

	<p align="center">Full Council 12 July 2021</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Assistant Chief Executive</p>
<p align="center">Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Chair's report</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Council
Appendices:	One Appendix 1: Committee Annual Work Plan 2020-2021
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officers:	Lorna Hughes, Head of Strategy and Partnerships, Email: lorna.hughes@brent.gov.uk

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At each meeting of Full Council, the Chairs of Scrutiny Committees may submit written reports on any matter in respect of which the committees have been consulted or which it has been reviewing and may speak to highlight significant issues to Council, in accordance with Part 2, paragraph 36 of the Brent Council Constitution.
- 1.2 This report provides a brief complementary summary of the activities of Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee since the last update report on 23 November 2020.
- 1.3 This report also includes the work plan of the Resources and Public Realm Committee for 2021/22.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee work plan 2021-2022 be noted.

3 Detail

- 3.1. 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 party to the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2. 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

- 3.3. The remit of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees. The remit of the committee is:

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.

- 3.4. The committee is also the council's statutory Crime and Disorder Committee and as such may review or scrutinise decisions made, or action taken, by the Safer Brent Partnership.

2020/21 update

- 3.5. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the committee continued to meet in a virtual online setting during 2020, with meetings on 1 December 2020, 27 January 2021 and 14 April 2021. On 10 May 2021 the committee met in person for the first time since March 2020.
- 3.6. On 1 December 2020 the committee considered employment and the COVID-19 epidemic in Brent, The Climate Emergency, The Brent Poverty Commission Delivery Plan and were updated on the status of the Stonebridge Annexe refurbishment works, with evidence from the relevant Cabinet members and departmental officers. The committee also established a Budget Scrutiny Task Group to consider the budget proposals for 2021-2022.
- 3.7. On 27 January 2021 the committee considered the borough's high streets, the digital strategy and customer services, the annual complaints report 2019/20, the 2020-2021 Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 Financial Reports, with evidence from the relevant Cabinet members and departmental officers. Expert external witnesses including Andrew Dakers, Chief Executive at West London Business and Matthew Jaffa, Senior External Affairs Manager at the Federation of Small Businesses also provided the committee with evidence. At this meeting the committee considered a draft budget scrutiny report

¹ Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.

<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s98196/part%20May%202020%20Procedural%20Rules.pdf>

from the budget scrutiny task group, setting out the committee's response to the budget proposals to Cabinet.

- 3.8. On 14 April 2021 the committee considered a review of key Brent Council priorities and strategies, including the Borough Plan 2021/22, the Quarter 3 performance report and a review of the implementation of the air quality scrutiny report and recommendations agreed by Cabinet, with evidence from the relevant Cabinet members and departmental officers.
- 3.9. On 10 May 2021 the committee considered waste and recycling in the borough, Brent Council's approach to working with the Voluntary and Community Sector, and a review of the implementation of the knife crime scrutiny report and recommendations agreed by Cabinet and a report on the delivery of the Brent Poverty Commission Report and recommendations with evidence from the relevant Cabinet members and departmental officers and included representatives from the voluntary and community sector in Brent.
- 3.10. At the next meeting on 13 July 2021 the committee will agree a work plan for 2021-2022. In accordance with that work plan, the committee will consider CCTV deployment in Brent and receive an update from the Redesigning Local Services project.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6 Equality Implications

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 This report is from the Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. Councillors will discuss this report at Full Council.

Report sign off:

SHAZIA HUSSAIN
Assistant Chief Executive