



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

**Minutes of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Tuesday 13 January 2026 at
6.00 pm**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Ryan Hack

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Narinder Singh Bajwa

COUNCILLORS:

Aden	Afzal
Agha	Ahmed
Akram	Benea
M Butt	S Butt
Chappell	Choudry
Crabb	Dar
Dixon	Ethapemi
Farah	Gbajumo
Grahl	Johnson
Kabir	Kansagra
Kelcher	Kennelly
Knight	Long
Lorber	Mahmood
Maurice	Miller
Mistry	Mitchell
Moeen	Molloy
J.Patel	M Patel
Rubin	Shah
Ketan Sheth	L.Smith

1. Mayors Introductory Statement

The Mayor welcomed all those present and thanked everyone for their attendance, explaining that he had called the Extraordinary Council meeting under Standing Order 29, as a result of a change in the political balance on the Council, prompting the need for a review of the current representation of political groups on Council Committees.

2. Apologies for Absence

The Mayor reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ahmadi Moghaddam, Begum, Chan, Clinton, Collymore, Conneely, Donnelly-Jackson, Fraser, Hirani, Hylton, Matin, Nerva, Rajan Seelan, Krupa Sheth, Tazi Smith and Tatler.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

4. **Representation of Political Groups on Committees**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to introduce a report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources which fulfilled the Council's duty to review and determine the representation of different political groups on the Council's ordinary Committees following a change in balance between the political groups on the Council. Members were advised that the change in political balance on the Council had involved five members resigning as members of the Labour Group to join the Green Party, leading to their formation as a new political group of Green councillors.

In presenting the report, members noted the impact outlined in terms of the existing allocation of seats on those ordinary committees of the Council to which the political balance rules applied, based on the revised overall composition of political groups.

The Mayor then opened the debate inviting other members to speak on the report, with the following contribution made.

In commenting on the nature of the meeting, Councillor Lorber highlighted his concern at the need to have convened an Extraordinary meeting for the purpose of confirming the outcome of the political balance review given the time and resource involved. Given the concerns outlined, he felt these supported the need for a change in regulations enabling either a simpler process to be followed in seeking to approve the changes based on a process of consultation between the Groups or the meeting to be held online and hoped members would support the need for continued lobbying on such an approach.

As no other members indicated that they wished to speak on the item and the Leader of the Council advised he did not wish to exercise any right of reply, the Mayor moved straight on to put the recommendations to the vote and they were declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To agree the size of each committee, which it was noted had remained unchanged from the previous review undertaken at the Council meeting in November 2025.
- (2) To confirm (where the rules of political balance apply) the allocation of seats on committees to each of the Council's political groups as set out in the report.
- (3) To make appointments, where identified as required, to those committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated the seats.

- (4) To note that the political balance on sub-committees to which the same rules apply would need to be reviewed at the first available meeting of the General Purposes Committee and the Licensing Committee.
- (5) To note (given their size) the designation of the newly established group of Green councillors as the second Opposition Group on the Council for the purpose of the Members Allowance Scheme.

5. **Appointments to Committees and other relevant bodies**

Following on, the Mayor then referred members to the list of changes circulated in relation to appointments to Council Committees and other bodies arising from the review of political representation on the Council's Committees.

Having considered the changes outlined it was unanimously **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To note that effective from 13 January 2026 the Leader of the Council had:
 - (a) appointed Councillor Ishma Moeen to the revised portfolio of Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion (replacing Councillor Farah in his former role as Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Skills and Jobs).
 - (b) replaced Councillor Farah with Councillor Rubin as a full member of the Barham Park Trust Cabinet Sub Committee.
- (2) To approve the following changes in committee membership:
 - (a) Audit & Standards Committee & Advisory Committee

As a result of the outcome of the political proportionality review:

- the seat occupied by Councillor Kabir be released by the Labour Group as the position to be reallocated for the Green Group to fill.
 - Councillor Gbajumo be appointed to fill the reallocated seat on behalf of the Green Group.
 - Labour Group seat occupied by Councillor Chohan as a substitute member be released with Councillors Ethapemi and Farah appointed to fill the two new substitute positions allocated to the Green Group.
- (b) Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

As a result of the outcome of the political proportionality review:

- the seat occupied by Councillor Ethapemi (in his capacity as a former Labour member) be released by the Labour Group as the position to be reallocated for the Green Group to fill.

- Councillor Ethapemi be reappointed to fill the reallocated seat on behalf of the Green Group.
- Councillors Gbajumo & Mitchell be appointed to fill the two new substitute positions allocated to the Green Group.

(c) Corporate Parenting Committee

Councillor Kennelly to replace Councillor Gbajumo (in her capacity as a former Labour member) as a full member on the Committee.

(d) Council Tax Setting Committee

Councillor Krupa Sheth replace Councillor Farah (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as a substitute member of the Committee.

(e) General Purposes Committee

As a result of the outcome of the political proportionality review:

- the seat currently occupied by Councillor Nerva be released by the Labour Group as the position to be reallocated for the Green Group to fill.
- Councillor Farah be appointed to fill the reallocated seat on behalf of the Green Group.
- The Labour Group seat occupied by Councillor Farah (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as a substitute member to be released, with Councillors Gbajumo and Mitchell appointed to fill the two new substitute member positions allocated to the Green Group.

(g) Health & Wellbeing Board

Labour Group vacancy to replace Councillor Farah (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as a substitute member on the Board.

(h) Licensing Committee

As a result of the outcome of the political proportionality review:

- the Labour Group seat currently occupied by Councillor Bajwa to be released as the position to be reallocated for the Green Group to fill.
- Councillor Ethapemi be appointed to fill the reallocated seat on behalf of the Green Group.

(i) Planning Committee

As a result of the outcome of the political proportionality review:

- the seat currently occupied by Councillor Dixon to be released by the Labour Group as the position to be reallocated for the Green Group to fill.
- Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam be appointed to fill the reallocated seat on behalf of the Green Group.
- Councillor Dixon to replace Councillor Gbajumo (in her capacity as a former Labour member) as a substitute member on behalf of the Labour Group with Councillors Ethapemi (replacing Councillor Mitchell – in her capacity as former Labour member) and Farah appointed to fill the two new substitute member positions allocated to the Green Group.

(j) Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

As a result of the outcome of the political proportionality review:

- the seat currently occupied by Councillor Mitchell (in her capacity as a former Labour member) to be released by the Labour Group as the position to be reallocated for the Green Group to fill.
 - Councillor Mitchell be reappointed to fill the reallocated seat on behalf of the Green Group.
 - Councillor Lesley Smith to replace Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as a full Labour Group member of the Committee and substitute member on the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
 - The seat currently occupied by Councillor Ethapemi (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as substitute member to be released by the Labour Group.
 - Councillors Ahmadi Moghaddam and Gbajumo to be appointed to fill the two new substitute positions allocated to the Green Group.
- (3) To approve the following changes in the membership on other bodies and panels:
- (a) Brent Connects – Kilburn
- Councillor Molloy to replace Councillor Gbajumo (in her capacity as a former Labour member) as Vice-Chair.
- (b) Brent Connects – Kingsbury & Kenton
- Councillor Johnson to replace Councillor Mitchell (in her capacity as a former Labour member) as Chair.
- (c) Brent Connects – Harlesden

Councillor Aden to replace Councillor Ethapemi (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as Chair.

(d) Brent Connects - Willesden

Councillor Dixon to replace Councillor Long as Vice Chair.

(e) Employer Side Joint Consultative Committee

- Labour Group vacancy to replace Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as full member on the Committee.
- Labour Group vacancy to replace Councillor Gbajumo (in her capacity as a former Labour member) as a substitute member on the Committee.

(f) Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board

Labour Group vacancy to replace Councillor Farah (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as a substitute member on the Board.

(g) Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

- Labour Group vacancy to replace Councillor Mitchell (in her capacity as a former Labour member) as full member on the Committee.
- Labour Group vacancy to replace Councillor Farah (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as a substitute member on the Committee.

(h) Brent Youth Parliament

Labour Group vacancy to replace Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as co-chair.

(i) Service User Consultative Forum – Private Sector Housing

Labour Group vacancy to replace Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as full member on the Forum.

(j) Brent Active Travel Forum

Councillor Rubin to replace Councillor Mitchell (in her capacity as a former Labour member) as full member on the Forum.

(4) To approve the following changes in the membership on outside bodies:

(a) Newable Ltd (Greater London Enterprise Board)

Councillor Mili Patel to replace Councillor Farah (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as the Council's appointed representative.

(5) To note that the following appointments will be subject to confirmation by the General Purposes Sub Committee on 19 January 2026.

(a) Brent Pension Fund Sub Committee

As a result of the outcome of the political balance review:

- The seat currently occupied by Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam (in his capacity as a former Labour member) be released as the available position reallocated by the Labour Group for the Green Group to fill.
- Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam be reappointed to fill the reallocated seat on behalf of the Green Group.
- The substitute position held by Councillor Ethapemi (in his capacity as a former Labour member) be replaced by a Labour Group vacancy.
- Councillors Farah & Mitchell be appointed to fill the two new substitute member positions allocated to the Green Group.

(b) Senior Staff Appointment Sub Committee

Councillor Moeen to replace Councillor Farah (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as a substitute member on the Committee.

(c) Senior Staff Appeals Sub Committee

Councillor Moeen to replace Councillor Farah (in his capacity as a former Labour member) as a substitute member on the Committee.

As there was no further business to be considered the Mayor thanked all members for their attendance and cooperation in the scheduling of the meeting and reminded members that the next scheduled Council was due to take place on Monday 23 February 2026 as the Budget & Council Tax setting meeting.

The meeting closed at 6:06pm

COUNCILLOR RYAN HACK
Mayor