



**Cabinet**  
15 October 2018

**Report from the Director of  
Performance, Policy and  
Partnerships**

## **Brent Borough Plan 2019-23**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b> (only applicable for Cabinet, Cabinet Sub Committee and officer decisions)	Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One: • Draft Borough Plan 2019-2023
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
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### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Borough Plan 2019-23, setting out a vision, strategic priorities, and set of commitments for Brent, to be consulted upon before adoption by Full Council.

### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to consider and agree the draft Borough Plan in Appendix 1 for public consultation, before reporting to Full Council for adoption in February 2019.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 Following the election of the current administration in May 2018, Cabinet members and departments have been working together to develop the council's vision and strategic priorities for the period 2019-23, following the expiry of the current Borough Plan. The basis for these discussions has been the Labour manifesto, as well as key evidence and analysis of need and demand (in particular the results of the 2018 Resident Attitudes Survey). The financial context has also strongly influenced the Plan, with the council required to make

more major savings over the coming years. The vision and priorities are included in the draft Borough Plan attached at Appendix 1.

3.2 The vision for 2023 retains continuity with that of the previous Borough Plan. However, there is a new emphasis on culture, and on ensuring that the opportunities in Brent are fairly shared amongst our communities. These are particularly relevant as we look forward to celebrating being the London Borough of Culture, and continue to work to ensure that regeneration and growth benefits everyone.

3.3 The Plan sets out five strategic priorities, each of which includes a number of high-level commitments:

**Every opportunity to succeed** – working in partnership to support children and young people’s educational attainment and training

**A future built for everyone, an economy fit for all** – regenerating our borough to grow the local economy and provide the jobs, homes and transport that people need

**A cleaner, more considerate Brent** – improving air quality and keeping our environment clean and pleasant

**A borough where we can all feel safe, secure, happy and healthy** – building stronger, safer and healthier communities, with opportunities to enjoy Brent’s unique cultural heritage, and support for vulnerable children and adults to be as independent as possible

**Strong foundations** – ensuring that the council and its partners are structured and equipped to secure the best possible outcomes for local people, within a context of diminishing resources.

3.4 However, the draft Plan also makes clear that the council is facing challenges. Demands are growing, as our population grows rapidly in size, and as needs become more intensive and complex, due to factors such as more older people requiring care. This is exacerbated by a very challenging financial outlook, with approximately £40m of savings required over the life of the Plan. Therefore we are focusing on the most important priorities, and must continue with new and efficient ways of working if we are to achieve them, as well as collaborating closely with our partners.

#### Consultation

3.5 As mentioned above, evidence of the views of our communities have played a key part in shaping the Borough Plan through the Resident Attitudes Survey. This was a face-to-face survey carried out with a representative sample of 2100 of our residents over the summer of 2018. Once agreed by Cabinet the Borough Plan will also be subject to public consultation, in parallel with the Budget proposals, via the council’s online Consultation Portal, at Brent Connects meetings and with the option for additional dedicated or “pop-up” consultation events. The views from these consultative exercises will be considered, and any relevant amendments made to the Plan, before it is presented to Cabinet and then Council for adoption in February 2019.

3.6 During this period, officers will also develop a delivery plan which sets out practical activity to achieve the strategic priorities, as well as a set of outcomes and key performance indicators to measure progress. These will be monitored by Cabinet, and reported to Partners for Brent at its annual meetings.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 The draft Borough Plan highlights the existing financial context, ie that local government is set to experience the most significant reform of its funding arrangements for over two decades. The Fair Funding review, reset of business rates baselines and changes to the business rates retention system all have critical implications for the distribution of funding across local government. At the same time, the results of Spending Review 2019 will affect the total level of funding available to the sector from April 2020.

4.2 The Budget report which will be on the same Cabinet agenda sets out the overall financial position facing the Council for the next four years and highlights the significant risks, issues and uncertainties. It also sets out the draft budget proposals that will be consulted upon for the period 2019/20 to 2020/21 in order to deliver a balanced budget. Broadly, officers are working to an assumption that savings of around £40m will have to be found to balance the budget over the lifetime of this Administration.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the report, however legal advice will be provided as required as the proposals in the Borough Plan are implemented.

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

6.1 There will be equality implications, positive and negative, for many of the activities undertaken under the Borough Plan in the next four years. Equality analyses will be undertaken in relation to these as they are developed and implemented. Responses from the public consultation on the Plan will form a key plank of the evidence to support these.

#### **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

7.1 Elected Members will be engaged as part of the consultation process described in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6.

**Report sign off:**

**PETER GADSDON**

Director of Performance, Policy, and Partnerships