

Appendix A

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (RPRSC) Scrutiny Tracker 2023-24

These tables are to track the progress of scrutiny recommendations to Cabinet, suggestions for improvement, and information requests 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 for improvement and information requests it has made, alongside the related decisions made and implementation status. The tracker lists the recommendations, suggestions for improvement 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 made to Cabinet, 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 the 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 Corporate 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 to Cabinet from RPRSC

Subject	Scrutiny Recommendation	Cabinet Member, Lead Officer, and Department	Executive Response	Review date
<p>24 Jan 2022 – Budget Scrutiny Task Group Findings 2022/23</p>	<p>The task group heard evidence on the sobering situation the council will find itself in as it sets budgets for 2023/24 onwards. Balancing increasing demands and pressures against diminished resources within the budget process will be critical. To mitigate potential impacts on communities the task group recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement and conversation is at the heart of the budget priority setting process for 2023/24, informing what the council does and who it does it for. There is an opportunity to link this into the new Borough Plan consultation process. • The Cabinet prioritises those in greatest need, and activity to reduce reliance on council services. • Schemes in place to support people (e.g. the Resident Support Fund) are bolstered. • The Cabinet increases meaningful employment for people with a mental health concern or disability across all age groups. • The task group supports the sustainability agenda and retrofitting, and recommends the Cabinet gives consideration to needs of leaseholders and tenants in respect of support provision. 	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>	<p>These recommendations are accepted. As in previous years engagement with residents, businesses and other stakeholders forms a key part of budget consultation. In addition, the budget report highlights how the Medium Term Financial Strategy needs to ensure it provides a framework to enable and support the delivery of the Borough Plan. Finally, the Council recognises the positive impact schemes such as the Resident Support Fund and the Council Tax Support scheme have on those residents in greatest need. The 2023/24 budget continues to support the Council Tax Support scheme with over £32m in funding supporting around 28,000 residents and has extended the Resident Support Fund with a further £3m.</p> <p>The Brent Employment and Mental Health Task Group, led and chaired by us, comprises organisations who provide support for people with Mental Health challenges with a focus on employment. Membership comprises the Council, DWP, NHS, Shaw Trust, Twinings Enterprise, Ingeus and Brent Mencap. The overall goal is to support residents faced with mental health struggles to easily access the services and provision available to enable better access to employment. The group also has a key priority set by the Wellbeing Board to work with DWP and employers to increase Disability Confidence accreditation for employers/businesses across the borough.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

			<p>The Mental Health and Employment Pathway overseen by this partnership provides clear pathways for practitioners, link workers and social prescribers across Brent to refer clients to Shaw Trust and Twinings Enterprise to access the existing nationally-contracted delivery for those with mental health issues seeking employment, smoothing and facilitating referrals and access for Brent residents to the right support.</p> <p>When undertaking any major works, sustainability and energy efficiency is at the forefront of our minds. The planned tower block refurbishments will include substantial energy efficiency works and be a benefit to tenants and leaseholders alike. Through the website we are promoting the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding which allows vulnerable households to have energy measures funded by ECO installed on their properties. Leaseholders may also be able to benefit from ECO Flex if they are unable to meet the ECO criteria. This applies to owner occupiers and private tenants only.</p>	
	<p>The task group heard evidence of the need to develop and deliver a number of lobbying strategies, as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cabinet should lobby for increases in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) notably the High Needs Block of the DSG which is currently in deficit. The task group was pleased with the activity undertaken to manage the deficit, but noted this will not be enough to remove the deficit 	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>	<p>As part of the DfE’s response to the Local Authorities in deficit, the DfE set up a number of programmes to tackle the pressures in the high needs system and for it to be placed on a sustainable footing.</p> <p>One of the programmes is the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND programme which involves working with 55 Local Authorities in deficit of which Brent is one and</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	<p>and meet rising demand without increased funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brent Council and Integrated Care Partnership should lobby the North West London Integrated Care System to ensure Brent gets a fair share of funding. • The task group noted the plans to conduct investigations into the true costs of retrofitting in eight high rise buildings scheduled for major works in order to support future lobbying activity. The task group recommends that this investigation should also cover the costs of retrofitting street properties. 		<p>has received a grant of £1m to support the delivery of the deficit Management Plan in place. The DBV programme aims to ensure that improved delivery is achieved within budget and will also provide information on national trends and shared learning to the DfE, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the NHS.</p> <p>The Brent's High Needs Block saw a 13% increase in funding in 2022/23 and for 2023/24 a 5% increase was announced in July 2022 however the Autumn 2022 statement announced an additional £400m increase nationally, which means that Brent is receiving a 10% increase in 2023/24 compared to the previous year.</p> <p>Brent ASC accepts the scrutiny recommendation. ASC will work with the ICP to ensure entitled funds are allocated to the service and that these funds are allocated and spent towards service delivery within the allocated criteria</p> <p>We will ensure the investigation also includes the cost of retrofitting street properties. Both schemes are in their early stages but on completion of the first high rise and the street property retrofits we will have a greater understanding of the potential costs.</p>	
	<p>The task group was pleased to observe a very healthy relationship between the council and Brent schools. The task group noted areas where joint activity could be further progressed:</p>	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p>	<p>The Local Authority is working with schools to share SEND best practice. The two local special school multi-academy trusts, Compass Learning Trust and the Rise Partnership Trust, are being commissioned to provide training on SEND in mainstream schools to SENCOs and to staff in newly</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of plans to coordinate and share special educational needs training, knowledge and expertise across the system. • Work to increase the number of children in the south of the borough choosing to be educated within Brent. The task group recommends that the Cabinet takes forward these opportunities. 	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	<p>established Additionally Resourced Provision. The SENCO forum is being used effectively to increase the knowledge and understanding of SENCOs and provides the opportunity for them to raise areas where further information would be helpful. A fund of £0.5m has been delegated to the five geographically based school clusters to support initiatives in schools for children on SEN support (less severe additional needs). The impact and learning from how this has been used will be incorporated into the Delivering Better Value Programme.</p> <p>Local preferences for primary schools remain strong and they are improving for secondary schools. While Brent is generally a net exporter of children to other boroughs at secondary transfer point, this number reduced for the first time in many years for those children starting school in September 2023. This trend is anticipated to continue as all secondary schools in Brent that are rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted (98.5% of all schools (primary, secondary, special and PRUs are rated as good or outstanding).</p>	
24 Jan 2023 – Budget Scrutiny Task Group Findings 2023/24	<p>Borough Plan Alignment: The Council more clearly demonstrates how public money is being spent in line with the democratically agreed strategic priorities for the borough.</p>	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		07/11/23
	<p>Proposal Categorations: Each budget proposal is categorised as one of: Cut; Income generation; Service transformation; Efficiency; or Investment for transparency</p>	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p>		07/11/23

	<p>purposes. This language should also be used in Council communications in order for residents to distinguish between the proposals which are cuts/service reductions, those which are investments, and those which are efficiencies/service transformation.</p>	<p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		
	<p>Income Generation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase parking fees/charges to a more comparable rate charged by surrounding boroughs to secure safe movement of traffic and adequate parking and; • Utilise our parks to generate additional income – as part of this process, the Council should draw comparisons with other local authorities to learn from good practice. 	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		<p>07/11/23</p>
	<p>Additional Financial Support for Residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding and review the eligibility criteria for both the Council Tax Support scheme and the Resident Support Fund, should the financial modelling process allow and; • Explore options to provide additional support to children to tackle food poverty, such as extending universal free school meals provision. 	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		<p>07/11/23</p>
	<p>Additional Advice & Support for our Voluntary Sector partners:</p> <p>To assist in building voluntary sector resilience, develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An approach to increase the value of the commissioned contracts offered to the VCS to help them navigate the current volatile economic environment. The Council could also use this as an opportunity to tighten and improve its contract monitoring process to ensure further robustness and transparency in achieving outcomes. 	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		<p>07/11/23</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaborative strategy with the VCS to enable these organisations to identify and secure new income streams. This should also include scope for increased opportunities to make joint bids for grant funding. • A transparent policy for distributing Council community assets to our voluntary partners in need of space. Specifically, offering capped peppercorn rents to the sector to expand their operations. 			
	<p>Equal Access for All Residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed automated services (e.g. chat bots) are tested by residents ahead of implementation, especially by those who have accessibility needs to ensure that all residents have equal access to services and; • Additional advice and support is provided to disabled residents and those cohorts of residents with other access needs (e.g. literacy needs/English not a first language etc.) to navigate digital-form filling so they can maximise the benefits/grants they are eligible for and entitled to. 	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		07/11/23
	<p>Improving Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include an evidence base/rationale section in the EIA for each proposal where it has been deemed that there are no potential or likely impact on service users and employees with protected characteristics (e.g. how the Council arrived at such decisions) and; • Undertake a cumulative equality impact assessment of the budget decisions since 2018 	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		07/11/23


	<p>to understand fully the medium and long-term impacts of its financial decisions. It is recommended a cumulative EqIA is completed during financial year 2023/24 and is included in the final budget report 2024/25.</p>			
	<p>Increased Collaboration: To ensure a holistic approach to residents' care, specifically 'those with complex needs':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a collaborative mechanism between the Council, NHS, and other relevant stakeholders to agree discharges/step down plans. If possible, this should be considered as part of the review process currently taking place with Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) in the Integrated Care Partnership and; • Leverage sufficient financial contributions from the NHS (and other relevant anchor institutions) to improve the Health & Social Care function in Brent. 	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		07/11/23
	<p>Lobbying: Work closely with neighbouring local authorities, London Councils, and the Local Government Association (LGA) to seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional funding in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), notably the High Needs Block of the DSG which is currently in deficit. Although the Task Group is pleased with the activity 5 undertaken to manage the deficit and despite the fact that the Council will see increased funding from central government, there is still a need for additional financial support to meet rising demand. 	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		07/11/23

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powers to levy proportionate charges on parked motorcycles/mopeds. If successful, this would enable the Council to expand the parking permit system in the borough to include other forms of vehicles. • Local Government funding reform, including reform of regressive taxes such as Council Tax. • Changes to gambling legislation and regulations that enable local authorities to generate additional income from gambling licensing fees. This money could then be used to reinvest in vital Council services. • The introduction of 'Short Term Letting' legislation that will allow local authorities to establish licensing schemes for 'Air B&B' accommodation in their respective boroughs. This would enable the Council to generate additional income from 'Air B&B' businesses in Brent that could then be reinvested back into services for the benefit of residents. 			
	<p>Phased Reduction to Care Packages Provision:</p> <p>Utilise a proportion of the additional funding from the Local Government Finance Settlement to enable the Council to defer a proportion of the savings in proposal CYP03 to financial year 24/25. This is to ensure changes in provision are implemented in a phased way.</p>	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		07/11/23
	<p>Review Areas of Focus for Town Centre Management Function:</p> <p>The Task Group recommend reviewing the areas of focus for the town centre management function, whereby resource can be balanced against need; and work duplication prevented.</p>	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p>		07/11/23

		Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources		
	<p>Mitigate the impact of reducing the library stock budget:</p> <p>Explore external options to leverage additional resources for our most vulnerable residents, such as the promotion of schemes (e.g. Letterbox Club run by BookTrust) offering free books to vulnerable and disadvantaged children. This could help offset the impact of the proposal on disadvantaged residents and children; and could assist with ensuring children in Brent have equal access to a broad range of reading material.</p>	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		07/11/23
	<p>Mitigate the impact of reducing the Corporate Learning and Training budget:</p> <p>Be guided by staff satisfaction surveys when deciding what training courses to discontinue as part of the reduction to the Corporate Learning and Training budget (proposal GOV03).</p>	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>		07/11/23
25 Apr 2023 –	Continue to lobby central government and the Greater London Authority (GLA) for additional funding to strengthen our efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.	<p>Cllr Krupa Sheth - Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action</p> <p>Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Resident Services</p>	<p>Brent Council has a clear ambition to reach carbon neutrality in the borough by 2030 but to do so will require a wholesale shift in the financial support available to councils, to hasten the societal transition to carbon-free technologies.</p> <p>One significant environmental (and financial) barrier to overcome is domestic emissions, a national issue facing aging inefficient housing stock. At time of writing, the financial support available from government does not align with the ambitions of councils across the United Kingdom.</p>	N/A
Climate & Ecological Strategy Update: 2022-2024 Delivery Plan & Green Neighbourhoods				

			<p>London's housing stock is responsible for around a third of all carbon emissions in the capital, while around 80% of all homes expected to exist in 2050 have already been built. Home retrofitting, involving fabric improvements, renewable energy generation and low carbon heat sources, is essential for making London's homes greener, warmer and more affordable to live in.</p> <p>For these reasons, as part of our lobbying role via London Councils, we have achieved widespread support across councils for carbon reductions from home retrofits.</p> <p>Data analysis undertaken for the Retrofit London Action Plan highlighted the costs involved in delivering retrofit across all of London, there are two scenarios that were modelled as part of this work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenario 1: c.56% carbon reduction and near average EPC B: Total cost (labour & materials) of £49bn (average cost of £13,000 per residential property affected).• Scenario 2: Net Zero and average EPC B: Total cost (labour & materials) of £98bn (average cost of £26,000 per residential property affected). <p>Brent's portion of this potential £98bn to retrofit at EPC B is estimated in the hundreds and hundreds of millions; and will require a significant injection of public and private funding.</p> <p>Working with London Councils we continue to press the government at each fiscal event for the need for additional funding which in turn</p>	
--	--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

			<p>could nationally support 200,000 jobs linked to insulating and retrofitting.</p> <p>In Brent we also have put in place dedicated officer support for the task of identifying and bidding for funding to support our climate action programme.</p> <p>To that end, we continue to explore every available source of funding that would support our mission for carbon neutrality.</p> <p>I am very pleased that at time of writing, following this approach we have already been awarded £8.2m in grant funding for a variety of projects, with the council match-funding a further £14.6m if further additional applications are successful.</p> <p>We will keep the committee updated on this work over the coming municipal year as requested.</p>	
<p>25 Apr 2023 – In Year Monitoring Update: Financial Forecast Q3 2022/23</p>	<p>Continue to lobby central government for the long-awaited local government finance reforms.</p>	<p>Cllr Mili Patel - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform</p> <p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p>	<p>As part of my advocacy role in London Councils, on behalf of Brent Council I work closely with other finance Lead Members to build London-wide consensus on policy and strategy.</p> <p>Through London Councils, we work as a collective voice for all of the capital, while we attempt to extrapolate the best deal for London from our government.</p> <p>One of these priorities is Local Government Finance – and the associated lobbying work takes place at strategically important times, for example in the run up to fiscal events.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

			<p>I have attached the most recent set of priorities that London Councils submitted to the Chancellor, lobbying on behalf of Brent Council.</p> <p> London Councils - Spring Budget 2023</p> <p>Additionally, the Leader of the Council wrote directly to the Minister for London, highlighting the unique set of pressures on Brent Council. The Minister for London has since resigned.</p> <p>When the opportunity occurs later this year I will work with my counterparts to ensure that we (again) make clear that reform of Local Government Finance, is severely overdue.</p>	
--	--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Recorded suggestions for improvement from RPRSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Suggestions for improvement	Council Department/External Partner	Response / Status
22 Feb 2023 – Multi Agency Flood Planning	Thames Water and Brent Council to work together on a (Thames Water funded) pilot scheme of collaborative gully cleaning alongside a reactive leaf clearing programme that would readily respond at peak periods of heavy foliage debris during the Autumn.	Michael Benke, Thames Water	<p>We are keen to develop and deliver a trial where we clean our sewers in parallel to a local authority cleaning their gully pots to determine whether this leads to an improved service to our customers.</p> <p>We have been approached by a number of highway authorities to take part in the trial so we will co-ordinate with the London Technical Advisers Group (LoTAG), which represents all borough highway teams, on where the trials will take place.</p> <p>We are currently looking at where we have suitable sewers and sufficient sewer depth monitors to be able to measure any benefits from the trial. Once we have</p>

			identified these opportunity areas, we will work with LoTAG to agree the pilot area/s.
25 Apr 2023 – Climate & Ecological Strategy Update: 2022-2024 Delivery Plan & Green Neighbourhoods	Introduce a 'climate implications' section into all cabinet reports to ensure that all key decisions are aligned with our net zero targets.	Kim Wright – Chief Executive	The Cabinet report template is in the process of being updated to include a section related to climate change: 'Climate change and environmental implications'. This is still subject to formal agreement with the intention of implementation from September.
	Develop an accountability framework (such as a dashboard) for the Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-2030 that is accessible on the Council's website to demonstrate to residents how Brent is performing on its climate ambitions for 2030. This framework should also benchmark our activities/efforts with other local authorities for context.	Chris Whyte – Director of Environment & Leisure, Resident Services	<p>We are in the process of developing a data dashboard to enable us to demonstrate performance on some of the key indicators for climate action.</p> <p>We are also feeding into the data benchmarking work for West London, being led by the London Borough of Hounslow, will be seeking to influence the pan-London climate work being led by London Councils to include benchmarking for London boroughs as a whole.</p> <p>We aim to provide an update on both our new data dashboard and our efforts to promote West London and London-wide benchmarking in our climate emergency strategy update which is scheduled to be provided to the Scrutiny Committee this coming winter.</p> <p>The committee should note that Brent's ambitions are to do all in our gift to achieve carbon neutrality in the borough by 2030, in line with the London Councils and Mayor of London target.</p>
	Explore opportunities to use strategic CIL (SCIL) monies to fund additional infrastructure projects that are directly aligned with our climate commitments (set out in the Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-2030).	Alice Lester – Director of Regeneration, Growth, & Employment, Communities & Regeneration	A Feasibility Study is currently underway looking at Green Corridors as part of the council's Church End and Roundwood Green Neighbourhood Action Plan which is expected to be completed in Q3/Q4. Following the receipt of this, officers will meet to understand what elements could be SCIL eligible. There is certain legal criteria attached to how SCIL can be spent; it needs to relate to infrastructure to support the growth and development of an area. This will also be looked at in conjunction with the Active Travel Plans to ensure they can work in tandem where possible.

	Engage with Brent Friends of the Earth and other relevant community partners to support and improve the delivery of the Council's Climate Action agenda.	Chris Whyte – Director of Environment & Leisure, Resident Services	We have met with Brent Friends of the Earth and several their members actively take part in the current Community Climate Action groups which are operating in the council's Green Neighbourhood areas. We continue to actively engage with key stakeholders across different sectors of Brent's communities as part of the overarching delivery of Brent's 2022-24 Delivery Plan and Green Neighbourhoods Action Plans.
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Information requests from RPRSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Information requests	Council Department/External Partner	Responses / Status
15 Dec 2022 – Redefining Local Services: Update on the Integrated Street Cleansing, Waste Collections and Winter Maintenance Services Contract Procurement Programme	Provide information to local councillors on the new zone classifications outlined in the report once these have been finalised by March 2023.	Chris Whyte – Director of Environment & Leisure, Resident Services	<p>Work is still ongoing on finalising the streets in the new zone classifications. We expect to be able to share this information with councillors before the end of April 2023. This will therefore be provided two months ahead of the new street cleansing service going live on 1 July 2023.</p> <p>Updated response received on 11/07/23:</p> <p>The new intelligence-led street cleansing regime went live as planned on 3 July, supported by new operational arrangements which are being managed and monitored jointly by Veolia and our Neighbourhood Management team on a daily basis as the new service beds in, and as part of the regular weekly Contract Management Board going forward.</p> <p>These new operational arrangements are based on prescribed land use categories matched with an historical understanding of operational need. These operational arrangements will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and will be open to revision when it's clear that might be needed to sort a sustained problem at any location, and if the overall level of resource can accommodate that revision.</p> <p>Members can support this overall process by encouraging the public to report any cleanliness issues that might arise. That will help our overall awareness and help build the data underpinning our intelligence-led approach.</p>

			<p>Further information will be provided to the Scrutiny Committee in September when we will be able to provide a full update on how the new arrangements have been working. We would welcome Scrutiny providing strategic challenge, supporting development by reviewing performance over time and by validating the overall approach to 'intelligent cleansing'.</p>
	<p>Provide additional information on the small percentage of residents who will be impacted by the proposed changes to the eligibility criteria in the bulky waste free collection policy from April 2024.</p> <p><i>**this additional request was made at a later Committee meeting on 22 February 2023.</i></p>	<p>Chris Whyte – Director of Environment & Leisure, Resident Services</p>	<p>Response to be provided by 01/09/2023.</p>

<p>22 Feb 2023 – Multi Agency Flood Planning</p>	<p>With regards to recommendation 3 in the London Flood Review (LFR), provide further information on how many planning applications Thames Water had commented on/objected/challenged/made a recommendation for additional mitigation to avoid flooding over the last 5 years.</p>	<p>Michael Benke, Thames Water</p>	<p>We do challenge planning applications, especially where they fail to meet London Plan / Local Plan policy requirements, although we can only object where there is clear evidence of not meeting existing planning policy requirements.</p> <p>Planning applications reviewed in Brent over the last 5 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 214 sites reviewed ii. 321 planning applications relating to those 214 sites iii. Of those 321 planning applications, we received 213 applications direct from the Council, the other 108 we identified ourselves. iv. Of the 241 sites, 42 sites had planning conditions requested v. 63 specific conditions sought on those 42 sites vi. Of the 27 sites where we sought conditions and planning has been granted, 20 sites have had them attached but on 7 occasions the council chose to approve without our requested conditions. <p>Updated response received on 15/05/23:</p> <p>Thames Water is not a statutory consultee but is obliged, under our regulatory framework, not to stand in the way of development. Therefore, we will not object to or challenge planning applications on grounds of flood risk but will ask for conditions to be attached on those where a potential flood risk is identified.</p> <p>Over the last five years in Brent, Thames Water has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examined 321 planning applications to see if additional mitigation to avoid flooding was needed. These covered 214 different sites. - Of these, 213 were passed to us for investigation by the Council while we identified 108 - In total, we requested 63 conditions across 42 applications - Of these 42 applications, 27 were given planning permission. In 20 cases, the conditions we requested were granted but in 7 cases permission was given without the conditions we requested.
-------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p>Provide a detailed breakdown on the amount the organisation has invested financially in the borough of Brent over the last 3, 5, and 10 years; and specifically, what these investments have been made for.</p>	<p>Alex Nickson, Thames Water</p>	<p>Because our water and wastewater networks cross local authority boundaries and the water treatment and sewage treatment works that serve a local authority may lie outside of its boundaries, it is difficult to apportion investment at the local authority level (investment in one local authority may benefit other local authorities in the same system).</p> <p>For example, Brent is served by Mogden Sewage Treatment Works, which serves 2.1 million people. In recent years, we have spent almost £100 million on the site to deal with London's growing population and reduce storm discharges. While this is technically money spent in Hounslow, customers in Brent will benefit.</p> <p>As a result, we are unable to answer this question in the detail requested. We will consider how we can better apportion our future investment so we can answer your question.</p> <p>We would note that over the last decade we have invested around £1bn a year across a water and waste networks. However, in our interim financial report published in November, we announced a record £808 million investment in the first six months of the last financial year. On top of this, our shareholders, who have not taken a dividend for that last six years, announced they were investing an extra £2 billion into the business which will be spent on our networks.</p> <p>In the coming years, we will also be spending £1.6bn on upgrading our sewage works and sewers, while a further £700mil will be spent upgrading Victorian mains.</p>
	<p>Provide timescales on Byron Park Recreation Scheme delivery.</p>	<p>Alex Nickson, Thames Water</p>	<p>LB Harrow proposes to utilise Byron Recreation Ground for flood storage as part of Wealdstone Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme. We continue to work with Harrow Council to progress this scheme into delivery. Harrow Council are getting close to having a final design for the scheme which once agreed will be open for public engagement.</p>
	<p>Provide action plan detailing the delivery of the recommendations identified in the London Flood Review report alongside a progress update.</p>	<p>Alex Nickson, Thames Water</p>	<p>The London Flood Review ('LFR') made 28 recommendations. We believe that three of these recommendations were for Thames Water to lead on and the remainder required the collaborative action of a number of partners, some involving Thames. We are currently supporting the London Surface Water Strategic Group ('LSWSG') to collate and analyse the recommendations from the LFR and other reviews to produce a master list of recommendations. It will then determine how to track their delivery. We anticipate that the LSWSG will want to publish a report detailing this in the summer.</p>

	Provide a timescale of when Thames Water could return to the Committee to share an update of their 2025-2030 business plan and the London Level Strategy.	Alex Nickson, Thames Water	<p>The water sector operates in five-year funding cycles. We have to submit a draft plan, known as a 'Price Review' to Ofwat, who then review our plan and then decide how much money we can raise from customers through their bills. The plan is due to be submitted to Ofwat on 02 October 2023 and Ofwat will make its decision on our plan in Dec 2024 (hence the term Price Review 2024, or 'PR24' for short).</p> <p>Given the protracted timescales of this process, it would seem logical that we present our plan based on our submission to Ofwat, so some date after 02 October. We request that you recognise that the actual content of a plan may change subject to Ofwat's final determination.</p>
22 Feb 2023 – Spaces for Community Use	Provide provisional dates of when the revised draft Property Strategy (inclusive of the section that explicitly deals with community use) and the Asset Review findings report will be ready for scrutiny consideration.	Tanveer Ghani, Operational Director of Property & Assets, Finance & Resources	<p>We are currently shortlisting suitable consultants with a view to a mini-tender competition for appointment as Brent's property strategy lead. Once appointment is confirmed, it will take about 6 – 9 months before any outputs such as the draft Property Strategy/Asset Review findings can be shared for scrutiny consideration (Dec 23/Jan 24 would be a realistic target date).</p> <p>Supplementary response received on 25/04/23:</p> <p>The Council is appointing external support for the collection of varied data and to provide additional expert advice that would not normally be available within our current resources. The Council remains the lead in constructing the Property Strategy/Asset review.</p>