

	Full Council 10 November 2025
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources
Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	One Appendix 1 - Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2025/26
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>Jason Sigba, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Democratic & Corporate Governance, Finance & Resources Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>James Kinsella Governance & Scrutiny Manager, Democratic & Corporate Governance, Finance & Resources James.Kinsella@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Amira Nassr, Deputy Director, Democratic & Corporate Governance, Finance & Resources Amira.Nassr@brent.gov.uk</p>

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 To present Full Council with progress updates on the activities of the Resources and Public Realm Committee since the last Full Council meeting held on 15 September 2025.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That Full Council

- 2.1 Note the Chair's update confirming that there have been no significant developments since the last meeting, and to acknowledge the outline of forthcoming work.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 The work of the Committee contributes to the delivery of all of the strategic priorities set out in the Borough Plan 2023-2027. It seeks to ensure Council decision-making remains transparent, accountable and open, resulting in improved policies and services.

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 Brent Council has two scrutiny committees; the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The Council is also a member of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC).
- 3.2.2 A scrutiny committee can look at anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit.
- 3.2.3 Brent Council Standing Orders allow for the chairs of the scrutiny committees to report to ordinary Council meetings on the activities of their committees¹.

The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

- 3.2.4 The remit of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for scrutiny committees². The remit of the Committee includes:

Corporate policy, partnerships and resources; Budget; Customer services; Commercial services; Planning policy; Environmental policy; Public realm; Employment and skills; IT; Recycling; Regeneration; Transport and highways; Community safety; Property; Emergency planning and business continuity.

- 3.2.5 The Committee is also the Council's "crime and disorder committee" for the purposes of Section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006 and as such may review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of the crime and disorder functions by the responsible authorities (as defined by section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) who make up the Safer Brent Partnership, in order to make reports or recommendations to Full Council.
- 3.2.6 Since the last update to Full Council on 15 September 2025, and as of the publication of this report on 31 October 2025, the Resources and Public Realm

¹ Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s123308/Part%202%20April%202022%20Procedural%20Rules.pdf>

² Brent Council Constitution Part 4.

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s123310/Part%204%20May%202022%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20.pdf>

Scrutiny Committee has not met. The next meeting of the Committee, scheduled for 4 November 2025, will consider the following items:

Budget 2025/26: In-Year Monitoring Update:

- 3.2.7 The Corporate Director of Finance & Resources will report on the Quarter 2, 2025/26 financial forecast for the General Fund revenue budget, Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant, and Capital Programme. Areas of discussion will include the current financial position, including savings realised, recorded slippages, key assumptions, significant risks, pressures, and emerging uncertainties, as well as the interventions and mitigations in place to manage identified concerns.

Draft Social Value Policy:

- 3.2.8 The Committee will review the Draft Social Value Policy, providing feedback on overall ambitions, definitions, priorities, and themes, while also considering the planned stakeholder engagement and consultation activities, as well as the proposed monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- 3.2.9 As part of the examination, members will assess the current approach to social value, including performance data, key achievements, lessons learned, and opportunities, to better understand how these insights have informed the development of the Draft Policy and its proposed direction.

Draft Procurement Strategy:

- 3.2.10 The Committee will review the Draft Procurement Strategy, providing feedback on overall ambitions, definitions, priorities, and themes, while also considering the planned stakeholder engagement and consultation activities, as well as the proposed monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- 3.2.11 To support an informed assessment, members will examine the current local and national context, the existing approach to procurement, key performance data, achievements, lessons learned, and opportunities that have informed the rationale for change and consequently the development of the Draft Strategy.

Funding and Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS):

- 3.2.12 The Corporate Director of Service Reform & Strategy will present a report providing a comprehensive overview of the Council's funding and support for the VCS, highlighting its impact on the sector's long-term sustainability and capacity.
- 3.2.13 As part of the review, members will consider the current and emerging needs of the VCS, the scope and distribution of funding and support, and the demonstrable impact on both the sector and local communities. This will involve an in-depth analysis of the Council's VCS grant programmes and commissioned services, to better understand key strengths, challenges, and

opportunities for continuous improvement in alignment with good practice across the country.

Next steps:

- 3.2.14 An update summarising the discussions on the above agenda items, along with any proposed Committee recommendations or suggestions for improvement, will be included in the Chair's Update Report to Full Council in July 2026.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 Members continue to be fully engaged in the development and delivery of the scrutiny work programme, which is intended to be a flexible, living document that can adapt and change throughout the municipal year in response to the Committee's needs. Please see Appendix 1 for the updated version, with changes highlighted in red.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 There are no financial considerations for the purposes of this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 There are no legal considerations for the purposes of this report.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 There are no EDI considerations for the purposes of this report.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

- 8.1 There are no climate change and environmental considerations for the purposes of this report.

9.0 Communication Considerations

- 9.1 There are no communication considerations for the purposes of this report.

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel

Corporate Director, Finance & Resources