

Appendix A

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (RPRSC) Recommendations Tracker 2024/25

The Recommendations Tracker is a standing item on committee agendas, and documents the progress of scrutiny recommendations, suggestions for improvement, and information requests made by the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee at its public meetings and as part of task and finish group reviews. Scrutiny recommendations, suggestions for improvement, and information requests will not be removed from the tracker until full responses have been provided to the committee by either the Cabinet, Full Council, council departments, and/or external partners.

Suggestions for improvement from RPRSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Suggestion for improvement	Council Department/External Partner	Response / Status
27 Feb 2024 – Draft Property Strategy	Upon completion, sight the Committee on the draft Corporate Social Benefits Assessment Methodology for feedback.	Tanveer Ghani – Director, Property & Assets, Finance & Resources Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<p>Response received on 12/04/24:</p> <p>The council is currently reviewing its social value approach at an organisational level and the property strategy will fit into the wider organisational approach to community wealth building and social value. This ensures consistency and enables the property strategy to align with broader council objectives. The development of the assessment methodology itself falls outside of the Property and Assets Team's direct remit, consequently, at this stage we do not have immediate access to the specific details of the methodology. However, once the approach becomes clearer, we will get back in contact with further information about who can consider the recommendation.</p> <p>Updated response received on 01/11/2024:</p> <p>A review of the council's social value approach is now in progression and linked into the strategic change programme. This includes a review of the council's current Social Value Policy and a refresh of the council's priorities for social value contributions to ensure they maximise the opportunity to align supplier contributions to areas of most impact. Additional enabling areas of work are also being developed including a social value charter and redesign of the council's social value method statement. This will include specific consideration of property and assets with link to this strategy. Opportunities are</p>

			<p>also being identified through which pilot activity can be implemented to test application of social value in respect of property and assets. For example, this maybe through consideration of rent incentivisation schemes. A working group linked to the Change Programme will provide ongoing oversight.</p> <p><i>Further response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i></p>
	Upon completion, publish the final Corporate Social Benefits Assessment Methodology for the benefit of residents, businesses, and community organisations.	<p>To be confirmed.</p> <p>Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy</p>	<p><i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i></p>
28 Jan 2025 - Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) Annual Report 2024	Explore and implement solutions to improve information-sharing with London authorities and relevant voluntary/community sector organisations regarding out-of-borough placements, enhancing community safety assessments and safeguarding measures in Brent.	<p>Laurence Coaker – Director, Housing Needs & Support, Resident & Housing Services</p> <p>Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Community Development</p>	<p>Response received on 11/04/25:</p> <p>Under homelessness legislation, councils who place people out of their area into Temporary Accommodation (TA) have a statutory duty under section 208 of the Housing Act 1996 pt 7 to notify the receiving authority when they place a person in their area.</p> <p>The Housing Needs team will share the S208 notifications we receive with the community safety team, which would alert them about people being placed in our borough.</p>
	Provide detailed context, analysis, and narratives, to complement any figures/data in future scrutiny committee reports.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Resident Community Development	<p>Response received on 11/04/25:</p> <p>Future committee reports will provide more detailed context analysis with current changes being made at SBP delivery groups to ensure we better measure the impact of delivery.</p>
	Provide a more detailed analysis on the impact of commissioned provider delivery on community	Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young	<p>Response received on 11/04/25:</p> <p>The Community Safety Team have met with commissioned providers to discuss some changes to KPIs targets to include year on year impact and more detailed</p>

	safety priorities in future scrutiny committee reports.	People & Resident Community Development	post evaluation on individuals engaged or supported, where we can clearly evidence positive outcomes, The 2 Year Safer Brent Action Plan update is due 31 March 2026 which will provide a full evaluation on the delivery of our community safety priorities.
	Develop an effective Communication and Engagement Plan for community safety projects that ensures consistent messaging about available support, promotes varied communication methods, and strengthens engagement practices with local communities.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Resident Community Development	Response received on 11/04/25: A forward plan for community safety projects is in development and will be shared with the committee by end of May 2025.
	Explore alternative solutions, such as employment pathways, partnership initiatives, and funding opportunities for both the council, and voluntary and community sector groups, to more effectively address the health, social, and rehabilitative needs of older, high-risk offenders.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Resident Community Development	Response received on 14/04/25: Brent Employment Services Team ran a successful pilot, Bright Futures, in 2019-20 commissioned with the Forward Trust which had some success in tackling the complex support needs of this group. It was funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Following that no funding has been available to repeat the provision, though there is a template/model for delivery and evaluation learnings from the previous programme should funding be made available. Officers will explore the recommendation with the DWP District Operations Manager at meeting on 28 April 2025 and report back to the committee.
25 Feb 2025 - Commissioning, Procurement, Community Wealth-Building, and Social Value	Engage residents in understanding community wealth building and social value, highlighting their key roles in council activities, particularly in procurement and commissioning.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>
	Revise the official council report template to include dedicated sections for Community Wealth Building and Social Value Considerations, ensuring these	Amira Nassr– Director, Democratic & Corporate Governance, Finance & Resources	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>

	factors are assessed and reported in all council reports where relevant.		
	Explore how credit unions and the promotion of their services can be embedded within Community Wealth Building initiatives to strengthen financial inclusion, enhance local economic resilience, and provide greater support for residents.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>
	Develop a robust, systematic approach to reviewing service contracts that enables transparent, evidence-based decisions on preferred forms of delivery (e.g., in-house, outsourced, or hybrid), guided by defined criteria, detailed cost-benefit analysis, and internal capability assessments.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>
	Promote and support the long-term sustainability of voluntary and charity sector (VCS) organisations in the council's revised commissioning and procurement frameworks, where legally permissible. This should include a focus on removing and/or reducing barriers to VCS organisations participating in council tender activities.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>
	Subject to risk analysis, explore additional joint procurement opportunities with neighbouring boroughs to leverage collective buying power, share best practices, and support local	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>

	suppliers across multiple boroughs.		
	Continue to adopt and embed across all procurement and social value activity sustainability commitments, including fair trade and efforts to combat climate change.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>
	Explore including clauses in all future procurement tenders requiring suppliers to demonstrate proactive steps to ensure transparency, compliance, and accountability in operations. This should include a commitment to respecting and upholding workers' rights to join trade unions, where applicable.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>
	Where legally permissible, acknowledge and incorporate external financial contributions secured by VCS organisations that are linked to the tender into procurement evaluations, ensuring these funds are recognised as part of social value and community wealth building.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>
	Explore integrating factors such as organisations whose staff pay council tax and those paying business rates within the borough into the social value and community wealth building criteria for procurement evaluations, where legally permissible.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>
	Where practicable, ensure procurement contracts include	Rhodri Rowlands –	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>

	tailored social value commitments, encouraging bidders to shift from 'in-kind agreements' to direct investments in existing or planned council-led initiatives that deliver tangible benefits to local communities.	Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	
	Strengthen collaboration between suppliers and Brent Works and Employment Services Team to actively facilitate the targeted recruitment of local and underrepresented residents into job opportunities created through procurement.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Community Development	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>
	Develop a publicly accessible contract performance dashboard to track and report on key metrics, including social value commitments, ensuring transparency and clear accountability for contract outcomes.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 13/06/25.</i>
25 Feb 2025 – Emerging Employment Strategy 2025-2030	In developing the upcoming employment strategy, expand on the engagement from the Employment and Skills Outcome-Based Review (OBR) by strengthening outreach with underrepresented groups to ensure equitable outcomes.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Community Development	Response received on 14/04/25: To achieve this the strategy will build upon the outreach model currently in delivery by Brent Works which includes a weekly presence in outreach venues throughout the borough but with a particular emphasis on targeting identified disadvantaged priority wards, which we plan to continue and build upon. These currently include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufra – New Horizons Centre • Community Hubs – Harlesden, Willesden, Kilburn, Kingsbury

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brent Library • JCP Harlesden • JCP Neasden <p>The team also hosts recruitment events in Stonebridge Community Centre (e.g. for NHS, Construction, and apprenticeship roles) which will continue and be built upon.</p> <p>Brent Works is part funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) though, in 2025-26 with only 27% of the previous year's budget allocation for 2024-25, and offers additional support to Unemployed and Economically inactive residents which we plan to continue along with a focus on delivering to disadvantaged communities in identified priority wards.</p> <p>The strategy will continue to build upon support to residents from disadvantaged backgrounds including: Care leavers, Carers, Ex Offenders, Disabled People, SEN, Domestic Abuse victims and Homeless people, within resource and funding restrictions.</p> <p>We will measure progress on delivering equitable outcomes, harnessing and analysing the demographic data captured by our CRM system with input from the Cabinet Member and Senior Officers.</p> <p>SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS</p> <p>Subject to funding, the strategy will aim to continue and build upon the Supported Internships Programme the Employment Team has been delivering in partnership with the College of North West London (CNWL) and Kaleidoscope Enterprise.</p> <p>The programme provides our young neurodiverse residents with the opportunity to gain vital work experience and employability skills to kickstart their careers and is open to Brent residents aged 17-24 with an active Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, and it has been carefully designed to help young neurodiverse Brent residents gain new skills and find jobs. The programme is based at Brent Civic Centre and includes neighbouring employers. There's also a sister programme based at Charing Cross Hospital.</p>
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			<p>SPECIALISED SUPPORT PROGRAMMES</p> <p>Thanks to Greater London Authority (GLA) funding, in 2024/25 the team commissioned two specialist programmes. One focused on working with Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) residents and the second focused on supporting those with disabilities or long-term conditions especially Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).</p> <p>The funding has now come to an end and the strategy will task the team to continue looking for funding opportunities to be able to deliver these and other allied services. For example, we are currently drafting a CIL application to be able to deliver outreach employability and digital skills services in Priority Wards aimed to those more vulnerable such as BAME, disabled and young people though the application process for this is currently placed on hold.</p>
	Collaborate with Brent's procurement teams to integrate employment-related social value commitments into future tenders, encouraging suppliers to offer flexible employee packages that better support working parents.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Community Development	<p>Response received on 14/04/25:</p> <p>We will continue and build upon the Brent Good Work Standard which works strategically with organisations to address employment standards including London Living Wage (LLW), workplace wellbeing, skills and progression, and diversity and recruitment.</p> <p>As part of the current job brokerage offer via Brent Works, local businesses are encouraged to offer flexible hours/working patterns to support childcare needs for employees and other child-friendly employee packages to better support working parents as this is key to ensure sustainable job outcomes.</p> <p>Actions for 2025:</p> <p>The Employment team will work and collaborate with the procurement team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To update the current procurement policy to create greater accountability and more tangible employment related outcomes when awarding council contracts and; • To better integrate employment related social value commitments including creating flexible employee packages to better support working parents. This includes hybrid working arrangements where possible; spending accounts that can be used for childcare or activities and encouraging a family first attitude.

	<p>Maximise the development of higher-paid job opportunities as a core objective of the upcoming employment strategy.</p>	<p>Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Community Development</p>	<p>Response received on 14/04/25:</p> <p>For 2025 and onwards the strategy will support the ongoing work of the team which includes supporting local businesses to grow and develop their workforce by offering the opportunity to access the council's apprenticeship levy transfer scheme. This encourages businesses to invest in and create apprenticeships, in particular in higher-level apprenticeships, to up-skill existing staff and increase potential for progression and higher paid salaries. The team also work in partnership with developers and larger businesses to create higher level apprenticeships including quality surveying and engineering as part of the regeneration schemes which will continue and be built upon as part of the new strategy.</p> <p>Subject to funding, we will continue our Skills Bootcamp Gas Engineering Programme in partnership with <u>Qualified 4 Life</u> which we have delivered since November 2022 and designed for Brent residents aged 19 + to earn a Level 3 qualification in gas engineering as part of the Skills Bootcamps for Londoners initiative.</p> <p>Over 16 weeks, participants receive training in high-demand skills and are guaranteed a job interview. Qualified 4 Life offer state-of-the-art training facilities which enables learners to experience interactive learning whilst in the classroom and a real working environment when undertaking practical sessions in the workshops. Experienced gas engineers provide the training, assisting learners in the classroom and coaching them to prepare for real-life scenarios and challenges.</p> <p>The programme is part of Brent's Borough Plan to provide high-quality skills and job opportunities to its residents. It requires no prior experience, just a strong interest in working as a gas engineer and a driving licence. It also benefits employers to fill specific skills shortage vacancies. 79 Brent residents to date have been placed in high quality jobs as an outcome of the programme which will continue as part of the action plan delivered within the new strategy.</p> <p>Currently over 82% of the vacancies the Brent Works team recruits to on behalf of employers pay LLW and above. The team encourages employers to pay LLW and promotes the benefits of doing this. With the increase in apprenticeship levels up to level 7 and the amount of older people (over 25) taking up apprenticeships this has seen a growth in apprenticeship salaries.</p>
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			<p>The team play an active part in the council's Good Work Standard initiative and have attended employer events and spoken in workshops on LLW and diverse recruitment.</p>
	<p>Enhance and diversify communication and engagement efforts to raise awareness of Employment and Skills support available in the borough, with a particular focus on promoting Brent Works services and the Work Well programme.</p>	<p>Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Community Development</p>	<p>Response received on 14/04/25:</p> <p>As part of the Brent Works Wembley Stadium Jobs Fair in July 2025 the team will use several communications channels to promote services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business E-Letter • Business Social Media Platforms • Members Bulletin • LinkedIn • Eventbrite • Brent Magazine • Website • Posters • Radio • Transport Hubs <p>There is also a brochure created for Jobs Fair attendees to have on the day that includes information about the event, the partners and support services, and Brent Works' calendar of yearly events.</p> <p>Actions for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase visibility of the employment programmes across the borough in community hubs and family centres through both marketing campaigns and through regular outreach programmes • To re-establish quarterly partnerships forums to raise visibility of the employment programmes across the borough and encourage greater awareness of opportunities among stakeholders and VSC organisations in the borough

Information requests from RPRSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Information requests	Council Department/External Partner	Responses / Status
4 Sept 2024 – Delivery of Affordable Housing by i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd (FWH)	Provide Asset Management Strategy upon completion.	Alice Lester – Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration Sadie East – Director, Communications, Insight & Innovation, Service Reform & Strategy	<p>Response received on 07/10/24:</p> <p>This will be presented to the i4B/FWH Board meeting on Thursday 28th November and, dependent on any feedback from directors and further work required, will be available to share with the committee in December 2024.</p> <p>Updated response received on 14/02/25:</p> <p>The draft strategy was presented at the December i4B/FWH Board meeting. The Board have requested more detailed financial analysis which is to be implemented into the business plan. The strategy is expected to return to the Board in February/ March 2025 for approval.</p> <p>Updated response received on 15/04/25:</p> <p>The draft strategy was presented at the December i4B/FWH Board meeting. The Board has requested more detailed financial analysis. The strategy is expected to return to the Board in early summer 2025 for approval.</p>
	Provide a breakdown of the expected costs associated with enhancing energy performance and retrofitting the i4B/First Wave Housing stock.	Alice Lester – Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration Sadie East – Director, Communications, Insight & Innovation, Service Reform & Strategy	<p>Response received on 07/10/24:</p> <p>This information will be included in the asset management strategy, which will be presented to the i4B/FWH Board meeting on Thursday 28th November and, dependent on any feedback from directors and further work required, will be available to share with the committee in December 2024.</p> <p>Updated response received on 14/02/25:</p> <p>The draft strategy was presented at the December i4B/FWH Board meeting. The Board have requested more detailed financial analysis which is to be</p>

			<p>implemented into the business plan. The strategy is expected to return to the Board in February/ March 2025 for approval.</p> <p>Updated response received on 15/04/25:</p> <p>The draft strategy was presented at the December i4B/FWH Board meeting. The Board has requested more detailed financial analysis. The strategy is expected to return to the Board in early summer 2025 for approval.</p>
5 Nov 2024 - Quarter 2 Financial Forecast 2024/25	Submit a progress report in six months on the efforts of the 'Supported Exempt Accommodation' Working Group, highlighting ongoing and completed projects, as well as the associated impacts, including cost benefits to the council.	<p>Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services</p> <p>Laurence Coaker – Director, Housing Needs & Support, Resident & Housing Services</p>	<i>Response to be provided by 30/05/25.</i>
	Provide an update in six months on the implementation of the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023, highlighting its impact in enhancing quality standards and achieving cost savings in Supported Exempt Accommodation.	<p>Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services</p> <p>Laurence Coaker – Director, Housing Needs & Support, Resident & Housing Services</p>	<i>Response to be provided by 30/05/25.</i>
	Provide a progress update in six months on the debt recovery	Peter Gadsdon –	<i>Response to be provided by 30/05/25.</i>

	improvement initiatives and strategies in place to enhance collection rates across all debt types. This update should include a detailed overview of Council Tax collection, and an assessment of the Council Tax Support Scheme reduction, including an evaluation of the effectiveness of measures to mitigate the impact on affected residents.	<p>Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services</p> <p>Ravinder Jassar – Deputy Director, Corporate & Financial Planning, Finance & Resources</p>	
	Provide data on Council Tax collection rates by tenure for the last three years.	<p>Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services</p> <p>Ravinder Jassar – Deputy Director, Corporate & Financial Planning, Finance & Resources</p>	<p>Response received on 17/02/25:</p> <p>Unfortunately, a decision was made to remove tenure data that did exist in 2019, this was because it is not strictly needed for collection purposes. Nevertheless, the Service started to update its data base with recovery profile information from 2023, acknowledging that is useful in targeting recovery action and understanding performance difference between recovery types. The recovery profiles now in place are listed below. Because the data has only recently started to be gathered 78,000 of the 135,000 properties are in the default profile, while the number in receipt of CTS only shows 2,758 compared to the 15,000 plus in receipt. Given the gaps in the data the collection performance is not currently analysed in this way and only the whole borough collection is provided. The year end process and the likely advent of a revised CTS scheme mean that profiles are updated. Once completed the Service will look to provide collection data by profile class in the next financial year. The main ones will be: default, CTS recipient, private tenant, owner and Brent/Housing Association (HA) tenant.</p> <p>Collection profiles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Default 2. Breathing space – mandatory pause 3. Brent and HA tenants 4. Care leaver 5. Council Tax Support recipient 6. Members – required as payment affects ability to vote 7. No Summons – where there is a hold on action 8. Pending write-off – identified for write off

			9. Previous arrears – arrears outstanding from earlier years to identify them for further action 10. Private tenant 11. Owner 12. Write-off – agreed for write-off or written off 13. Bulk Write-off 1993-2014 – exercise to remove some old debt in 2023
28 Jan 2024 - Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2024	Provide a copy of the Safer Brent Community Safety Action Plan 2024-2026.	Response to be provided by 30 April 2025.	<i>Response to be provided by 30/04/25.</i>
	Provide comprehensive data on the effectiveness of closure orders in reducing anti-social behaviour and crime.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Resident Community Development	<i>Response to be provided by 30/04/25.</i>
	Provide a detailed analysis of the factors contributing to the significant rise in racist hate crimes in the Cricklewood & Mapesbury and Willesden Green wards highlighted in the annual report, along with an overview of the current interventions aimed at addressing these increases.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Resident Community Development	Response received on 11/04/25: Please see supporting paper (i) included as a separate attachment.
	Provide a copy of the Internal Audit Report 2024-25 (Social Housing Act – Anti-Social Behaviour).	Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Resident Community Development	Report sent to committee by email on 17/04/25.

25 Feb 2025 – Quarter 3 financial Forecast 2024/25	Provide a detailed breakdown of business rates income received over the last three years, categorised by organisation type.	Ravinder Jassar – Deputy Director, Corporate & Financial Planning, Finance & Resources	<i>Response to be provided by 30/04/25.</i>
	Provide breakdown of compensation paid for complaints over the last three years, categorised by department and type of complaint.	Amira Nassr – Deputy Director, Democratic & Corporate Governance, Finance & Resources	Response received on 14/04/25: Information provided in Complaints Annual Report 2023/24 (due for review by committee at its meeting on 23 April 2025).
	Provide a detailed breakdown of compensation payments made, categorised by claim type, along with the associated legal fees incurred over the past five years.	Darren Armstrong – Deputy Director, Organisational Assurance & Resilience, Finance & Resources	<i>Response to be provided by 30/04/25.</i>
25 Feb 2025 - Commissioning, Procurement, Community Wealth-Building, and Social Value	Provide a detailed breakdown of commissioned services income received over the last three years, categorised by organisation type.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 09/05/25.</i>
	Provide a detailed breakdown of funding allocated to externally commissioned services, distinguishing between organisation types—private companies (small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large enterprises/corporations), VCS organisations, and social enterprises—while also indicating whether each organisation is local or non-local.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 09/05/25.</i>

	Provide details, including examples, of how the council supports local SMEs in its procurement process.	Rhodri Rowlands – Director, Strategic Commissioning, Capacity Building & Engagement, Service Reform & Strategy	<i>Response to be provided by 09/05/25.</i>
	Provide a copy of the Market Rent Reduction Framework, including the scoring criteria used to assess applications from VCS organisations seeking to rent council premises at reduced rates.	Tanveer Ghani – Director, Property & Assets, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration	Response received on 14/04/25: Please see supporting paper (ii) included as a separate attachment.
25 Feb 2025 – Emerging Employment Strategy 2025-2030	Provide an update on the Roy Smith House initiative after its reopening, measuring its effectiveness in addressing the challenges outlined in the Stonebridge Outcome Based Review (OBR) and reviewing the outcomes of the council's Market Rent Reduction Framework.	<p>Sadie East – Director, Communications, Insight & Innovation, Service Reform & Strategy</p> <p>Tanveer Ghani – Director, Property & Assets, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration</p>	<p>Response received on 14/04/25:</p> <p>The commercial unit at Roy Smith House is part of the test of the council's new Market Rent Reduction Framework, which is designed to allow local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to have a reduced rent for council assets where they can demonstrate delivery of significant community value from their proposed use of the asset.</p> <p>Three bids were received for Roy Smith House from VCS organisations and were evaluated in March 2025. All bidders have been notified of the outcome of their bids and the comparative merits of their bid in comparison to the highest scoring bid.</p> <p>Officers are due to meet with the highest scoring bidder later this month to understand their proposal in more detail and discuss/agree heads of terms for a new lease.</p> <p>The organisation with the highest scoring bid demonstrated a proven track record of delivering community value and positive outcomes for residents, including opportunities to build confidence, skills and become more employable.</p> <p>Pending the outcome of negotiations, agreed deliverables will be included as a Schedule in the lease to be monitored by the lead service.</p>

			<p>The commercial unit at Roy Smith House is currently empty and in need of fit-out works. A procurement exercise to appoint a provider to complete the fit-out works is currently live. The works are anticipated to complete in Summer 2025, which is the earliest the highest scoring bidder would be able to move in to the unit and begin delivering their proposed service.</p>
	<p>Provide detail on any targeted training programmes in Brent to meet industry demands, particularly the national shortage of bricklayers.</p>	<p>Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Resident Community Development</p>	<p>Response received on 14/04/25:</p> <p>The Employment and Skills teams has worked with training providers and local employers to meet the needs of several specific sectors. Bricklaying and other sector courses are accessible to Brent residents through our partners, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills For Life - hosting a number of Bricklaying NVQ courses in partnership with local developers • The Forge - offering a Hoist Operator course starting in June 2025 • Reds10 - funding Traffic Marshall Training throughout 2025 • Qualified 4 Life - delivering a 16-week gas engineering bootcamp programme that converts over 80% of participants into jobs and has placed 79 Brent residents into well paid quality careers since the start of the programme in Nov 2022, leveraging £751k of GLA funding for delivering this to Brent residents to date. An additional £263K is being sought for 2025-26 to support 40 more learners. • Wallace School of Transport and Veolia - delivering HGV qualifications • Ultra Education – providing support to residents interested in working in digital and creative industries. • The Forward Trust - delivering support to those wanting to work in the Green Sector • HS2, the Forge @ Park Royal (OPDC) and West London College - supporting training for in demand construction roles, including a

			tunnelling pre-employment programme, a 3-day introduction to construction, and a 5-day introduction to dry lining and hoist operator training
	Share data on the number and types of roles secured through training at the Green Skills Centre, facilitated by the partnership between the Council and the College of North West London.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Community Development, Children, Young People & Resident Community Development	Response received on 14/04/25: We have asked the college for a response and await a return on this data.