealing with existing debt, identifying priority debtors, and dealing with creditors <p><u>Debt advisory support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> ○ Free independent professional debt advise for Brent residents which meets their individual financial needs

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Streamlined Council processes to ensure data driven decisions on how we target debt recovery actions for particular groups including vulnerable residents <p><u>Financial Upskilling learning programme in Brent Hubs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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"> ○ Improvement in resident's money management skills, increase resident's knowledge on a range of financial topics, and improve their general financial wellbeing.
	<p>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.</p>		<p>The list below are members of the Brent Food Aid Network which have received grant funding to support demand related to the Pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ansar Youth – Wembley ● Granville Community Kitchen – Kilburn ● St Laurence's Larder – Willesden/Kilburn ● London's Community Kitchen Alperton ● Rumi's Cave – previous location in Kilburn now operating in Harlesden ● Sufra NW London – 3 locations in Stonebridge, Willesden, Wembley ● Willesden mutual aid - Willesden
	<p>Information request: To receive a list of contracts that have been given outside of the Council's procurement rules during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>		<p>All awards that the Procurement team were involved in, or made aware of, were made in line within the procurement rules.</p> <p>The procurement rules PCR 2015 Regulation 32 allow awards to be made for reasons of extreme urgency bought about by unforeseeable events.</p>
	<p>Information request: To receive a list of the Council's live strategies.</p>	<p>Assistant Chief Executive</p>	<p>These are the strategies listed on Brent Council's Strategies and Plans section on the website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brent Borough Plan 2021-2022 ● Black Community Action Plan ● Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-2030 ● Affordable Workplace Strategy ● Contaminated Land Strategy ● Digital Strategy 2022-26 ● Equality Strategy 2019 - 2023 ● Flood Risk Management Strategy ● Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25 ● Inclusive Growth Strategy 2019-40

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked After Children and Care Leavers Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2020-24 • Meanwhile Use Strategy • Parking Policy 2020 • Procurement Strategy 2020 -23 • SEND Strategy 2021-25 • School Place Planning Strategy 2019-23 • Stronger Communities Strategy 2019-23 • Transport Strategy 2015-35 • Walking Strategy 2017-22
	Improvement suggestion: For the Council to consider increasing the amount of grant funding provided to Brent foodbanks.		In response to the grants team review report we have made grants more accessible and easier to apply for, which include voluntary sector and foodbanks.
	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.	Regeneration and Environment	The Economic Development, Employment and Skills team are developing an 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.
	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.	Regeneration and Environment	This audit is currently being carried out.
	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.	Assistant Chief Executive	Brent Council commissions Advance to support victims of domestic abuse. Through this service we deliver the Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which coordinates multiple services to provide support to survivors. We ensure that all elements of financial support and assistance is considered, offered and an allocated Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) is made available to support with any applications required.

			Throughout the pandemic, Brent Council provided additional investment to increase access to the service and we delivered an enhanced campaign to highlight domestic abuse and how to report it.
	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.	Customer and Digital Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is underway to provide retail consultancy and support to high street businesses in changing the look and feel of the shops to attract more footfall and income • Bubltown and Buy Brent App have been launched to support business to have digital presences so that businesses can take advantage of e-commerce, online sales, click and collect • Green audits – The council has commissioned for a provider to offer free energy efficiency audits to businesses, with a view to providing grant funding following the outcome of these audits, to help improve the sustainability of business premises. • Digital training – A Digital Support Fund is open for business to apply to receive digital hardware (laptop & connectivity, where required) alongside digital skills training to improve their digital capability and build resilience against future economic shocks. • Start-Up Business Support – The council will shortly be commissioning for an experienced provider to deliver pop-up start-up business training to individuals looking to start a business or those looking to level up following the pandemic.
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	Please see annexes B and C
	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	Please see annexes B and C

18 January 2022 - VAWG Scrutiny Task Group Update	<p>Information request: To receive a breakdown of the corporate training offered to Council staff including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Type of training b) Take up of training c) Take up of training by department d) Evaluation measures. 	Assistant Chief Executive	<p>We have submitted a request to our corporate training team for attendance figures and further details, once this is available we will share with the committee. The domestic abuse awareness training sessions are also offered to external partners to access and across the year we enhance the offer with specialist training by partner agencies. Some of these additional training sessions we do not hold the final attendance figures for.</p> <p>Details of training are shared through a number of routes including the monthly newsletter to partners, an online training portal and through the borough-wide VAWG network (voluntary and community sector).</p>
	<p>Information request: To receive a breakdown of the number of women with older male children housed through the council house-building programme including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total figures b) Type of accommodation 		<p>This level of information is not recorded or held currently by the Brent Domestic Abuse Housing team.</p>
	<p>Information request: To receive details of the work undertaken to ensure that domestic abuse and VAWG services are accessible to all residents including those that share a protected characteristic.</p>		<p>Referral pathways between Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) partners are clear to ensure residents have equitable access to services e.g. referral forms, MARAC referrals, Freephone helplines, out of hours service on Thursdays. One stop shop (Chrysalis) has resumed face to face services. This is reinforced through steering / delivery groups and monitoring meetings where concerns can be addressed.</p> <p>There is also a monthly VAWG newsletter that is distributed widely which partners share with the community, and includes local updates and a service directory of Brent services.</p> <p>There are also services open to BAME service users e.g. Awaaz (domestic abuse specific counselling with various languages). Ending Harmful Practices Helpline and PLIAS receive MOPAC funding providing specialist support to ensure intersectionality barriers are overcome.</p>
	<p>Improvement suggestion: For the Council to ensure emphasis is given to the initiatives to support for perpetrators within the VAWG strategy</p>		<p>Our commissioned provider, RISE Mutual, is well embedded within the borough, attending multi-agency meetings such as the DA MARAC and steering groups. Their programmes perpetrator prevention, CPV (child to parent violence), APV (adult to parent violence) and CIFA (culturally integrated family approach) are promoted regularly through various channels. CIFA works with marginalised and minoritised ethnicities to ensure these groups of people are able to access specialised support.</p>

			The service is co-located across our Children and Young People's teams where we receive the highest referrals. In addition, the service is reviewed in line with contractual arrangements and by the community safety team to ensure the most effective interventions are offered and reached for Perpetrators to successfully engage.
	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 highlight in 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	<p>A joint working group was created following the incident with the out of hours (OOH) service, our emergency team, Housing colleagues and Corporate Contact Centre. Following learning from the incident below are the changes that have been made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The co-ordination between OOH, Emergency team and Housing colleagues has been tightened with trigger points with volumes of calls and severity of any issue • BHM duty rota will ensure to have two officers on rota and if one is off sick, they are replaced with another officer. • BHM and Emergency team will ensure that consistent updates are given to OOH service to advice residents and co-ordinate with Thames Water and other stakeholders • Clear escalation paths to senior management have been agreed. • Calls to OOH will now be able to queue for an indefinite period of time and will not be disconnected • BHM have now provided a supplementary script for Communal Water specifically relating to Drinking Water which has been cascaded to OOH to implement • The contact details of management in OOH has been resent to BHM colleagues.
9 February 2022 - Flooding	Information request: To receive a copy of the independent review into the events of and response to the floods experienced across London	Mike Benke, Thames Water	Information has been requested and will be provided later in the calendar year. Ahead of the publication of the full report a series of interim reports will be published covering aspects of the flooding and the first one is due imminently. More details about the review can be found here .

	in July when published and Thames Water's response to the review		
	Information request: To receive information on the level of funding for drainage repairs in Brent compared to other London boroughs	Mike Benke, Thames Water	<p>In terms of identifying spending per borough, as indicated in the meeting on 9 February 2022, this is hard to do and is not measured by Thames Water. As London is divided into different natural water catchments each served by a sewage works, when we spend money in one borough it can benefit multiple boroughs.</p> <p>Brent is served by two major sewage works Mogden and Beckton. In the current 5-year business plan (2020 -2025), Thames Water plan to spend around £300 million in the Beckton catchment and over £180 million in the Mogden catchment on major asset improvements.</p> <p>This major expenditure is in addition to the existing expenditure on cleaning and maintaining the sewer network, pumping stations and other equipment that we need to run an efficient wastewater service. In 2021, Thames Water cleaned 133 km of sewers in the Mogden catchment and 115 km in the Beckton catchment.</p>
	Information request: To receive an update report on the development of the Council's multi-agency flood plan	Regeneration and Environment	<p>External consultants have been engaged to review and update Brent's Flood Risk Management Strategy. The process will take approx. 8-10months and members along with other key stakeholders will be consulted during the review process.</p> <p>Please follow this link to the council's Flood Risk Management Strategy Brent Council</p>
	Improvement suggestion: For the Council's Planning Department to work more closely with Thames Water on drainage issues arising from planning applications.	Regeneration and Environment	The planning department will consult Thames Water on planning applications where drainage and sewerage capacity may be an issue, and on masterplan SPDs. They were consulted on the Local Plan.
Fire safety 9 February 2022	Information request: To receive information on London Fire Brigade fire safety awareness communication plans and the work undertaken through the Safer Brent Partnership to develop and promote these plans	Assistant Chief Executive	The Safer Brent Partnership continues to maintain a strong partnership with the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and meetings are attended by the Borough Commander. We have had presentations to the board regarding their engagement plans of the LFB. The board has also participated in open day events and shared information to support the LFB. Our most vulnerable residents have benefited from referrals to support via our Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (Community MARAC),

		<p>safeguarding teams as well as health partners. We will ensure we also link into future messages and maintain support of safety awareness raising in the borough.</p> <p>John Ryan, Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade - response: Following on from Covid restrictions the LFB are now working to return to pre-Covid activities and are looking to build upon existing partnerships and improve and increase in areas where our partnership working could improve.</p> <p>Ongoing work includes the targeting of care homes for Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV's) subject to Covid risk assessments, as these are our most vulnerable residents. We are also offering to provide training and support to care workers in recognising the tell-tale signs of the risks of fire and how to reduce or prevent this risk. This is offered in the form of a seven minute briefing which helps in the roll out and access for staff. Home fire safety visits carried out pre Covid was regularly 80% of visits targeting the Boroughs most vulnerable residents. We are now planning a return to these level of delivery.</p> <p>Community engagement is being increased in the form of fire safety visits, visual audits and high rise premises visits. At every opportunity fire safety advice and guidance is offered, with the invitation of a HFSV where required. We have increase our community safety visits utilising our referral form which reduces the time between receipt and action, as it is managed locally. This also improves the working relationship between health, social services and LFB.</p> <p>Our crews have an LFB target (10%) with regards to Community fire safety, spending over 11% of their time carrying out community work such as school, care home, club visits giving safety advice. Plus working on national campaigns.</p> <p>We are now actively promoting both our safety messages via our twitter account to ensure as wide spread exposure of these messages as possible. We are also sharing partners messages on our twitter account again with the view to ensuring these community safety messages are shared as wide spread as possible.</p> <p>The LFB can still offer free training to partners in a number of areas, for example on the response to an acid attack. This would also be particularly useful door staff of the Boroughs Night clubs and bars. This is being explored with our Community safety and licensing partners on how we offer this.</p>
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			<p>Having recently returned to Brent from Kingston I am keen to ensure and a closer working relationship with all our partners taking into account the results of our public consultation and the role out of our community risk management plan to the benefit of all those in our community.</p>												
	<p>Information request: To receive a breakdown of the current and future high-risk buildings in Brent and the work undertaken by the Council to improve fire safety standards across high-risk buildings since Grenfell</p>	<p>Customer and Digital Services</p>	<p>The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has established the Building Safety Programme to make sure that buildings are safe - and people feel safe - now, and in the future.</p> <p>The government has banned combustible materials in the external walls of high-rise residential buildings of 18 metres and over. With the support of local fire and rescue services and a panel of independent expert advisers, DLUHC is supporting building owners in taking immediate steps to ensure their residents' safety and in making decisions on any remedial work that is necessary to do.</p> <p>The programme is working with building owners, housing providers, schools, hospitals and the construction industry, including an Industry Response Group.</p> <p>As part of this programme DLUHC are working with local authorities to identify the wall coverings of buildings 18M and over that have majority private tenants or are either hotels or student accommodation. To that end, the Council has collected data on behalf of DLUHC.</p> <p>The Council initially collected the data by way of visual inspection surveys for subsequent verification via Landlord building information requests and review. Set out below is a summary of the buildings identified in Brent by external wall covering type. This information has been provided to DLUHC via their Delta system.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="996 997 2011 1348"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Buildings above 18M in Brent (excluding social housing) wall covering (private rent and lease, hotels and student accommodation)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Aluminium composite material (ACM)</th> <th>High pressure laminate (HPL)</th> <th>Other metal composite material (MCM)</th> <th>Other non-combustible materials including glass, brick, concrete, render etc.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>15</td> <td>10</td> <td>91</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Buildings above 18M in Brent (excluding social housing) wall covering (private rent and lease, hotels and student accommodation)				Aluminium composite material (ACM)	High pressure laminate (HPL)	Other metal composite material (MCM)	Other non-combustible materials including glass, brick, concrete, render etc.	9	15	10	91
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9	15	10	91												

	Information request: To receive information on the Council's role in ensuring fire safety standards in private housing blocks and the actions taken to do so	Community Wellbeing	Attached as annexe D
Community Engagement and Communications 9 February 2022	Information request: To receive further information on resident engagement groups; namely the membership of these groups and how the Council ensures they are representative of local communities.	Community Wellbeing	<p>Brent Housing Management has an established network of 17 Resident Associations across the borough. These RA's are made up of volunteers who live or own homes on Brent Council estates and each RA is responsible for making their meetings inclusive places for all. Any resident from the estate can be part of the RA but they are required to be elected. Separately all residents are entitled to observe RA meetings. Brent Housing Management has a dedicated Customer Experience and Engagement Manager who works closely with the RA's and provides guidance on how to operate as a group successfully. There is dedicated mailbox for RA's to use HousingFeedback@brent.gov.uk and the Customer Experience and Engagement Manager maintains regular contact with each chair of the RA.</p> <p>BHM produces a guide for all Resident Associations to use as a framework which includes a code of conduct and equality and diversity policy. This guide is available on request by emailing HousingFeedback@brent.gov.uk. The list of current RA's are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpha Gorefield & Canterbury Court • Bernard Shaw House • Cavendish Close • Eskdale & Loweswater • Five Ways • Gauntlett Court • Lodge and Manor • Marley Walk • Newfield Rise • Pharamond • St Andrews • St Raphaels • Summit Court • The Groves • Windmill Court • William Dunbar/ William Saville

<p>Topical issue – TfL funding 9 March 2022</p>	<p>Improvement suggestion: Better communication with residents on identifying streets that needed improvements</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>Unlike schemes, whereby residents are involved from the outset to help develop proposals for road safety or parking measures, priorities for maintenance are primarily selected on condition data collected by independent consultants. We will also take other factors into account such as, past accident records, usage, past reactive repairs and member nominations to determine the final priorities. The materials used for our footway and carriageway programmes is based on policy and is not open for residents to decide on type of material for their road.</p> <p>A yearly report is presented to Cabinet that sets out our asset management principles and criteria for identifying priorities along with the list of selected locations. The Cabinet report is a public document, however, we will also publish the programme on our Highways webpage and notify Ward Councillors of locations and dates for work within their wards. Further notification is given to members three weeks in advance of the works, with notification letters distributed to all properties two weeks in advance of works. Advance signing is also installed two weeks in advance of work commencing.</p>
<p>Topical issue – TfL funding 9 March 2022</p>	<p>Improvement suggestion: The council to look into publishing the pavement improvements upgrades – make more transparent</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>Our Planned Footway & Carriageway Maintenance programmes are attached as appendices in the Cabinet Report (public document on the website) and, following Cabinet approval, the programme and dates (once confirmed with contractor) will be published on the Council's website for all to view. The Cabinet report also sets out the methodology for selecting priorities. There is information about the Council's £20m footway improvement programme on the website, which includes more general information about how roads are chosen and why we use certain materials</p> <p>https://www.brent.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-streets/20m-for-improving-our-streets</p>
<p>Topical issue – TfL funding 9 March 2022</p>	<p>Improvement suggestion: Publish average amount of time it takes to resurface roads and potholes</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>Please refer to annex A for response.</p>
<p>Topical issue – TfL funding 9 March 2022</p>	<p>Information request: Kensal Corridor – committee requested background information on this project</p>	<p>Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>This scheme was developed over the last several years working collaboratively with the Kensal Consultative Group comprising of ward councillors, four residents associations and local businesses (Aylestone Park Residents and Tenants Association, Kensal Rise Residents Association, Kensal Triangle Residents Association, Queens Park Area Residents Association and Kensal Rise Business Association), along with Transport for London. Background information is available on the councils</p>

			<p>website: https://www.brent.gov.uk/business/regeneration/revitalising-our-high-streets/kensal-corridor</p> <p>The scheme takes significant steps in reducing the negative impacts of impeded bus movements on the road corridor, encourages greater local active travel, supporting a significant improvement in the quality of the public realm and local environment, and supporting the local economy. The first phase of the scheme comprised of new pavements on Kilburn Lane between Regents Street and the Harrow Road, this was completed in conjunction with Westminster City Council's improvements to the Ladbrooke Grove signal junction in early 2021.</p> <p>With limited funding made available through TfL's Bus Priority Programme (£1.2m) the council prioritised improvements to the area near Kensal Rise Overground Station and the adjacent section of Kensal Rise. This provides the most benefits in relation to bus movements; new bus stops and stands will resolve the double looping issue with route 302 reducing congestion and helping to improve air quality, as well as providing new wider pavements, lighting and street furniture, cycle parking and amenities, with a new green roof cycle shelter near the station, improved pedestrian accessibility with two new pelican crossings, new trees and greening including rain gardens.</p> <p>Construction commenced in September 2021 and the scheme is due for completion August 2022.</p>
Workforce strategy 9 March 2022	Information request: Sharing the last HR strategy and 2021 staff survey results	HR and Legal	Please see annex C for Brent Workforce Strategy 2017-2020 and D for the staff survey results.
Poverty Commission 9 March 2022	Information requests: Outstanding questions from members of the Resources and Public Realm scrutiny committee on this item.		Please see annex B for questions and written responses.

Annex A: Response to - Publish average amount of time it takes to resurface roads and potholes.

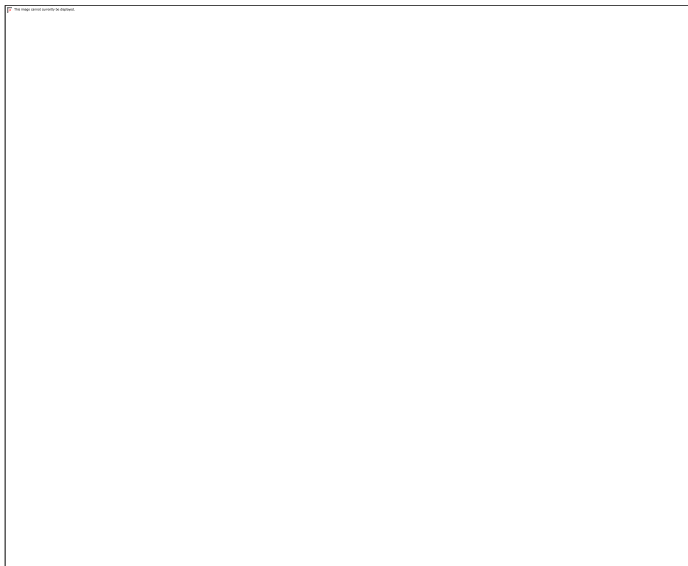
We have used the following calculation to estimate the average amount of time it takes to resurface a road.

Year	Length of road Resurfaced (miles)
20/21	6.8
19/20	7.0
18/19	4.2
17/18	6.4
16/17	11.0
Average	7.1

Road Network Length 315 miles

**Average resurfacing
frequency 44 years**

Importantly these figures do not take into account the injection patching programmes, as they are individual repairs, not complete resurfacing. By comparison, each year the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) commissions an independent survey of local authority highway departments in England (including London) and Wales. In the 2022 report just out, the road resurfacing frequency is given as:



So at 44 years, Brent's frequency for all classes is longer than the London average but much shorter than for England as a whole. However, it should be noted that the overall road condition in Brent over the same 5 year period has varied as follows:

	% of roads where maintenance should be considered		
Year	A class roads	B and C class roads	Unclassified roads
2016/2017	6%	5%	24%
2017/2018	22%	7%	21%
2018/2019	6%	7%	18%
2019/2020	14%	10%	14%

2020/2021	17%	14%	9%
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The Classified road network has deteriorated in condition recently, with A roads worsening to 17% in need of maintenance and B&C roads likewise at 14%. The A road performance reflects the lack of LIP funding over recent years. However, the condition of Unclassified (Local) roads has improved, with only 9% of Brent's local roads now in need of substantial maintenance. This improvement reflects the increased budget for road resurfacing in 2019/20 and 2020/21 as the footway allocation within the £3.5m normally used for footways was "repurposed" for extra carriageway maintenance in those years due to the £20m footway improvement programme.

The extensive injection patching programmes from 2019 onwards, not catered for in the resurfacing figures, have no doubt helped the carriageway condition to improve.

The Alarm survey shows:

Actual Road Condition Index		ALL CLASSES	PRINCIPAL	NON-PRINCIPAL	UNCLASSIFIED
England and Wales (% of network)					
GREEN	England	63 ↑	72 ↑	67 ↑	58 ↑
	London	62 ↓	66 ↑	65 ↑	62 ↓
	Wales	57 ↑	72 ↑	66 ↑	48 ↓
AMBER	England	26 ↓	24 ↓	27 ↓	27 ↓
	London	21 ↓	20 ↓	18 ↓	21 ↓
	Wales	36 ↓	25 ↓	28 ↓	44 ↑
RED	England	11 ↑	4 ↓	6 ↑	15 ↑
	London	17 ↑	14 ↓	17 ↑	17 ↑
	Wales	7 ↓	3 ↓	6 ↓	8 ↓

So Brent's Principal Roads are slightly worse than the London Average (17% compared to 14%), the Non-Principal Roads (B and C Roads) are better (14% compared with 17%) and our unclassified roads are in significantly better condition than the London average (9% versus 14%).

With regards to potholes we deliver a yearly programme of planned resurfacing work that will pick up carriageway defects as part of the borough wide resurfacing programme. We have also engaged an injection patching contractor who will pick up a large number of carriageway defects (both

investigation and non-investigation level) on residential roads. We have used condition data to identify defect cluster areas so we can target the worst roads to maximise the output from this work, which is on average 60 defects repaired per day.

Finally, we carry out a cyclical safety inspection programme on all borough roads, and also do reactive safety inspections in response to customer reports, to identify and classify defects (subject to the defect meeting investigation levels). After risk assessment, defects selected for repair will be ordered for completion within one of the following: 1. 2hr or 24 hr emergency response (High Priority), 2. 7-day (also High Priority) or 28-day (Medium Priority) Low priority defects are noted for record purposes but are not scheduled for repair.

Annex B: Response to Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee on item 9: Poverty Commission update at 9 March 2022 meeting

- 1) Paragraph 3.5 of the Poverty Commission paper mentions that income has risen to 14.9% - are there figures available to show the men/women ratio? It is already recognised that women tend to be part-time workers but there are no figures that reflect this.**

Looking at the most recent ONS figures, full-time male workers in Brent earn £123.90 more a week than full-time female workers do, despite males only working 0.4 more hours per week (Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings). Part-time male workers also earn £38.70 a week more than part-time female workers do. However, part-time males on average work 1.1 hours more a week than females (Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings).

While there is no Brent specific data on the number of male and female workers in employment, in London from Nov 2021 to Jan 2022, 72% of males over 16 were in employment compared to only 61% of females over 16 (Source: The Labour Force Annual Survey).

- 2) The main resident support fund will not work unless wages in real terms are increased. Has this ever been brought to the attention of policymakers that the time has now come to enforce full wages i.e. London Living Wages for all?**

As a London Living Wage employer itself, Brent Council has been very proactive in supporting other businesses in the borough to pay the London Living Wage. We hold a Business Rate Tax discount scheme to encourage businesses operating in the borough to pay it and become London Living Wage (LLW) accredited through the Living Wage Foundation.

More recently, the council's Employment and Skills Service has accelerated a project around the LLW, which has been re-developed as a three-year commitment to focus on the Mayor's Good Work Standard campaign. This includes promoting the LLW as one of the milestones towards achieving the Good Work Standard.

Activity on the Good Work Standard Project is continuing well and Nascent Rae, a local organisation awarded the research contract to engage with businesses operating in Brent, to see if they are paying LLW, are accredited as LLW employers and if not, to understand what the barriers are.

The research will determine employer engagement and uptake of Good Work Standards and LLW. It will also identify Brent Good Work Standard Working Group employers including champions and early adopters, which will develop a three-year action plan. This research is due to be completed in May 2022 and the 3 year strategy shared following this.

Prior to this, the council's commitment to the Good Work Standards campaign was launched at Living Wage Week in November 2021. Speakers included representatives from the Living Wage Foundation, Brent Citizens, Brent Council and students from schools.

Other ongoing Delivery projects include: Brent Works and The Living Room team in Community hubs and all programmes work with clients and employers to pay LLW.

3) What is being done to stop people from getting into more debt? Do we have data on how many people use pay day loans, money shops and pawnbrokers?

The council's Cabinet recently approved an ethical debt recovery policy. Once someone lets us know they are struggling with debt we can arrange payment plans and freeze enforcement. If the debt continues for years, as a last resort we can write-off debt. Other initiatives include:

- Breathing Space – Once a resident has visited a debt adviser, they can apply for a breathing space, which can be applied by the council. This gives the debtor legal protection for 60 days. Furthermore, residents receiving mental health treatment can get a mental health crises breathing space, which lasts the duration of their treatment plus 30 days.
- Energy rebate – We are in the process of organising the £150 council tax energy rebate announced by central government, going to every household in council tax bands A-D. In addition, our discretionary scheme was recently signed off by cabinet which sees some residents in bands E-H receive the £150 rebate. Eligible households are those on either council tax support, income related state benefits, or who apply for financial support related to energy bills (such as the RSF).
- Continued financial support through the RSF and the HSF, the latter recently being recently extended until 30 September 2022.
- Financial support leaflet – A financial support leaflet has been sent to every Brent household, which increases resident awareness of the RSF, CTS, DHP, HB, breathing space, Brent Start and Brent Works. It is crucial that residents know what is available to them.
- Increase referrals to citizen's advice, advice for renters, step change, Brent Works and Brent Start.
- Fuel poverty toolkit briefings – increasing staff awareness of the options that residents have available to them, as well as giving tips on how to save money by being more energy efficient at home. Furthermore, staff have been trained on how to navigate the fuel poverty toolkit. This will, hopefully, translate into more residents getting the support that they need. In addition to internal staff briefings, there have been external briefings on the toolkit to those working in the health and wellbeing sector, such as GP's and health practitioners, further spreading awareness.
- Hubs and Family Wellbeing Centres – The Hubs and the FWC's can give out vouchers for pre-payment meters. This can act as an interim while welfare applications are approved. In addition to this, the work that the Hubs and FWC's do are integral to achieving joined up working throughout the council, especially the holistic financial advice tailored to the needs of the resident.

The council does not hold data on how many people use pay day loans, money shops and pawnbrokers.

4) There are a number of housing schemes in the borough aimed at families, but how can we ensure that people who live in Brent are not forced to leave because of the cost of housing? Has the impact of rising cost of housing on the borough and the industries we are trying to establish and/or being built up been looked into?

The Council has policies that seek to provide a minimum number of 3 bedroom homes in housing developments (1 in 4 of every new home). The Council had to balance Brent's needs for larger homes against wider London needs (London Plan policy has an emphasis on one and two beds) and also the impact that family housing has on the viability of developments. One and two bedroom dwellings are more profitable and therefore more deliverable.

Much of the affordable housing in the borough is subsidised by developers. Increasing the proportion of family homes can significantly reduce the quantum and type of affordable housing that developers can provide. In most cases going above 25% family homes in developments would bring affordable housing numbers down to unacceptable levels.

5) The difference between house prices and wages is big around 50% - how can this gap be reduced?

The dynamics of the housing market and salaries are complex and mainly influenced by macro-economic factors. However, the council will continue to plan and develop more new housing, including affordable housing, and make better use of existing housing stock, relying on basic supply and demand economics, and in securing 'intermediate' housing which is more accessible to those who can't afford to buy a property at full market value.

We are well aware that the average salary in Brent is below the London average, and employment, skills and enterprise have a number of work streams focussed on improving skills, supporting growth in jobs in growth (and other) sectors, and promoting the London Living Wage.

6) Keeping in view the housing shortage, what is stopping the council insisting on 60% social housing to be set aside in new developments?

The cost of land and development together with limited public subsidy for social housing mean such a policy is neither financially viable nor deliverable. Brent's recently adopted Local Plan seeks a minimum 35% affordable housing on major developments, considered generally viable for the majority schemes. Brent Local Plan strategic target is that 50% of new homes are affordable in the period to 2041. The council's own housing building programme will make a significant contribution towards this.

8) What are the projections for the financial contribution to S106 in the change of policy for Planning Applications for units between 4 and 9 units (under 10 units - where no contributions were required)?

This is a new Local Plan policy. If the level of planning consents for schemes of 5-9 homes secured in the borough in the recent past are maintained and delivered over the new Local Plan period, an initial high level estimate is that planning consents would secure financial contributions of c£5-10m per annum over the new Local Plan period.

9) Buy Brent app - Mentioned in another scrutiny session that 150 businesses have signed up, has this figure changed, in that if more have signed up, if not the reasons why

The figure for business take up has risen to 228.

10) Affordable workspace - Very good initiatives but how can you ensure that established businesses are not impacted negatively?

The affordable workspace supplementary planning document sets out how the management and occupation of affordable workspace will work; new affordable workspace is available to qualifying start up and established businesses and should have beneficial impacts on existing businesses by increasing the vibrancy of areas, developing the economic base, create stronger links between businesses and communities, and add vitality and value by bringing a range of activities and uses to areas.

11) In para 3.8 bullet point 3 - Helping people with disabilities - What does the 6 month input actually mean? What happens if more input is required after 6 months. Is there an agreed exit plan, so that they are not just left? What are the targets for getting disabled people into work? I went to an event recently in which people with mental disabilities attended. There were incidents where they were bullied

For Brent Works' clients, the 6 months support includes coaching and mentoring, 1-2-1 support, in-work support, advocating on behalf the resident and updating any personal action plan. Support continues after 6 months; residents have access to Brent Works' services and officers keep in touch with clients at regular intervals, and the team supports any progression or promotional opportunities. Residents on an apprenticeship programme get in-work support to the end of the programme, whether that be for 12 or 18 months and the end of the programme support is provided to secure employment or higher apprenticeship placements.

On certain programmes like Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Work and Health programme, clients get 15 months support. Once they complete the programme, they complete an exit form, which details progress and next steps.

Brent Works track people with disabilities getting into work across the whole spectrum of disabilities including neurodiversity issues. We do not have any specific targets for jobs for people with disabilities, we have overall job targets and anyone with a disability is supported to secure employment. We have had 86 people with disabilities registering to our service over the last year with 26 gaining employment. In our Tech Camps programme, 9 out of 25 job outcomes were people with SEND (special educational needs and disability).

We have robust processes and zero tolerance of bullying. Please escalate any cases to the employment team. We also have access to and refer clients to additional services like CAB and wider Hub partners.

12) Moving up Programme - Supported 96 men into employment.

- Is this full time employment and in what sectors?
- How do you recruit more men to participate?
- Has any men dropped out of the programme and the reasons for this?
- How would people access this programme?

Majority of the roles (over 80%) are full time role but are based on the candidates' preference. The sectors varies but includes construction, retail, finance, IT, customer service, logistics and sales.

The participants are recruited through various means including Job Centre Plus (JCP) referrals, JCP outreach work events, community outreach (youth club as an example), word of mouth, council departments, social media and other promotions. The current methods have helped the programme to recruit over 300 people and with restrictions lifted, the team would be able to undertake further outreach activities including targeting sporting activities.

Participation on the programme is voluntary, and if participants do drop out, this is due to various reasons including personal circumstances or re-engagement in full-time education as examples. The team continue to re-engage with young people to ensure that they are aware that the support is still available if their circumstances change and they are ready to re-engage with the programme.

People are able to access this programme through the various means mentioned above. The team have adopted a blended approach to engagement and support taking into account the government guidelines as well as the personal preferences of the young people. Either one of the partners/services can refer people or they can self-refer.

13) Social Value - Bricklaying – Wembley councillors have noticed that the high rise blocks no longer use brick, they use slabs that are slotted into place, and then covered with a brick like effect - is brick laying is a dying skill?

Nationally, there is a high demand for Bricklayers and within Brent, it is the third most sought after trade by developers after electrician and plumbing. There is a shortage of this skill in the workplace hence one of our most popular construction apprenticeship schemes. Nonetheless, we are also promoting the newer skills needed for modern methods of construction.

14) The Financial Upskilling Programme - can you give examples of groups and Community Leaders who have benefited from this programme?

Two multilingual community mentor programmes have been delivered in Arabic and Somali. Additionally, community leaders from the Brent Community Advise Network (BCAN), Brent Multi Faith Forum and Mutual Aids have been targeted for separate workshop sessions.

15) Brent health matters - How many outreach events have been held? Are there plans for more? Possibilities of using mobile unit to target estates and/or long roads?

Brent Health Matters has worked with the council's public health team to deliver 25 Health and Wellbeing events and 6 large scale Diabetes events. Going forward, the BHM and public health teams are planning four health and wellbeing events a month. Four large scale diabetes events are scheduled for April 2022. We have not been taking the mobile bus to estates over the winter months but this will start again from May

16) Sanitary products are now distributed through the vending machine – what adverse effects came to light?

None – the initiative has been a success and is continuing.

17) Good Food For Londoners has just been published by London Councils - Kevin Fenton and Tom Coffey. Brent is mid table. Are there any ideas that Brent can use from the report?

The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Delivery Plan at its March meeting. This contains a number of actions which would raise Brent up the “league table”.

18) The economy is up and down, financial inclusion and welfare has so far not impressively reduced poverty. What other measures need to be considered as an alternative?

We are looking to provide Brent residents with the greater employment and skills opportunities, especially in sectors such as Tech, the environmental sector and health and social care which are bound to keep growing is one way of supporting our working population.

Supporting under-represented and disadvantaged groups in the labour market is another measure which will help close the economic disparities in Brent's communities. Also, we exploring avenues for local people to get jobs within the council by adopting a local procurement strategy and encouraging local businesses to bid for council contracts.

We have Social Value Procurement objectives and to date, we have secured £3m in Social Value which is being redirected back into our communities. We are also focusing on ways to grow our local businesses and encourage them to adopt the London Living Wage, which will help to reduce poverty.

19) 40% Child poverty is too high what are the main reasons and what would be the right solution.

Childhood poverty rate in Brent is 40% after housing costs (ACH). This is unfortunately a reality across a large proportion of London boroughs, once housing costs are taken into account households are more likely to be on or below the poverty line. Rising housing costs in London are the main reason for higher childhood poverty rates.

In Brent, between April 2020 and March 2021 median monthly private rent for two bedroom homes was £1,400 (generally prices varied between £1,300-1,547). Meanwhile, the average sold price for a property in Brent as of January 2022 is around £600,000-£650,000. In addition, the cost of living crises and inflation of everyday items has driven more households into poverty.

Many residents in Brent are on low incomes and there is a lack of stable jobs. This has been exacerbated by Covid-19, as households in poverty are more likely to have been furloughed and have their wages cut due to the pandemic. 33,600 jobs were furloughed for Brent residents (as of 31 Jan 2021), which was fourth highest in London and ninth highest in England

Solutions the council is working on includes:

- building more affordable housing and ensure greater housing security for residents within the private rented sector, who are often more likely to be on or below the poverty line.
- working to increase awareness of resident support via Housing Benefit, the Resident Support Fund, and Household Support Fund (which includes Free School Meal vouchers). An extension for the Housing Support Fund has been announced by Government for April-September 2022.

- supporting employment and opportunities schemes are a key way of helping households gain employment and skills to ensure they do not experience poverty. This includes schemes such as Brent Start, Brent Works, Moving on Up, Springboard.
- continuing to work with and lobby central government for more financial support.
- offering support for households with children through our Family Wellbeing Centres and Hubs. We will keep increasing awareness of the support offered.

20) How will fuel poverty be monitored because it looks like everybody going to be effected by it.

Brent will be monitoring Resident Support Fund applications citing struggles to pay utility bills. Furthermore, we will be monitoring the number of pre-payment meter vouchers given out at the Hubs and Customer Services Centre. We are also working with third sector organisations such as Green Doctors and SHINE to monitor the number of referrals for support with fuel poverty.

We are keeping an eye on sub-regional research carried out by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy – showing the number of households in fuel poverty (most recent data came out in 2021 but used data from 2019).

The Financial Inclusion Dashboard provides an overall view of the financial situation of geographic areas to managers and decision-makers, as well as a person-level view for front-line staff, helping them to better target any required help or intervention.