

	<p align="center"><b>Full Council</b> 10 July 2023</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Report from the Corporate Director of Communities and Regeneration</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Update Report</b></p>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Council
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1 Draft Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>George Kockelbergh Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy and Partnerships 020 8937 5477 <a href="mailto:George.Kockelbergh@brent.gov.uk">George.Kockelbergh@brent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Tom Pickup, Policy Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk">Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Janet Latinwo Head of Strategy and Partnerships, Strategy and Partnerships 020 8937 4104 <a href="mailto:Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk">Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk</a></p>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present Full Council with the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's 2023/24 work programme, and to provide an update on meetings and activities undertaken by the committee.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

## 2.1 That Full Council:

Note the report and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's 2023/24 work programme.

## 3.0 Detail

3.1 Brent Council has two scrutiny committees: the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. The council also participates as a full voting member in the North West London Joint Health Overview Scrutiny (NWL JHOSC), which was chaired by Cllr Sheth during the 2022/23 municipal year. The chair of the NWL JHOSC will be elected at its first meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year on July 18, 2023.

3.2 A scrutiny committee can review anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit. The remit of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees which includes:

*Adult social care; Safeguarding; Children's services; Cultural services; Education; Health; Housing; Public Health and Wellbeing.*

3.3 As part of its remit set out in the constitution, and its role to review the provision and operation of health services within the borough, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can scrutinise, and make recommendations to NHS organisations or relevant health service providers.

3.4 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's 2023/24 work programme is detailed in Appendix 1. It outlines the policy areas and council decisions the committee plans to review during the 2023/24 municipal year. Statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny recommends that for scrutiny to be effective, scrutiny committees focus on conducting fewer in-depth reviews of highly significant topics<sup>1</sup>.

3.5 In developing its work programme the committee held a work programming meeting, attended by committee members, Cabinet members and Corporate Directors. At this session committee members prioritised items to include on the work programme based on a set of criteria. Prioritisation ensured that items included on the committees work programme were (i) a strategic priority as set out in the council's 2023-27 Borough Plan (ii) of concern for a significant number of the borough's residents (iii) a significant cabinet decision or (iv) part of a forthcoming policy review or a new strategy being developed by the Cabinet. This was undertaken to ensure that scrutiny has a significant impact and adds value to the council's policy process.

3.6 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is set to meet on 5 July 2023 for its first meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year. Here the committee will

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<sup>1</sup> *Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities* (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government), p21

review two items relating to how health services are delivered to Brent residents. The first of these is a paper on how the Brent Integrated Care Partnership and the council are working together to tackle health inequalities. Health inequalities are avoidable and unfair differences in health between groups of people, and the impact of these inequalities in Brent was brought into sharper focus as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. A significant amount of work is now being undertaken through the Brent Health Matters programme to address these inequalities. The committee will review the successes of Brent Health Matters to date and look at areas where its work could be strengthened. The second paper will focus on current key challenges related to funding and recruitment in the health and social care sector and the impact they are having on local healthcare provision. The committee will review and the impact that these issues are currently having in Brent and will seek assurances from the Brent Integrated Care Partnership that they are working to ensure that Brent residents receive high quality local health services.

- 3.7 At its last meeting of the 2022/23 municipal year on 18 April 2023 the committee received an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Casey Review which assessed the events surrounding the 'Euro Sunday' 2020 UEFA Euro Final at Wembley Stadium. The committee heard from the council and its partners that new measures had been put in place to ensure the events of that day are never repeated. The committee was also encouraged by the strengthened partnership working developed as a result of the Casey Review's recommendations. At this meeting the committee reviewed the progress made against Northwick Park Hospital's maternity improvement plan. Whilst the committee were pleased that improvements had been made to maternity services at Northwick Park there were still significant challenges to overcome in relation to staffing. This meeting also had two update items relating to healthcare, the first was related to the development of community diagnostic hubs in North West London, two of which will be located in Brent. The second was an update on the progress made in implementing the 8 recommendations of the GP Access Task Group. Although the committee were pleased with the progress made in implementing the recommendations, they still expressed significant concerns around access to GP services in Brent.
- 3.8 At its meeting on 7 March 2023 the committee was joined by several Brent headteachers, who along with Councillor Grahl and officers provided an update on attainment in Brent schools. The committee heard that, reporting of school attainment had not been undertaken in the same way compared to previous years due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which made comparison over a number of years more difficult. The committee were similarly disappointed that the progress in narrowing the attainment gap for Black British boys of Caribbean heritage had not been sustained since the pandemic and called on the council and schools to provide extra support to ensure progress was not lost. In this meeting the committee also reviewed an item on children's mental health. This item included contributions from the council's Children and Young People's department and the Brent Integrated Care Partnership who outlined current demand and funding available for children's mental health services in the borough. The committee were concerned that Brent currently received the least funding for children's mental health services across North

West London, despite high demands. The committee reviewed an item on seasonal and childhood immunisations in Brent, presented by Brent's Director of Public Health and NHS England. The report detailed the work undertaken between NHS England, the council and local GPs to increase immunisation coverage in the borough, however the data still showed that there was work to be done to prevent outbreaks of diseases such as measles and MMR. The committee recommended that targeted communications and engagement with vaccine hesitant groups is done at a greater pace to improve health outcomes. At this meeting the committee also confirmed the final recommendations of the social prescribing scrutiny task group. The committee will keep a watching brief over the implementation of these recommendations by the Brent Integrated Care Partnership and are set to receive an item on the progress made at a meeting in the 2023/24 municipal year.

- 3.9 Councillor Ketan Sheth is Brent's representative on the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Sheth has been nominated to continue as chair of the committee for the 2023/24 municipal year. The first meeting of the year will be hosted by the London Borough of Hillingdon on 18 July 2023. At this meeting the committee will review: the North West London Integrated Care System's strategy for the provision of acute beds; the plans to standardise adult and children's ophthalmology services across North West London; and the development of musculoskeletal services across North West London.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

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

- 7.1 Non-executive members were involved in developing the work programme as part of their membership of the committee.

**Report sign off:**

**Zahur Khan**  
*Corporate Director, Communities  
and Regeneration*