



Item 7.1: Questions from Members of the Public

Full Council – 10 November 2025

1. Question from Giulia Karkhoff to Councillor Harbi Farah (Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Jobs and Skills)

Can the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Jobs and Skills advise of the powers available to the Council and action being taken (in partnership with other relevant agencies such as the police) to address reoccurring issues of anti-social behaviour which have been reported on a number of occasions by residents along High Street Harlesden.

Response:

The Council addresses crime in the locality through the Brent Joint Action Group (BJAG). The problem-solving panel uses a multi-agency approach, comprising statutory agencies such as the Police and Brent Council, as well as voluntary agencies, to discuss crime in specific areas or locations and to resolve or mitigate problems.

Harlesden Safer Neighbourhood Team and Harlesden Town Centre Team have conducted mini operations with targeted patrols, such as:

- Op Blandway involving patrols around the wider area, as opposed to just combat robberies and serious violence across the cluster.
- Op Kirvin involving several operations with shops that suffer a high level of theft. The operation involves plainclothes officers working in collaboration with the shop's CCTV room. During this operation, six arrests were made. High visibility patrols to tackle ASB and robbery, with some shifts dedicated to licencing checks on licensed premises.
- Op Mop up involving early morning covert patrols to tackle drug-dealing hotspots in Harlesden town centre.

These operations led to the execution of drug warrants, resulting in closure orders for one commercial and four residential properties.

Recently, a Dispersal Order was authorised on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October 2025 as a trial to tackle ASB within the immediate roads around Fortunegate Road, St Mary Road, Leopold Road, Glynfield Road, Bolton, NW10. Partner agencies also collaborate with the police by offering individuals the opportunity to discuss issues

and make suggestions, and by referring them to appropriate services for support. The order resulted in 11 people being dispersed, with 2 Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) being issued to those who were street drinking.

Harlesden remains a challenging hotspot due to underlying vulnerabilities that act as a catalyst for repeat offending. Brent is committed to understanding the underlying drivers of crime, addressing concerns, and improving safety in the ward with our early intervention and public health approach. We will continue working with schools to guide young people away from crime and will commission outreach services, such as VIA, to support individuals with complex needs. To tackle rising retail crime in Harlesden Town Centre, we also encourage local businesses to join the Safetynet Radios initiative to help improve community safety.

2. Question from John Poole to Councillors Jake Rubin (Cabinet Member for Climate Action & Community Power - in response to Question 1) & Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Enforcement – in response to Question 2)

Brent's latest performance report shows strong progress on the climate agenda.

Can the Cabinet Member for Climate Action & Community Power & Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Enforcement explain:

- (1) How the Council is cutting emissions while facing financial pressures; and
- (2) Following new government data showing that London's nitrogen dioxide levels have fallen below legal limits for the first time since 2010 (also confirmed by Brent's two Breathe London nodes/monitors which record daily NO2 and PM2 levels) - a milestone credited to the Mayor's ULEZ expansion - what difference will this achievement make to the health and futures of Brent's children, and how will the Council build on it locally.

Response:

Question 1: Response from Councillor Jake Rubin

The council has made great strides in tackling climate change at a local level since we declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 and adopted a long-term Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy in 2021. As a council, we have reduced our own Carbon Footprint as an organisation by a further 16% between 2019-2025, taking our overall emissions reduction to 72% since 2010. It is also very pleasing that the most recent carbon emissions total for the borough (2023) show that emissions at a borough-wide level have also reduced by 16% since 2019.

This shows we are heading in the right direction, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to do all we can as an organisation to rise to the challenge of tackling climate change, and to lead by example in working with all of Brent's communities to join us on this journey.

Like many council programmes, access to funding remains one of our most significant challenges but we have shown ambition in seeking to counter a difficult economic context by maximising an array of different funding streams to support the delivery of our climate programme, this has included:

- Securing just under £17m in external grant funding since 2020 (including £6.6m for domestic and non-domestic retrofit schemes).
- Recently investing £3.2m of NCIL funding into environmental sustainability projects across the borough.
- Investing £3m SCIL of funding towards Green Corridors in the Church End and Roundwood Green Neighbourhood; and

- Successfully allocating 81% of the Brent Carbon Offset Fund to carbon reduction projects and retrofit schemes across the council's housing stock, maintained schools and corporate buildings estate.

The council's climate programme seeks to comprehensively address not only emissions-reduction, but also tackle the ecological emergency to make the borough greener and more biodiverse; plus also looking at what is required to adapt and make the borough more resilient to the risk posed by extreme weather through a new Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework. Tackling climate change is also cross-cutting, and we continue to actively seek to harness the wider co-benefits that come from taking decisive action on environmental sustainability to support our residents more broadly and in alignment to wider council priorities.

Question 2: Response from Councillor Krupa Sheth

In Brent, we measure pollution across the borough, and data from our Air Quality Annual Status Report ([Air quality monitoring and reports | Brent Council](#)) shows that air quality is generally getting better. The improvement in air quality offers a healthier environment for children, reducing their exposure to harmful pollutants linked to asthma, respiratory issues, and developmental impacts.

The Council is actively working to sustain and amplify the progress through its Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) which outlines the actions we will take to reduce air pollution and raise awareness of its health impacts.

Brent has historically faced challenges with air pollution, particularly nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and we are building on progress through targeted local initiatives, including clean air routes to schools, School Streets, and active travel programmes, all designed to support cleaner air, healthier lifestyles, and long-term wellbeing for our youngest residents.

We currently have 33 School Streets zones across the borough; these timed road closures restrict parents from driving in the zone during school drop off and pick up times. They aim to discourage local traffic in the area and encourage active travel, walking and cycling. These efforts align with evidence showing that active travel reduces physical inactivity, improves cardiovascular health, and contributes to lower emissions. There is an annual programme to develop schemes to introduce new school streets and expand existing school street zones.

The Council's participation in the Breathe Clean initiative has developed healthier walking and active travel routes for schools. An interactive map helps families choose lower-pollution paths to help children walk healthier and safer streets to school. The project has raised awareness among pupils and staff, at school assemblies and through providing schools with tailored maps of clean air routes, and resources.

Brent Council remains committed to working with health partners, schools, and the community to ensure that air quality improvements provide lasting health benefits for all, particularly the borough's youngest and most vulnerable residents.

3. Question from Marc Harris to Councillor Teo Benea (Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Property)

Can the Cabinet Member Regeneration, Planning & Property provide an update on progress towards step-free access at Alperton and Queen's Park stations, and how this supports the Council's wider accessibility and equality goals?

Response:

Alperton Station

At its meeting on 19 May 2025, Brent Council's Cabinet reaffirmed its commitment to improving transport accessibility across the borough by agreeing to contribute up to 50% of the costs — capped at £5 million — from the Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (SCIL) towards step-free access improvements at Alperton Station, which is owned and managed by Transport for London (TfL).

This significant investment demonstrates Brent's ongoing dedication to ensuring that all residents can access reliable and inclusive public transport. TfL has now commenced detailed design and procurement work, which is expected to be completed by late Spring 2026. Subject to final approvals and full funding confirmation, construction is due to begin in Summer 2026, with completion anticipated by Summer 2027.

This project represents a major step forward in delivering a more accessible borough and in supporting sustainable, inclusive growth for the Alperton community.

Queen's Park Station

Queen's Park Station, owned by Network Rail (NR) and served by both Transport for London (TfL) Underground and Overground services, remains a key focus for Brent's ongoing efforts to secure step-free access across the transport network.

Network Rail previously commissioned feasibility and design work for accessibility improvements at the station and is now collaborating with TfL on a peer review of these plans to explore how best to integrate accessibility upgrades within a potential wider redevelopment of the station. Brent Council is also engaged in discussions with both partners regarding a possible joint development of land to the south of the station, which could deliver a new or upgraded entrance — improving connectivity for local residents and businesses alike.

At present, there is no confirmed funding to advance the step-free access scheme. However, the Council will continue to work closely with TfL, NR and the Department for Transport (DfT) to identify opportunities through the Access for All programme and other funding streams.

Brent remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that accessibility is at the heart of future transport investment in the borough.

As discussions progress, the Council will ensure that residents and members are kept fully informed of developments and opportunities to engage, maintaining transparency and community involvement throughout the process.



Item 7.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament

Full Council – 10 November 2025

1. Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Gwen Grahl (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools)

Following the Council's announcement of a £4 million investment to upgrade youth centres across Brent ([Youth Centres to get massive 4 million pound upgrade | Brent Council](#)) what steps will the Council take to ensure that young people are actively involved in shaping how these upgraded spaces are designed and used?

Additionally, how will the Council ensure that these improved youth centres support wider priorities identified by young people, such as access to mental health support, employment and skills opportunities, and safe spaces to tackle issues around youth crime and safety?

Response:

Thank you for your important question.

The Council's £4 million investment in youth organisations across Brent is rooted in a commitment to co-production with young people. From the beginning, we have ensured that young people are not just consulted but are central to decision-making.

As part of the SCIL grant, we brought together a diverse panel of young people including those with lived experience from youth justice, care leavers, Brent Youth Parliament, Early Help, and the voluntary sector. These young people played a key role in shortlisting and scoring applications, hearing presentations from organisations, and were core at shaping the final selection of the five projects that will receive funding.

This collaborative approach will continue throughout the delivery phase. We will work closely with the funded voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to ensure that young people remain actively involved in shaping how these upgraded spaces are designed, used, and sustained. We are encouraging all organisations to embed youth voice in their governance, planning, and delivery as part of the grant making process.

To support this, we will signpost organisations to the Young Brent Foundation and other partners for help with capacity building, funding, and youth engagement best practice.

We also recognise that upgraded buildings alone are not enough. Young people have told us that their priorities include access to mental health support, employment and skills opportunities, and safe spaces to address youth crime and safety. These

priorities are embedded in Brent's Youth Strategy, and we are working with VCS partners to ensure their programmes reflect and respond to these needs. Importantly, young people also have a seat at the Brent Youth Strategy Delivery Group, ensuring they have a direct voice in overseeing the implementation of the wider strategy.

We want to continue hearing directly from young people, to know their opinions for how they want to stay involved in shaping and evaluating these projects. This is an ongoing partnership, and we are committed to making sure that youth voice remains at the heart of it.