



Full Council
26 November 2018

Report from the Leader of the Council

Update report from the Leader and Cabinet

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Update reports
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	N/A

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report provides an update on the work being undertaken by the Leader and Cabinet, in accordance with Standing Order 31. .

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 Council is asked to note this report.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Council on 9 July 2018 agreed series of revisions to the Constitution which changed a number of Standing Orders relating to the way that Full Council operated. Included as part of these, were changes to the way in which the update report from the Leader and other Cabinet Members would be considered.

3.2 Whilst the total time available to consider the update report remains at 15 minutes, this is now split with up to six minutes being provided for the Leader and other Cabinet Members to speak in order to highlight any significant issues within their portfolios and the requirement for these updates to be based on a written report from the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet. Following on from

these updated, the remainder of the time available is then opened up for any non-Cabinet members to question (without advance notice) Cabinet on matters relating to their portfolios.

- 3.3 Set out in Appendix One of the report are the written updates provided, which cover pertinent parts of the municipal year to date.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct financial implications.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct legal implications.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 As the report is for information purposes there are no direct equality implications.

APPENDIX 1 – UPDATES FROM LEADER AND CABINET

1. Leaders Introduction – Councillor Muhammed Butt

- 1.1 As my Cabinet colleagues set out in the following reports, while just two short months have passed since our last meeting, they have been nonetheless eventful. A summary of the period includes, but is not limited to, the points set out below.
- 1.2 We have seen a government finally accept the magnitude of austerity's devastating social and economic impact and, for now, at least, stemming the tide of further cuts to ours, and many other essential public services' funding. Whether they have the courage to also accept that too much had already been taken out and needs to be put back in, especially in vital areas such as child protection, mental health, and adult social care, remains to be seen.
- 1.3 We are working more closely than ever before with our police, from the neighbourhood level, to the Borough Commander, to the Deputy Mayor. With their budgets slashed, our police increasingly depend on our local networks, the additional infrastructure, such as CCTV, we provide, and, perhaps most importantly, the community relationships we help foster. While such close partnerships are very much the future of effective, sustainable, front line public services, with incidents of serious and violent crime – too often tragically so – increasingly in the news, decisive, coordinated, visible action is very much in need.
- 1.4 We are at the forefront of building much needed new, affordable homes, while also enhancing and regenerating neighbourhoods across the borough. Living up to our manifesto commitments, in partnership with the Mayor of London and GLA, we are leading the way on developing the means by which can grow both the quantity and quality of our social housing stock.
- 1.5 We've continued in our proud tradition of officially marking formal occasions, celebrating in cultural and religious festivals, and acknowledging and commemorating the various histories they have contributed to the development of this borough, this city, and this country.
 - With our annual, and always impressive 'Light up the night' extravaganza we made the most of both Diwali and Guy Fawkes Night.
 - Through Black History Month, we championed the invaluable role, contribution, and near infinite array of achievements made by black people, past and present, in the UK.
 - More recently, on the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, representatives and residents alike paid their respects in remembrance of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

- 1.6 The Kiln, (or the theatre formally known as The Tricycle) continues its inaugural program with a critically acclaimed adaptation of Brent's very own Zadie Smith's breakthrough novel, *White Teeth*. Whatever it's called, and whatever your view, this borough is incredibly lucky to host such an impressive cultural and community asset, and we should applaud its achievements.
- 1.7 Speaking of community assets, following World Alzheimer's Day, we've seen our very own Councillor Lia Colacicco lead the way on setting up Brent's first dementia garden, bringing the award winning 'Life Without Walls' garden from the RHS Chelsea Flower Show up to Kilburn's Watling Gardens.

2. Deputy Leader – Councillor Margaret McLennan

- 2.1 Finance – Draft Budget proposals are out to consultation and residents have been updated at each Brent Connects during October, with the last presentation at Kilburn on 31st October.

We are working through the London Council Leaders Forum to ensure London is not penalised in the Fair Funding Review and secures necessary funding for Children's Social Care (CSC) where we are currently overspent by £1.5 million, which will be covered through other activities, but an overspend nonetheless as predicted. The vast majority of Councils are further exposed to increasing CSC costs.

Several Resident Associations have invited myself and The Leader to attend to update members directly and we are both happy to do so during this consultation period.

- 2.2 Equalities – October saw the celebration of Democracy Week and Black History month where I attended several events, including 'Question Time' where a Panel, including myself, answered questions on Council policies and strategies. The Council also held a free Black History Month celebration event where over 250 staff and residents were in attendance.
- 2.3 Performance – The Annual Complaints Report will now be published in November for December 2018 Cabinet and this will tie in with an update on Q3 Management and Financial performance. The Council is still on track to achieve a balanced budget for 2018/19.
- 2.4 Procurement – The Strategy continues that with all new contracts the expectation is to secure of 10% in savings from the previous contract. This is being achieved and exceeded to date.

3. Public Health, Culture and Leisure – Councillor Krupesh Hirani

- 3.1 The dedicated website for the London Borough of Culture has been updated. <https://www.lboc2020.com/> Job posts for the Borough of Culture team are now closed and the recruitment process for key roles are under way. We held an update event at the Willesden Library for Community groups to learn more about the Borough of Culture projects and we gave an update on where we were with all of the major projects for 2020.
- 3.2 We hosted drop ins for library users and I attended sessions at Willesden Library and at Ealing Road library. Wembley Library had a poetry workshop followed by a spoken word event. There was also another spoken word event which I attended at the Yellow building at Wembley Park. Kingsbury Library hosted a Windrush coffee morning event.
- 3.3 I attended the Leah Thomason Bromberg art exhibition at St Catherine's Church hosted by the Brent Arts group. I also attended the Exhibition at Willesden Library commemorating Somali soldiers that served during World War One.
- 3.4 Harlesden Library has been awarded 10k of CIL funds to enhance the Harlesden cultural offer which includes the hub. Two community projects area also underway to develop murals to go in the cultural space.
- 3.5 I held a joint meeting with Councillor Mili Patel and Children's Department officers to see how we could work more closely together on the Borough of Culture given our explicit focus on Young People.
- 3.6 I spoke about Ways to Wellbeing at two major events in Brent on World Mental Health Day. Firstly, at the Hillside Hub in Stonebridge at the event hosted and organised by Hestia and Ashford Place and secondly at the Disability Forum which was held in Harlesden.
- 3.7 I attended the Nigerian Independence Day celebrations arranged by Councillor Ernest Ezajughi. I supported the previous Mayor and attended his cheque giving ceremony to his Mayoral Charities for the municipal year 2017/2018. As the Hindu festival season is in full swing, I have attended numerous Navratri events at Oakington Manor Primary School, Sattavis Patidar Hall, Byron Hall, Alperton School and India Gardens. I attended the SKLPC Annual Mela. The community is home to tens of thousands of Brent and Harrow residents. I visited the Mandata community hall in Wembley Central where they held a Rangoli art competition. I attended the DKNS annual function. The community has a large population living in the Wembley Central and Alperton Wards in Brent.
- 3.8 Over the Diwali period, we hosted the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan at Hindu Temples in Brent. We visited the Willesden, Neasden and Ealing Road Temples and at the weekend I attended the Kingsbury Temple fireworks event.
- 3.9 The Dance group Shiamak held a flash Mob which we facilitated at the Brent Civic Centre.

- 3.10 We held a tour for Councillors at Willesden Sports Centre and used the opportunity to look at facilities and take forward issues for the benefit of our residents.
- 3.11 The new integrated service for Drugs and Alcohol is now fully mobilised. We worked with Brent CCG to obtain £267k funding to continue the successful Latent TB Infection Testing and Treatment Programme. Brent was the highest performing CCG for the Latent TB Programme in London. Health visiting metrics for new birth visiting have improved to 96%
- 3.12 The new 0-19 children's public health service includes tier 1 and 2 weight management service. This is a preventive universal service with additional lifestyle weight management services for those children, and their families, who are overweight or obese. A rolling pathway has been established for children aged 0-5 years and 5-11 years incorporating support and advice on healthy eating and behaviour change and encouraging physical activity.
- 3.13 Brent Council has been given £195k from the Healthy Pupils Capital Fund, which was generated by the Soft Drinks Industry Levy (sugar tax). Schools have been invited to bid for funding to carry out a capital project which increases facilities in schools for physical activity, healthy eating, mental health and wellbeing and medical conditions.
- 3.14 Healthier Catering Commitment - 44 premises have achieved the HCC award. There is a dedicated page on Brent website, explaining the award, benefits of the award, how to sign up, and listing companies who have achieved the award.
- 3.15 We have been mapping both indoor and outdoor sports facilities in the Borough with a view to having an investment plan on improving facilities and also identifying gaps in the Borough. I have also been working with Councillor Krupa Sheth to ensure that Parks are working with Sports clubs in the Borough when they are maintaining and improving outdoor pitches as there have been issues with the times of year that works have been carried out. I attended the London Sport annual event to further develop our relationship with the organisation.
- 3.16 I visited the Brent Punjabi Association who are running dance classes for pensioners. They meet at a church hall in Sudbury.
- 3.17 I visited the Kiln Theatre in Kilburn and spoke to staff about opening the building up to the community and audiences that were more reflective of the Borough.
- 3.18 I met with the Director of Sufra Food bank to further discuss Brent's work with the voluntary sector and our Grants and capacity building support. I attended a fantastic Black History Month event at the Brent Civic Centre.

4. Environment – Councillor Krupa Sheth

- 4.1 **Parking Consultation** – The parking team commenced an informal supplementary consultation exercise on Friday 24th August 2018 which closed on 21st September 2018. The consultation looked at: A proposed surcharge on resident parking permits issued for diesel powered vehicles, to nudge vehicle owners to switch to less polluting options, Introduction of a three year £15 permit for new cars joining the Wembley Event Day Protected Parking Scheme, Permit surcharges for residents' second and third vehicles, Parking Essential User Permit pricing for external organisations. There will be a member development session on 4th December 2018 at 6pm to give members a briefing of the outcome of the consultation and allow members to give me their views on this.
- 4.2 **Recruitment of Parking Civil Enforcement Officers** – The recruitment and training of additional Civil Enforcement Officers is under way to enhance the protection of parking spaces for our residents and businesses and we should have an “A-team” in place next month to deal with parking hotspots.
- 4.3 **LED Street Lights** – Over 15,000 LED lanterns have been installed with the programme on target to be completed by January. This represents 75% off the lighting stock.
- 4.4 **Pilot Lighting Project** – The new LED lanterns can be controlled at a micro-level by the Central Management System. When we installed the lanterns we dimmed the lamps to 70% in residential streets and 53% on footpaths, to ensure that road safety standards were met and so that we could start to make savings straight away. Target savings were originally £750k but were increased this year to £850k, and could potentially increase again by another £100k in 2020. So it is essential we make progress.

We have used our specialist design consultants to analyse lighting needs and provide us with a recommended lighting level for each individual lantern. They have completed their work in three wards so far: Fryent, Queensbury and Welsh Harp. This has allowed us to reduce the lighting output in these three wards in most cases to a level of 50%, without any adverse comments from the public. As a result, we have piloted a full implementation of the lighting design standards in these three wards. To that end we started a two-week pilot in these three wards, reducing many of the lanterns to 40% in the first week and then to the official recommended level the week after. We will then turn the lights back up to baseline and assess the public response. In due course this will facilitate a recommendation for a borough-wide lighting plan. A letter was sent out to residents letting them know what is happening and how to give us their feedback.

- 4.5 **Electric Charge Points** – Rapid charge points have been installed and they will be operational on the 5 sites once we have received a certificate for them which is due on 3rd December. We are currently waiting for them to be connected. This should be completed in the next 6 weeks. We are also in the process for the procurement of a tender for Lamp Column chargers and have put forward bids for more electric charge points. These electric charge points are vital in our plans to promote electric cars and help improve our air quality.

- 4.6 Wembley Stadium Community Project – We have been approached by the FA and they would like to give back to the community and work with the council and Veolia to do a project in our parks which are directly affected by event days. We have started the discussion and are moving forward with preliminary plans.
- 4.7 Meadow Cutting – The new meadow policy involves a yearly cut. All large sites have been cut leaving 6 smaller sites at Leybourne Road, Eton Grove, Abbey Estate, Sudbury Court Open Space, Elmwood and Northwick Park. These sites commenced their annual cut at the beginning of November.

There will be a member development session on 28th February 2019 at 6pm to provide members the opportunity to ask questions regarding the meadow areas, discuss anything to do with our parks, open spaces and also gain an insight into our allotments service and view our proposed plans for 2019 including the sowing of pocket wildflowers. An information pamphlet will be provided to all councillors, containing relevant information, as well as maps of each meadow area. There will be a demonstration of our newly created biodiversity portal, which will provide a wealth of information on nature, biodiversity, meadows and the amazing work being carried out across the borough.

- 4.8 Wildlife Competition Update – In July, we launched the wildlife competition. A few weeks ago, I joined the judging panel to decide on the winners of the competition. Kerry Slack's picture of a fox won the over 18s and Alex Albanis's picture of a red tiger moth won the under 18s. The winners plus around 15 residents whose entries were "highly recommended" will be invited to an award ceremony on 27th November at 6.30pm. You are all invited to attend.
- 4.9 London In Bloom – Brent won four gold awards and four silver awards at the prestigious London in Bloom Awards 2018. The awards celebrate the efforts of our officers, Veolia, community groups and schools across Brent who work tirelessly to improve our local environment and I would like to thank them all.
- 4.10 Roe Green Walled Garden was awarded gold and won "best small conservation area", while Alperton Cemetery was awarded silver and "best small cemetery". Overall, the borough of Brent scooped a silver award. The full list of awards is:
- The London Borough of Brent – Silver
 - Alperton Cemetery – Silver and category winner in 'Cemetery of the Year 2018'
 - Gladstone Park Wall Gardens – Gold.
 - Mapesbury Dell – Gold
 - Fryent Country Park – Gold
 - Roe Green Wall Garden – Gold and category winner in 'Small Conservation Area of the Year 2018'

- Roundwood Park – Silver
- Barham Park Wall Garden – Silver

4.11 Veolia Trial Project Willesden – Alongside many other trial projects around education and enforcement, we are working with Veolia to trial a completely proactive collection of all flytips on the public highway at exactly the same time; whether they have been made through the app or not. Should this trial be successful, we will be looking to see if this methodology can be rolled out across the entire borough.

The existing process means that Veolia vehicles are completely reactive and can spend a lot of time travelling between reported incidents across an entire village area. The new trial, will allow for Veolia to plot the most effective route for their vehicles; allowing for a positive environmental impact too.

We are also looking to support this trial with additional education to residents on the correct methods of disposal of household waste and bulky waste items; including the bulky waste collection service. This trial will be running from the 15th October to the 30th November. Findings from the trial will be shared towards the end of the year.

4.12 Trial Skip Project – As you are aware we are trialling a skip project to tackle rubbish dumping. This was kicked off on Saturday 20th October in Fryent Ward and the skip was manned by local residents with the presence of our neighbourhood manager and enviro enforcement officer. We will be taking the skip across Kingsbury and Kenton over the next few weeks and we will see how this works out. I will keep you updated about the outcome.

4.13 Car Free Day – On 22nd September, in support of Brent’s Clean Air pledge and to celebrate Car Free Day we planned two events on Oaklands Road, Mapesbury and St Johns Road, Wembley. The aim of these events was to promote fun active ways of travelling such as walking and cycling and to encourage residents and businesses to consider using alternative modes of travel. We had the Leader, the Mayor and some councillors attending the events and it was great fun.

4.14 Dementia Garden, Watling Garden, Mapesbury – On Saturday 22nd September I visited Watling Garden in Mapesbury. The residents, in partnership with Selco and Wates have done a great job and I would like to thank Councillor Colacicco for all her work there.

4.15 Visit to Severnside Energy Recovery Centre - I went to visit our plant at our waste site in Bristol along with West London Waste Alliance officers, fellow colleagues from neighbouring boroughs and council officers. This is where our waste is transported to in craters via the train. It was an incredibly interesting visit.

4.16 Free Trees for Brent Residents – The Mayor of London announced that there are 25,000 free trees to given away to Community groups and schools across

London. The trees are provided in clusters of 50 and bids had to be submitted by 22nd November. We have had quite a few community groups apply.

- 4.17 Christmas Tree Collection – We will be providing the Christmas Tree collection points in our parks again in January 2019. There will be no change to the locations. There are 21 agreed locations across Brent. Residents will be allowed to take their trees to these locations from 31st Dec 18 to 13th Jan 19 with Veolia collecting them from 14th Jan till 27th Jan. Any surplus trees will be collected by the parks service. Residents who have the garden waste service will be able to use their garden bin for the disposal of Christmas Trees if the trees are cut into manageable pieces.

There will be posters in all relevant park notice boards from Mid Dec and we will be publicising the scheme in Brent magazine, our website and members bulletin nearer the time. You can visit www.brent.gov.uk/christmastrees for details of collection points.

- 4.18 Winter Preparations 2018/19 – There are three bank holidays over Christmas and New Year and so there will be some changes to the days bins are collected. These are summarised below:

If your bin is due to be collected on...	It will now be collected on...
Tuesday 25 December	Thursday 27 December
Wednesday 26 December	Friday 28 December
Thursday 27 December	Saturday 29 December
Friday 28 December	Sunday 30 December
Monday 31 December	Monday 31 December
Tuesday 1 January	Saturday 5 January

Residents can go online and use the ‘Find Your Collection Day’ search at www.brent.gov.uk/recycling for information that is directly relevant to them. Normal collections will resume from Wednesday 2 January.

The Reuse and Recycling centre will be closed on 25 December, 26 December and 1 January.

From Wednesday 2 January, residents can renew or sign up to receive the garden waste service for the year from April.

- 4.19 Paan Initiative – On 1st November, we had ITV come down to do an interview with me around our new paan initiative. After various forms of education including posters to talking to businesses selling paan we decided to trial out something new and painted stencils on the pavement warning and educating people it is a criminal offence. ITV were fascinated with this new initiative and the interview was shown on ITV London featuring Brent in a very positive light. This was the result of great work from our Town Centre Manager and our Neighbourhood Manager with the support from Veolia, the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Wembley Central and Alperton Residents Association.

5. Regeneration, Highways and Planning – Councillor Shama Tatler

- 5.1 There are several commitments which the Administration has made to the residents of Brent that I would like to update on.
- 5.2 Firstly, our commitment to involve residents in key decisions. We have just published our draft local plan for consultation for residents to comment on how Brent should look and feel. The local plan will be the key document that planners, developers and house-builders will refer to when examining planning applications. The plan will identify where development can take place and what we expect to be delivered alongside housing such as the percentage of truly affordable housing, workspace and infrastructure. The consultation is open until the 3rd January 2019. There will be workshops, drop-in centres and hard copies of the documents in our libraries for comment.
- 5.3 Supporting business and town centres is important. The Brent for Business website is now well established. It offers Business both small and large, support, links to council departments, networking and investment opportunities, employment and apprenticeships and promotion of our town centres. In addition, the site directs business to affordable workspace as we recognise that access to space is often a stumbling block for start-up business.
- 5.4 The Brent Business Board is continuing its work in bringing together key Brent businesses as well as the Council and further education providers to explore how we can work together to support the business community. Currently, the board is exploring how we can support and deliver apprenticeships and work experience opportunities for our residents. Councillor Agha and I will be working on this over the next few months.
- 5.5 Our town centre managers are continuing to work diligently to improve our town centres. In Neasden, we have used planning legislation to encourage landlords to clean up their buildings; in Wembley, businesses have come together led by our town centre manager to become plastic free; we are working with neighbouring boroughs in Colindale and Kilburn and establishing strong business fora in Church End, Harlesden and Willesden. Moreover, other town centres are working with ward councillors and neighbourhood manager to improve the look and feel of our high streets.
- 5.6 Following last year's difficult winter, we have put in pro-active measures to ensure that we are ready to deal with issues on our road surfaces quickly. Together with the teams under Councillor Krupa Sheth's area, the highways and environment officers are diligently preparing for winter.
- 5.7 I'd like to take this opportunity to thank residents for their officers and questions and officers for their work during 2018. I look forward to reporting back in 2019 and continuing the work the Administration has committed to in order to deliver a borough of culture, empathy and shared prosperity.

6. Schools, Employment and Skills – Councillor Amer Agha

- 6.1 Brent Start – Adult education courses relating to STEM, employment prospects, and more broadly to support disadvantaged residents, have not been reduced as a consequence of savings delivered in recent years.

The classrooms we have are now very well utilised, and more teaching is delivered in the community at children's centres, community centres, libraries, and primary schools.

Performance of Brent Start has increased over the last 4-5 years, with a pass rate over 93%, achievement (those receiving qualifications) at 87%, which is higher than our equivalent providers of adult education, and positive customer satisfaction (conducted independently by our funders) stands at 97%, compared with the 88% national average.

For information, the new Brent Start curriculum has recently been published and enrolments are now taking place.

- 6.2 Brent Transport services – This area has a net budget £9,784K for 2018/19. An additional £3.83m budget has been provided in-year to cover SEN pressures. This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.
- 6.3 The Job Show – The Job Show held at Wembley Stadium on Wednesday 10 October from 11am to 7pm was supported by the West London Alliance, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, Segro and Public Health England. The event was well attended by 1700 Brent residents with 80 exhibitors, including some from the hospitality and construction sector attended and all be on the lookout for new talent, with hundreds of live vacancies had on the day.
- 6.4 BTEG Project (Black Training and Enterprise Group) – The London Borough of Brent has been invited to become one of two pilot areas to test a new approach to improving employment outcomes for groups which are under-represented in quality jobs in London's labour market. This is part of Moving on Up, an initiative developed and funded by the Trust for London and City Bridge Trust working in partnership with the Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG) and the Greater London Authority. A workshop was held on 21st September 2018 at Brent Civic Centre to explore how Brent can develop and test the Moving On Up model over the next two years. The workshop was facilitated by BTEG and Trust for London

The aims of the workshop were:

- To share information about the Moving on Up programme's commitment to improving employment outcomes for young black men in Borough, and the opportunity for organisations within the London Borough of Brent to join this initiative by establishing an Employment Impact Group with the objective of improving employment outcomes for young black men in the borough.

- To identify partners willing to commit to and contribute to this two-year project.
- To agree the principles and timetable for working together in an Employment Impact Group.
- To explore the scope and priorities for this Employment Impact Group's work over the next two years.

6.5 Apprenticeship / Business Award 2018 – The London Councils eighth London Borough Apprenticeship Awards, which celebrate the contribution apprentices make to organisations, was held at Saddlers Hall on Friday 28 September 2018.

A Brent Council employee who lives in Wembley has won London Council's 'Best progression made by an apprentice' Award. The employee beat five other London borough entrants to scoop the top award. They joined Brent Council's apprenticeship programme in 2016 and quickly learned about housing, and the skills needed to do their job efficiently, including delivering a great customer service. This employee's commitment and ability to grasp new skills quickly was praised by their manager who nominated her for the award.

6.6 Brent Work's, Best Employment Project Award 2018 – Performance has been improved, supporting nearly 500 residents into work and apprenticeship since April 2015, 40 residents placed in apprenticeships and 68 into employment this financial year 2018-19. Brent works recently won the place West London Award for "Best Employment Project" for their work in partnership with Wembley Park

6.7 The Living Room – New team in place since April and has already delivered the full year targets for 2018/19 with 40 residents entering employment to date, supporting over 160 people into work since the launch in 2016

6.8 The Work Health Programme – It is a West London programme since March 2018, a more comprehensive support up to 18 months particularly for those with mental health issues, physical health barriers to work, learning disabilities, care leavers, and ex-offenders. 450 Brent residents have been referred to the programme. £99.9K secured from DWP grant to support prevention of offending and re-offending through a partnership with community protection and the CRC (probation).

6.9 Schools – The quality of education in Brent remains high. Since the start of the year there have been four inspection reports published and all of the schools have been judged as remaining good and their safeguarding as effective.

Schools Forum agreed funding for two Brent School Partnership led projects which had been approved by the Strategic School Effectiveness Partnership Board chaired by the Strategic Director Children and Young People:

- Strengthening Leadership Development and Succession Planning in Brent schools;

- Raising the Achievement of Black Caribbean Boys in Brent schools. Two years' programme will provide a robust analysis of Black Caribbean pupils' performance and the effectiveness of key aspects of schools' practice to ensure Black Caribbean achieve well

6.10 Key Stage 4 – The average attainment 8 score of 50.5 is an increase of 1.5 compared to 2017 and well above last year's national average of 44.6

6.11 Key Stage 5 – Over quarter (26%) of the A level grades awarded are the higher A*/A grades and the proportion of A8-C grades is 80% which is 3%age point above the national average.

6.12 Vocational Qualifications. For students studying vocational qualifications at level 3 (eg BTEC national Diploma) the overall pass rate for Brent is 99% and highest grades (Distinction*/Distinction) account for 62% of all grades awarded

7. Community Safety – Councillor Tom Miller

- 7.1 I'd like to begin this report by mentioning our thoughts for those injured in some completely unnecessary violent incidents within the borough this month, in which I am sure the whole council will join us. In particular our thoughts are with those injured in a recent shooting in the Church Road area, and in some recent stabbing incidents.

We are very lucky that nobody at the time of writing has lost their life through this type of incident, but it remains as clear as ever that the Police and the Council as a supporting partner need to give as much priority as possible to tackling the scourge of violence on our streets.

- 7.2 I'd also like to mention the thefts which have taken place at Shree Swaminarayan Temple at Willesden Lane, and at SKS Swaminarayan Temple just off the Harrow side of Kenton Lane. Both councils are in close liaison with Police, who at the time of writing are investigating CCTV evidence and forensic to investigate any link and to make sure that the offenders are caught.

- 7.3 I think it would be fair to say that police are experiencing a lot of organisational strain due to their merger with Barnet and Harrow. If members do need information from Police and feel they are not getting it, I'd ask them to make contact with me.

- 7.4 It has been a busy few weeks in my portfolio. In recent weeks we have concluded our Stronger Communities consultation and engagement, laying a basis for a new strategy to build community cohesion. We hope to use it to tackle some of the emerging areas around Brexit, hate crime and radicalisation. The public have told us that fighting for greater equality and tackling poverty have to be high priorities behind what we support the community to do locally, as well as considering the role of armed forces veterans and older people, so we will also be considering how we can help individuals and community groups to work together in doing this. Our consultation meant we were present at every library in the borough, visited every Brent connects, and took to local media. Thanks to all who fed back.

- 7.5 Since we last met I have also:

- Joined a night patrol with our 'Autumn Nights' high-vis team from Regen and Environment
- Spoke at an event with our partners TellMama about tackling Islamophobia
- Spoke at an inspiring youth based event at UKCG Help Centre about alternative paths young people can take to being involved in drugs and crime
- Held public meetings with Police in Harlesden and Willesden to discuss local crime problems

- Put in place some early plans to reconfigure our MOPAC funded services given an upcoming grant reduction. Sadly we are also losing some ability to generate income from our Registration and Nationality service, again due to decisions made in Whitehall. This makes some reorganisation of how the service works unavoidable, so I am also in discussion with officers on this matter.
- Met with Restore London to explore how we can expand access to restorative justice remedies within the borough and empower victims of crime
- Attended an event hosted by the LGA and the Campaign Company on the topic of community cohesion
- Helped choose some wonderful school artwork to form our latest anti hate-crime poster and supported National Hate Crime Awareness week
- Joined our Community Safety team at the Problem Oriented Policing awards, where Brent won a bronze award for the team's work on open drug markets in Chapter Road. Congratulations to them!

7.6 Coming up – There are a number of matters which will occupy the coming months:

- A paper covering our statement of principle for gambling is on the agenda for this Council meeting. Members should understand that we have very limited powers from central government to prevent or regulate gambling establishments, but I want to be explicit that we are calling on government to give us greater local control, given the harm that gambling establishments can sometimes do to public health and order locally. In addition, I have supported the campaign for Fairer Gambling's proposal to reduce Fixed Odds stakes to a £2 maximum, and I'd like to congratulate Tracy Crouch MP for the principled stand she has taken on making sure this issue is dealt with seriously. We know that lives will be lost to gambling addiction among the lowest earning people between now and implementation, and the wait period put in place in response to industry lobbying is plainly immoral.
- Also within licensing, we are looking at ways to toughen up our approach to non-compliant off-licenses over the matter of alcohol sales and orderliness, so I will soon be bringing forward a proposal to reshape our alcohol licensing policy to create healthier high streets and encourage responsible businesses to thrive where there is now irresponsibility.

7.7 As mentioned above, our Stronger Communities strategy will be coming forward for consideration as a key supporting aspect to the Borough Plan

7.8 Finally, Trading Standards will shortly be placing their report to the Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board. Trading standards operates as a shared service between Brent and Harrow, and accordingly has its own governance structure

on which some members are represented. It is a very successful service which functions on a small fraction of its pre-austerity budget, and its work is to be commended. If members would like to find out about its work in the year to date, I would be happy to pass on copies of their report.

8. Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care – Councillor Mili Patel

- 8.1 Corporate Parenting – On 30 October the Corporate Parenting Committee held its latest meeting. We received a report from Care in Action representatives, who updated us on their activities over the summer.

The Committee welcomed a report on the enrichment activities for older looked after children and care leavers. The issue of isolation and loneliness amongst these groups as they move into their own tenancies was discussed. Many only associated problems like loneliness with the older generations, so this was a timely reminder that this is also a problem for vulnerable young people in Brent.

We were once again reminded of the commitment and dedication of staff when we discussed how they go beyond the call of duty to organise activities for looked after children and care leavers outside of their core working hours and commitments.

The Committee commented on the Brent Fostering Service Quarterly Monitoring Report, and it was also really enlightening to hear about foster carers first hand experiences in our Borough. They talked about the challenges and rewards of their vocation and the committee recorded a vote of thanks for their commitment to the children in their care.

- 8.2 Member Learning and Development Session – On Monday 12th November, the Strategic Director Children and Young People led a productive latest session of our mandatory “Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Children” training for members.

The training included information on what we mean by ‘safeguarding,’ the legal framework regarding children and young people and members’ responsibilities in this area. The session was very well received by those members in attendance.

- 8.3 Regionalisation of adoption – Progress is being made to establish a regional adoption agency with other West London authorities, from April 2019. This national, government-led initiative should improve timeliness of matching and placements of children for adoption and will enable better post adoption support to be commissioned.

The proposal will be presented for Cabinet approval early in the new year.

- 8.4 Pride of Brent – I am pleased to report that a range of staff across Brent Council's Children and Young People Department have been nominated to receive a Pride of Brent award this year. Individuals and teams have both been nominated, recognising excellent support to, and impact for, children and young people across Brent services. Nominees have either received written notes of thanks from their managers or director's commendations. I am looking forward to the Pride of Brent awards ceremony on Thursday 22 November where I will be championing my department's nominees.

8.5 Little extras – In his budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, announced £400m to help schools fund “the little extras” they might need. To illustrate some of the kind of “little extras” the Chancellor might have been talking about, here is a recent selection of stories from the news:

- 94 per cent of teachers are dipping into their own pockets to pay for school essentials such as books while 73 per cent are regularly paying for stationery supplies. (Times Educational Supplement, September 2017)
- More than a quarter of teachers in the National Education Union have spent between £101 and £500 on school resources from their own money in the last year, and just under a third have spent between £51 and £100. (Nursery World, September 2017)
- A primary school in Theresa May’s constituency recently wrote to parents asking for donations to help pay for items including pens, pencils, exercise books and paper. (Independent, November 2017)
- Research based on the Freedom of Information Act has revealed that the average state school now receives an average of £10,000 in donations from parents a year. (Channel Four News, January 2018)

So, it seems that the “little extras” the Chancellor is referring to are bonus items like books, stationery and school trips. The kind of things our school system is only lacking because of cuts totaling £2.8bn since 2015 (averaging out to £53,000 for each primary school and £178,000 for each secondary school).

As the cabinet member with responsibility for young people with Special Educational Needs I am alarmed that the money announced is only a one off, and that it is a smaller amount than the budget allocated for fixing potholes. It is clear no extra support is coming our way to support the most vulnerable young people in our borough.

8.6 Children and Young People Conference – On Wednesday, 14th November, over 400 staff attended our annual Children and Young People Conference which celebrated the achievements of Brent’s staff and young people over the past year.

Children and young people were at the heart of the conference. The conference theme was “listening-impact-outcomes” and included video, audio and live presentations from Brent children and young people. They made a particular impression on me when they described the difference that is made when they are listened to, and their views and wishes are acted upon. The conference also featured Brent staff sharing best practice, in line with our practice framework including Signs of Safety. The conference provides an excellent platform for Brent Council to further support improved outcomes and impact for Brent children and young people over the coming year.

9. Adult Social Care – Councillor Harbi Farah

- 9.1 Opening of refurbished New Millennium Day Centre – The New Millennium Day Centre was re-opened by the Mayor of Brent, Councillor Mahmood, on Wednesday 17 October 2018. The centre, which had been closed for refurbishment over the summer, is a purpose built facility for a variety of adults aged 18 and over with physical and learning disabilities. The refurbishment has made the centre a more pleasant, suitable and accessible place for all the service users. It will enable the Centre to increase and expand the current services and provide a safe, friendly environment for more Brent residents. The centre also held a Diwali party on Friday 16th November, and is hosting the Learning Disability Partnership Board, which is a multi-agency board and is co-chaired by a Brent Service user with a Learning Disability. I would encourage members to visit if you can spare few minutes.
- 9.2 Allied Healthcare update – You may have seen on the news or in the press that the Quality Care Commission has issued a stage 6 warning notice regarding the viability of Allied Health Care. Allied were at similar risk in April of this year, so we already have contingency plans in place in case they do cease trading. In Brent, Allied deliver care to 84 vulnerable service users, commissioned by Adult Social Care. It is worth noting that neither ASC nor CQC have any concerns regarding the quality of the care they provide. The issue relates to the long term financing and the financial sustainability of the business. There is a robust plan in place in case of Allied failing, and Brent commissioners have already approached 6 other regular homecare providers (all of whom are rated good by CQC) who are willing to take on Allied’s existing packages in the event of their failure. It is also worth noting, that the vast majority of people receiving care would continue to receive it from the carers they currently have, as TUPE would apply in this situation. Therefore the risk of disruption to individual’s care is very low, and is being managed by the department.
- 9.3 Winter Pressures Funding – On the 2nd October, the Department of Health and Social Care announced £240m of additional funding ‘intended to for councils to spend on adult social care services to help councils alleviate winter pressures on the NHS, getting patients home quicker and freeing up hospital beds across England.’ The announcement of one off funding came with two conditions:
- That the totality of the grant will be spent on providing adult social care services, in addition to funding already planned; and that you have discussed this with local NHS partners, including local acute hospital trusts; and
 - That councils include alongside their certifications what additional volumes of care and support the additional funding will purchase by returning a central template.

It is intended to enable areas to take immediate action to relieve pressure on the NHS locally by implementing best practice

In Brent, it is proposed that we spend the funding on a specific range of initiatives that we believe will have the most impact in getting people out of hospital quickly when they are medically fit to be discharged. These are:

- 4 additional Home First Co-ordinators to work across the system and support people to be discharged home rather than having to stay in hospital to be assessed
- Funding for the Handyman Service and additional handyman resource to support Home First
- Additional social work and care assessor resource over winter for the Hospital Discharge Team
- Funding for the Trusted Assessor programme, supporting care homes to assess people more quickly when they need a care or nursing home placement
- Additional funding for placements, both block and spot purchased.

9.4 Dementia Friends Training for members – There are currently 750,000 people in the UK living with dementia and the cost to the UK economy as a whole is more than £20 billion annually. Over the next 40 years the number of people with dementia in the UK will more than double to 1.7 million. In Brent the JSNA (2014) estimates the prevalence of dementia in over-65s at 7.1%; however, with an aging population, this is expected to increase significantly in the next 10 years, particularly amongst the BME population. An increase of 31% in the prevalence of dementia is expected over this time period as the number of people over 65 increases in Brent.

Brent has an estimated prevalence of 2,470 people living with dementia, and it is estimated that one in three people will care for a person with dementia in their lifetime.

In May Brent held an event to launch its commitment to becoming a dementia friendly borough by 2020 and there is a lot of work happening in and outside the council to progress this.

Raising awareness about dementia is a critical part of this and one of our partners, Community Action Dementia, have offered to deliver a session for all members which will raise awareness and enable you to become a Dementia Friend. The Society's Dementia Friends programme is the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. It aims to transform the way the nation thinks, acts and talks about the condition. Dementia Friends is about learning more about dementia and the small ways you can help, because every action counts.

10. Housing and Welfare Reform – Councillor Eleanor Southwood

10.1 Universal Credit roll out in Brent – The Government’s chaotic Universal Credit scheme begins in Brent – in Harlesden job centre on November 21st and Wembley job centre on December 5th. Whilst the full migration of everyone currently receiving one of the six benefits that come together under UC has been delayed until the end of 2020, anyone who claims one of the six benefits for the first time or whose circumstances change will be affected immediately. We have serious concerns about the impact of these changes and, although we have worked hard with DWP and spoken to many residents about what they need to do, there’s no doubt that this will be an anxious time for some people. Help is at hand, from DWP in the first instance and I’d urge anyone who is worried to raise concerns as early as possible. The council is also here to help – please encourage residents to seek advice rather than suffering in silence.

10.2 The future of St Raphael’s Estate – On November 12th, Cabinet gave the go ahead to an extensive process of engagement with tenants and residents on the St Raphael’s estate. This is hugely exciting as it’s a chance to shape the estate and to tackle the chronic shortage of social housing in the Borough. The community will lead the process, with the support of an independent adviser and will recommend to the Council what they would like to happen. If full redevelopment is the preferred option, residents on the estate might be some of the first in London to vote on the future of where they live: we’re proud to be able to deliver on the commitment made by the Administration in our 2018 Manifesto to residents being balloted before largescale redevelopment can take place.

10.3 Review of the way social housing is allocated – On 12 November we launched a consultation on how social housing is allocated in Brent. Fundamentally, we need to make sure that we are able to give priority to people who are in greatest need within a context of a desperate shortage of social housing to go around. The consultation runs until 22nd January.

The changes we’re consulting on include a proposal to give residents in temporary accommodation priority for social housing that becomes available on the estate where they are living, so that they don’t have to move neighbourhoods. Another change looks at giving priority to homeless families living in temporary accommodation on an estate that is being regenerated so that they can move into social housing within the same area.

The full list of proposed changes is available online [here](#). I’d urge everyone to have their say as these are not easy choices. Sadly, thousands of families in Brent live in unsuitable homes, e.g. which are too small for them, but have no realistic chance of accessing social housing. These proposals cannot change that. But they can make sure we’re allocating the limited social housing that’s available in the most appropriate way.

10.4 Practical help for rough sleepers – Last Full Council I reported that Brent had been successful in securing £348,204 from the Government’s Rough Sleeper Initiative grant for the remaining 2018-19 period and I’m pleased to report that this is already making a difference. We’re working with St Mungo’s on 2 projects.

In Willesden Green, A hub has been set up with eleven beds for people who are street homeless and who might find it particularly difficult, perhaps because they are leaving prison or hospital or because they have no recourse to public funds. In addition, six flats are being used to provide housing for single people who are experiencing a complicated mix of poor mental and physical health, alcohol and drug problems, and childhood trauma which has meant they have slept rough for many years. These flats offer a stable, longer term way for people as they recover. At the end of this month, a social worker whose role will be to provide mental health assessments to people sleeping rough will join Brent. They will also be able to provide mental health support to single homeless people at the civic centre.