



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
Held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Wednesday 21 September 2022
at 6.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Abdi Aden

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Orleen Hylton

COUNCILLORS:

Afzal	Agha
Ahmadi Moghaddam	Ahmed
Akram	Bajwa
Begum	Benea
M.Butt	S.Butt
Chan	Chappell
Chohan	Choudry
Collymore	Crabb
Dar	Dixon
Donnelly-Jackson	Ethapemi
Farah	Fraser
Georgiou	Grahl
Hack	Hirani
Johnson	Kabir
Kansagra	Kelcher
Kennelly	Knight
Long	Lorber
Mahmood	Matin
Maurice	Miller
Mistry	Mitchell
Moeen	Molloy
Nerva	J.Patel
M.Patel	Rajan-Seelan
Rubin	Ketan Sheth
Krupa Sheth	Smith
Southwood	Tatler

1. **Mayors Introductory Statement**

The Mayor welcomed all those present to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Conneely, Gbajumo and Shah.

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Donnelly-Jackson.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 11 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

5. **Mayor's Announcements (including any petitions received)**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

(i) Remembrance & Tributes to HRH Her Majesty the Queen

Following HRH Her Majesty the Queen's state funeral earlier in the week, the Mayor began his announcements in remembrance and tribute following the passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

Having led the period of mourning across the borough, the Mayor advised that he had also written to the new Sovereign and Royal Family to express condolences and deepest sympathy on behalf of the borough following the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

In paying tribute to the late Queen, the Mayor felt it important to recognise not only her long and valued service to both the country and commonwealth but also the leadership provided throughout her reign as sovereign. Reflecting on her commitment to public and voluntary service, the Mayor also felt it important to highlight the inspiration she had provided for so many, especially in relation to young people, the preservation of wildlife and the environment.

The Mayor then invited comments from representatives of each Group in memory and tribute to the late Queen and began by inviting Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) to speak on behalf of the Labour Group.

Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) opened the tributes on behalf of the Labour Group by also recognising and commending the Queen's long commitment to public service and reflecting on the deep respect in which she had been held not only across the country and commonwealth but also across the world. On a personal basis, he recalled his and his own family's personal

engagement and interaction with the Queen and Royal Family, including during various visits to the borough and recognised how much she would be missed, given her length of service as Monarch.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Maurice to speak on behalf of the Conservative Group, who also felt it important to recognise and respect the sense of loss expressed during the period of national mourning from around the world. In highlighting the Queen's strong commitment to public service and in representing all those who had settled in the United Kingdom from across the world, he also took the opportunity to wish the new king well in his transition as sovereign.

As a final contribution, Councillor Georgiou was then invited to speak on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group. In supporting the sentiments already expressed he also paid tribute to the late Queen's long and selfless commitment to public service and felt it important to reflect on the comments made by the Archbishop of Canterbury in welcoming world leaders attending her state funeral in relation to those who serve often being loved whilst those who cling to power and privilege were often forgotten.

The Mayor thanked members for their contributions and tributes and as a mark of sympathy and condolence to both the new Sovereign and Royal Family invited all present to join him in observing a moments silence in memory of the late Queen.

All present then stood to observe a moments silence in remembrance of HRH Her Majesty the Queen.

(ii) Community Cohesion

The Mayor then moved on to advise members that one of the things he was most proud about in holding office as Mayor of Brent was the level of diversity across the Borough and way in which different communities were able to live side by side in peace and harmony. This was most recently demonstrated in the way different communities in Brent had come together in response to the pandemic and also during the period of national mourning for the Queen, which he was keen to reflect upon given recent community tensions elsewhere in the country.

Referring to the way Brent was able to pride itself on the peaceful relationships that existed between its diverse and multicultural communities the Mayor felt it was necessary to always remain vigilant to ensure community cohesion was maintained. In light of recent events and community tensions elsewhere in the country he therefore invited Carolyn Down (as Chief Executive) to read a statement from the Brent Multi-Faith Forum.

The statement referred to by the Chief Executive was as follows:

“As people of faith we work for the flourishing of all people and stand against violence and aggression between any different groups. We stand with our brothers and sisters in Leicester working for community cohesion and urge everyone to be wary of fake news items and rumours, which aim to stir up fear and anger against those who are different from us.

We acknowledge that there are differences between us due to the traumas of history and let us engage in honest dialogue where we listen to each other with kindness as good neighbours. We ask you to pray and work for continued peace and unity here in Brent.”

Having noted and expressed support for the statement, the Mayor (recognising the importance of the issue) then invited comments from representatives of each Group on the Council.

Councillor Muhammed Butt (as Leader of the Council) speaking on behalf of the Labour Group opened by thanking Brent Multi Faith Forum for their statement and stance taken in seeking to enhance and support community cohesion across the borough. He pointed out these were values strongly supported by the Council in seeking to stand against anyone looking to create division, hate or discrimination. Referring to personal experience, he felt it important to recognise the destabilising impact any form of hatred or aggression created between different communities. As an alternative, he was therefore keen to discourage any activities which sought to create division or tension and ensure the Council continued to recognise the contributions made by different communities across such a diverse borough along with actively encouraging unity and collaboration in order to allow the borough to continue moving forward together.

Councillor Kansagra was then invited to speak on behalf of the Conservative Group, who also highlighted the importance in standing against anyone seeking to stir up fear or tension between different communities within the borough. In valuing the strong and longstanding level of community cohesion across Brent he felt local councillors also had an important role to play in seeking to provide leadership within their local communities and discourage the spreading of rumours or fake news on social media in order to work for continued unity and peace in Brent.

As a final contribution, Councillor Georgiou was also invited to speak on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group. In endorsing the comments made by each of the other Group Leaders he was also keen to support the efforts being taken to calm and maintain community and cultural relationships across the borough. Highlighting the focus and unity between councillors representing different communities serving on the Council, he felt this provided a strong message that could be taken back in order to ensure that tensions being experienced elsewhere were not able to affect the cohesion between communities across Brent.

The Mayor thanked each Group Leader along with the Brent Multi Faith Forum for their contributions and urged all members to support the approach outlined in what he felt remained such an important issue for the borough.

(iii) Brent Care Awards for Social Care Staff

Moving on with the remainder of his announcements, the Mayor advised that he had been pleased, as part of a full programme of engagements, to have attended the recent Care Awards for Social Care Staff in Brent. Commenting on the awards, he advised he had been honoured to have been able to recognise and celebrate the achievements of so many social care staff across the borough.

(iv) Brent Summer reading challenge

Another event the Mayor advised he had been pleased to attend was the Brent Libraries Summer reading challenge awards. He informed members that one of the particular highlights had been witnessing how much fun those children involved had experienced in completing the reading challenge and in being able to congratulate them for their achievements.

(v) Petitions

Finally, the Mayor referred members to the list of current petitions tabled at the meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders which also detailed the action being taken to deal with them.

6. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Mayor advised that there were no appointments to Council Committees, Sub Committees and other bodies which had been received for consideration so moved straight on to the next item.

7. Deputations (if any)

The Mayor advised that he had accepted a request for a deputation to be presented at the meeting by Mr Keith Anderson, representing the Kilburn Village Residents Association three neighbouring Resident Associations and the Kilburn Forum, regarding the Kilburn Square Infill Scheme.

Unless otherwise indicated by members, the Mayor advised that he intended to allow Mr Anderson up to five minutes to present the deputation. He would then allow Councillor Knight, as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, up to two minutes to respond to the deputation.

As no objections were raised on the approach outlined, the Mayor welcomed Mr Anderson to the meeting and invited him to present his deputation.

Whilst recognising the impact of the increasing demand for affordable, family sized social housing within the borough, Mr Anderson began his deputation by highlighting concerns expressed about the proposed scale and shape of the Kilburn Square Infill scheme and resulting impact on the wellbeing and quality of life for both new and existing residents in the surrounding area. In noting the reduction in scale of the proposals from those originally planned and benefits from some of the landscape and infrastructure improvements proposed, it was felt that the revised scheme would still have a detrimental impact on existing amenity space (involving the removal of green space and trees) and in terms of damaging the estates existing sense of place. Concerns were also raised, as part of the deputation, in relation to the extent of the consultation and engagement undertaken with local residents and overall balance of the scheme when tacking account of the views expressed by the local community. As a result, Mr Anderson advised he was asking the Council to reconsider the current scale of the proposals in advance of the final planning application being submitted.

In responding to the deputation Councillor Knight, as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, whilst understanding the concerns highlighted felt there was also a need to recognise the scale and impact of the current level of housing need and demand for affordable social housing across the borough. In seeking to address the balance between meeting this need and minimising the impact on existing local residents she felt it important to recognise the level of engagement undertaken, which alongside the planned enhancements to communal amenity space and public realm across the estate, had resulted in significant changes being made to the overall scale and design of the Kilburn Square scheme. In acknowledging the concerns raised and thanking Mr Anderson for the deputation it was felt the current proposals needed to be seen in the context of providing a balance that sought to minimise the impact of the development on new and existing residents whilst also assisting to address the demand for affordable social housing within the borough.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Knight for her response and advised as this now concluded consideration of the deputation he would move on to the next item.

8. Questions from Members of the Public

The Mayor advised that the following eight questions had been received from members of the public:

Question 1 from Pete Firmin to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security regarding the maintenance of communal areas and housing blocks within the Alpha Place estate, Kilburn.

Question 2 from Amitabh Ghuwalewala to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, regarding food waste collection and resident parking for a multi storey housing block on North End Road, Wembley Park.

Question 3 from Neil Ireland to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, regarding the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods.

Question 4 from Peter Maguire to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, regarding Wembley event day traffic management.

Question 5 from Rok Rajar to Councillor Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning, regarding the planning obligation agreement and service charges for a block within the Wembley North West Lands development.

Question 6 from Martin Francis to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, regarding Building Fire Safety Regulations and issuing of Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs).

Question 7 from Marc Etukudo to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security regarding the impact of a proposed housing development at Newland Court on neighbouring amenity and local residents health and wellbeing.

Question 8 from John Poole to Councillors Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, and Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care regarding the action being taken to tackle pollution and flooding within Wealdstone Brook.

Members noted the written responses provided on each of the questions, which had been circulated with the agenda. The Mayor advised that each member of the public had been invited to attend the meeting. Whilst Amitabh Ghuwalewala, Neil Ireland, Peter Maguire and Rok Rajar had been unable to attend, members were advised that Pete Firmin, Martin Francis, Marc Etukudo and John Poole were all present in order to ask a supplementary question following the written responses provided to their questions.

The Mayor welcomed them all to the meeting and the following supplementary questions were asked of the relevant Cabinet Member(s).

Question 1: Supplementary Question from Pete Firmin to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security

Having noted the written response provided, Mr Firmin highlighted ongoing concerns regarding the maintenance of communal areas and housing blocks within the Alpha Place estate, Kilburn. Despite a plan of action having been developed he outlined issues still needing to be addressed in relation to communal bins, litter, broken paving slabs, steps and damage to footpaths and the highway as a result of flooding. In addition, concerns were raised in relation to changes affecting access to green areas on the estate and outstanding faults reported in relation to footpath lighting, which were still to be addressed. As a supplementary question he therefore asked the Cabinet Member for her views on the efficiency of the Housing Estate repairs and maintenance process.

In taking the opportunity to thank Mr Firmin for his question, Councillor Knight advised that a number of the concerns raised had now been addressed although the extended timescales involved were acknowledged. Highlighting her commitment as Cabinet Member to improve services where standards were not being met Councillor Knight also outlined her focus in seeking to support development of the area, which had included the allocation of funding to redesign and improve the waste management provision in the area. This had included the introduction of new bins and a second weekly collection, as an interim measure, along with the provision of a dedicated Housing Officer assigned as a single point of contact for Housing Management issues. In recognising the concerns raised, Councillor Knight assured Mr Firmin of the Council's commitment to addressing the general upkeep of the area albeit recognising the constraints on financial resources available.

Question 6 from Martin Francis to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security

Having noted the written response provided, Mr Francis referred to the final part of his original question regarding Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS) for tenants. Highlighting evidence provided as part of the Grenfell inquiry he outlined the development of national guidelines for evacuation of high-rise buildings, which

included the need for a secondary plan of action so that residents could evacuate to a place of safety if stay put was not a viable option. Attention was also drawn to a statement made by the Mayor of London supporting the development of PEEPS for vulnerable tenants and as a supplementary question he therefore asked the Cabinet Member if she could advise whether any PEEPS had been issued for tenants in Brent and, if so, how many.

Highlighting what she felt to be the comprehensive nature of the response provided to the original question, Councillor Knight responded by advising that the Council continued to work to the timescales for implementation contained within the Building Safety Act 2022 taking account of any further information published by the Government. Reiterating the Council's commitment to the provision of a specific timetable with Brent, once implementation dates had been confirmed, she advised that residents would continue to be updated accordingly.

Question 7 from Marc Etukudo to Councillor Knight, Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security

In referring to the written response provided, Mr Etukudo highlighted the emphasis provided in relation to the Council's priority in addressing the shortage of affordable housing across the borough but felt this approach could be challenged in relation to the mix of tenure and way in which larger scale developments, such as the former Copeland School site were being taken forward. In terms of the development at Newland Court, he pointed out that whilst officers had met with local residents as part of the pre planning stage of the development, in order to feed into the design of the scheme, the proposed development had still involved the loss of a number of trees as well as a reduction in resident parking provision. Given the objections raised in relation to the development along with other concerns relating to waste and litter and the resulting impact on health and wellbeing, he asked (as a supplementary question) whether it was felt the Council had residents best interests at heart.

In responding, Councillor Knight took the opportunity to thank Mr Etukudo for his question and highlighted how much she had welcomed meeting local residents in Newland Court to review and discuss the development proposals. Whilst assuring residents that their welfare remained a top priority, she also felt it important to recognise the current challenges faced by the Council, including the need to address the demand for and shortage of affordable social housing across the borough. Increasing the supply of affordable social housing therefore remained a key priority for the Council, although this would be supported by the need to work with local residents to ensure any new developments worked as far as possible for everyone. She therefore encouraged residents to ensure that their views and objections were submitted for formal consideration as part of the planning process. Councillor Knight ended by thanking Mr Etukudo for his attendance and community leadership in raising the issue.

Question 8 from John Poole to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action

Mr Poole began by congratulating the Council and all those involved in the success achieved earlier in the day by Brent at the London in Bloom awards. In terms of a supplementary question he then asked the Cabinet Member what responsibilities it was felt Brent Council had with regards to the maintenance of the Wealdstone

Brook as it flowed through six wards in the Borough and what actions, if any, the Council would be taking to ensure that flooding arising from the Wealdstone Brook during severe weather events was addressed in order to prevent properties and business being damaged from flooding.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth thanked Mr Poole for his congratulations on the London in Bloom awards and advised, in relation to his supplementary question on flooding, that the Council had published a Flood Risk Management Strategy. This outlined the coordinated approach with key partner agencies such as Thames Water and the Environment Agency in working together to prevent and tackle any issues arising from flooding and clearly set out the key responsibilities of each agency. Councillor Sheth ended by advising she would be willing to provide Mr Poole with further details on the Strategy outside of the meeting, if required.

Having noted the responses provided, the Mayor thanked the members of the public in attendance for their supplementary questions and Cabinet Members for their response before advising that this now concluded the public question session.

9. Petitions (if any)

The Mayor advised that no requests for debates on any petitions had been received for consideration at the meeting.

10. Annual Report from the Leader of the Council

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, to present his Annual Report on the work of the Council and State of the Borough.

Councillor Muhammed Butt opened his annual report by reflecting on the passing of the Queen, which he felt marked the end of a long “Elizabethan” era for the country, which had demonstrated all the required values in terms of public service, including dignity and loyalty, as a benchmark for all in public life to follow. Whilst recognising that not every member in the Council Chamber was a natural monarchist, he felt it important to recognise and respect the late Queens sense of duty to the crown and people across the United Kingdom and Commonwealth she represented.

In recognising the succession as a period of renewal, Councillor Butt then moved on to focus on what he regarded to be the ongoing crisis in terms of public services presided over by the Conservative Government following their 12 years in power. Referring to the challenges in terms of Adult Social Care, the housing market, NHS, water pollution, energy supplies and the current economic climate he felt these reflected a broken and failed approach by the Government and lack of ideas and leadership at a time when these were most needed, given the ongoing impact on local residents of the cost-of-living crisis and failures in terms of Brexit.

In summing up, Councillor Muhammed Butt looked ahead to the Governments upcoming fiscal statement and hoped this was used as an opportunity to address the challenges identified by providing investment in public services rather than tax cuts for the wealthiest in society and to see a return to the values and qualities displayed by the late queen in relation to public duty, service and honesty in order to deliver what he felt was a much needed sense of renewal within the country.

The Mayor thanked the Leader for his Annual Report and then advised that he would open up the debate for contributions from other members, starting with a response from the Conservative and Liberal Democrats Group.

In responding to the Annual Report Councillor Kansagra, as Leader of the Conservative Group, felt it was important to recognise the poor financial state of the country inherited from the previous Labour Government in 2010 and nature of the challenges faced since then in relation to the fiscal deficit which had need to be addressed, delivery of Brexit and the Covid pandemic. Despite these challenges he felt there was need to recognise and commend the Government for the way in which they had implemented the roll out of the covid vaccine programme and dealt with the pandemic as well as the rise in energy prices and cost-of-living crisis arising as a result of the war in Ukraine. In highlighting the significant package of financial support provided for businesses and individuals to assist in managing the increase in energy bills, ongoing impact of the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis by the Government he concluded by questioning what funding, other than that provided by Government, the Labour Administration in Brent had specifically provided to assist local residents in tackling these issues.

As no members of the Liberal Democrat Group indicated they wished to speak in response to the Annual Report, the Mayor then moved on to open up the debate and invite contributions from other members.

In support of the issues highlighted by the Leader, within his Annual Report, Councillor Kelcher felt it was important to recognise the significant challenges and difficulties created as a result of the Governments fiscal policy and its impact on the economy. In challenging the stance taken by the Leader of the Conservative Group, he outlined the effect this was having both now and in the future on the average standard of living for local residents across the borough which were now falling behind those of many other countries across Europe.

Councillor Miller also sought to challenge the stance taken by the Leader of the Conservative Group in relation to the Government's handling of the pandemic given the UK's high covid mortality rate when compared to the rest of Europe. He felt this reflected a failure of Government policy to lockdown, to introduce appropriate measures for social distancing and provide the necessary support for the local economy at the right time. Reflecting on the disproportionate impact of covid on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities he welcomed the current enquiry into the handling of the pandemic, which he felt would also highlight the Government's significant shortcomings. He also challenged the fairness of the Government's approach in not seeking to impose a windfall tax on energy companies to assist in supporting households in mitigating against the rise in energy costs, which he pointed out would instead now fall on taxpayers to fund.

As no further members indicated they wished to speak, the Mayor then invited the Leader to sum up and close the debate on his Annual State of the Borough Report.

Councillor Muhammed Butt began his response by outlining concern regarding the potential impact of the new Chancellor and Prime Ministers upcoming mini budget, given their shift in political alignment and impact of previous austerity measures. In contrast, he took the opportunity to highlight and commend the work undertaken by the Council in continuing to ensure necessary support was provided for local

residents, especially those more vulnerable members of society. As specific examples, he highlighted ongoing delivery of the Council's affordable home building and regeneration programmes, the support being provided for schools to continue delivering excellent performance and in tackling the cost-of-living crisis and impact of the pandemic through the Resident Support Fund and Council Tax Support Scheme, which he felt would continue to ensure the best possible outcomes for local residents.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Muhammed Butt for his response and advised that this concluded the debate. As a result, it was therefore **RESOLVED** to formally note the Annual State of the Borough Report.

11. **Reports from the Leader and Cabinet**

The Mayor then invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, as Leader of the Council, to introduce the report updating members on the work being undertaken across each Cabinet portfolio in order to provide ongoing support and services to residents within the borough. In presenting the report, the Leader highlighted the work being undertaken to manage the Council's finances as efficiently as possible; to deliver the Council's new council housing programme alongside its wider estate and regeneration programme of activities; to focus on community safety and protection; to deliver the wide range of environmental improvements across the borough and ensure all children and young people had the opportunities needed to succeed; to support residents in tackling the cost of living crisis and to ensure the necessary levels of care, advice and guidance continued to be made available in relation to public health and adult social care with a focus around engaging and supporting the local community. Finally, members were asked to note that no Executive decisions had been taken under the Council's urgency procedures, since the previous update provided for the Council meeting in July.

The Mayor thanked the Leader for his report and it was **RESOLVED** to formally note the update provided.

12. **Questions from the Opposition and other Non-Cabinet Members**

Before moving on to consider the questions submitted by non-Cabinet members, the Mayor reminded Members that a total of 30 minutes had been set aside for this item, which would begin with consideration of the written questions submitted in advance of the meeting along with any supplementary questions. Once these had been dealt with, the remaining time available would then be opened up for any other non-Cabinet members to question Cabinet Members (without the need for advance notice) on matters relating to their portfolio.

The Mayor advised that five written questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for response by the relevant Cabinet Member and the written responses circulated within the agenda were noted. The Mayor then invited supplementary questions on the responses which had been provided:

12.1 Councillor Kelcher thanked Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, for the written response in relation to his question regarding the impact being created by the increase in movements of HGVs within Harlesden Town Centre and the surrounding area.

As a supplementary question Councillor Kelcher asked for an update on work being undertaken with the Old Oak & Park Royal Development Corporation (ODPC) and other partners to tackle the issues being created as a result of the current weight restriction on a nearby bridge affecting traffic flows in the area and in terms of available alternative access routes.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth advised that as the bridge referred to fell within the boundary of Hammersmith & Fulham the strengthening works would require identification of the necessary funding and also agreement between them, ODPC, TfL and Network Rail. Whilst discussions had been undertaken no firm plan had yet been agreed. As a result, Councillor Krupa Sheth advised that she would be willing to liaise further with relevant stakeholders along with the London Assembly Member in an effort try and progress discussions in recognition of the impact the current weight restrictions on the bridge had in limiting the options for diverting HGV traffic around the town centre and surrounding area. In addition, she advised that she would be willing to visit the area and undertake further discussions with local ward councillors in order to consider options for a longer-term solution to manage and mitigate the flow of traffic within the town centre and surrounding area.

- 12.2 Councillor Molloy thanked Councillor Mili Patel, as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform, for the written response in relation to his question on support for the Council's for Fair Tax Declaration. In welcoming the commitment outlined within the response, Councillor Molloy, as a supplementary question, sought further detail on the Council's plans to sign up to the Fair Tax Declaration.

In response, Councillor Mili Patel thanked Councillor Molloy for highlighting the work being undertaken by the Fair Tax Foundation with local authorities to collectively encourage fair tax practices amongst their suppliers. As such, she advised the Council was commitment towards supporting the Council's for Fair Tax Declaration which she was working with officers to bring forward for approval.

- 12.3 Councillor Kennelly thanked Councillor Grahl, as Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, for the written response to his question regarding the performance of pupils across the borough in relation to GCSE, A Level and technical qualification results. In welcoming and recognising the achievements of pupils across Brent, Councillor Kennelly as a supplementary question, sought further details about the ongoing support being provided in order to secure future levels of attainment, particularly following on from the impact of the pandemic.

In response, Councillor Grahl thanked Councillor Kennelly for recognising the achievements of young people given the significant challenges and disruption faced as a result of the pandemic, which she felt was testament to not only their hard work and resilience but also the support being provided by within schools and by young people's families and carers. In addition, Councillor Grahl took the opportunity to outline the support provided through the Council's School Effectiveness Team, both during and after the pandemic, which she pointed out had played an important role in ensuring that Brent's schools had continued to be rated by Ofsted as 'good' or 'outstanding'.

Reference was also made to success of the Holiday Activities and Skills Programme, in terms of the support being made available for young people and, looking forward, Councillor Grahl advised of the Council's ongoing commitment and investment in the Brent Works Programme and in the provision of apprenticeship opportunities as a means of continuing to ensure that every young person in the borough had the opportunity to succeed.

- 12.4 In noting the response to her question by Councillor Nerva, as Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, in relation to the discovery of the polio virus in samples collected from waterways in North and East London as well as Brent, Councillor Hirani, as a supplementary question, sought further details on the measures being taken to encourage the take up of the polio booster vaccination across Brent.

In response, Councillor Nerva thanked Councillor Hirani for highlighting the importance of the child immunisation programme which he was keen to promote and encourage parents to take up as a precautionary and preventative measure across the borough. He advised that that vaccination centre located at the Civic Centre matter continued to offer both the covid as well as polio vaccinations, which the Council were keen to promote and support in order to encourage as extensive a take up as possible.

- 12.5 Having noted the response to his question by Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, regarding the funding, timescales and programme of delivery for Active Travel schemes across Brent, Councillor Georgiou, as a supplementary question, highlighted what he felt to be the need to prioritise the delivery of active travel schemes and supporting infrastructure as a key means of addressing the current climate emergency and air quality across the borough. Whilst recognising the challenges in relation to securing funding and community support, specific concerns were highlighted in relation to cycling infrastructure across the borough and as a result further details were sought on proposals being developed to enhance this provision, working in conjunction with the Brent Cycling Campaign.

In response, Councillor Krupa Sheth, assured Councillor Georgiou of the work being undertaken with cyclists across Brent regarding development and implementation of Brent's Active Travel Plan, which included a range of measures designed to improve and enhance cycling and walking and the associated infrastructure. As the Council's Active Travel Champion, she also referred to the work being undertaken by Councillor Mitchell to support this process alongside the ongoing work being undertaken by the Council with TfL and their Cycling Commissioner to secure the necessary funding in order to support be able to progress various initiatives and related infrastructure improvements.

The Mayor thanked members for their written questions and Cabinet Members for the responses provided to the supplementary questions. He then advised that the remainder of the time available would be used for an open question time session to the Cabinet. Questions relating to the following issues were raised and responses provided, as set out below:

- (i) Councillor Lorber seeking to explore concerns in relation to the use of Shared Ownership as part of the Council's package of Affordable Housing products and options.

In response Councillor Tattler, as Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning, advised that Shared Ownership was a product that could be used as part of a package of intermediary affordable housing tenure measures. Whilst recognising the need to explore the wider issues identified in relation to the demand, interest and impact of shared ownership schemes across Brent, Councillor Tattler felt it important to recognise the success achieved by the Council in delivering its programme of genuinely affordable housing across the borough, within which Shared Ownership remained one of a number of different products.

- (ii) Councillor Maurice regarding compliance of the current CCTV system to enforce bus lane restrictions across the borough.

In response Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure & Climate Action, advised that she was not aware of any advice having been received about the current CCTV system being non-compliant for enforcement purposes.

- (iii) Councillor Afzal regarding the measures being taken to secure the necessary accountability from Housing Management companies in seeking to protect renters security during the current cost of living and housing crisis.

In response Councillor Knight, as Cabinet member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters Security, thanked Councillor Afzal for his question given the importance of the issues raised in relation to the interests of renters across the borough, particularly within the private rented sector. Whilst pointing out that Registered Providers and Housing Management companies were not legally obliged to work in collaboration with the Council she advised that the Council remained committed to doing all within its power to safeguard the interest of renters across all sectors within the borough, recognising the ongoing challenges arising as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. In terms of specific actions being taken, Councillor Knight advised that she was already meeting on a regular basis with the main Registered Providers operating in the borough and encouraged members to highlight any concerns so they could be raised direct as a means of continuing to hold providers to account.

- (iv) Councillor Chan regarding progress in implementing the School Streets initiative and engagement with schools and parents in order to ensure the success of the programme.

In response Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, updated members on the progress with installation of the CCTV cameras in order to support implementation of the scheme, which were due to be completed and operational by October 2022. Members were also advised of the appointment of a dedicated officer to deal with any applications for exemptions and other queries relating to implementation of the School Street zones with all residents and businesses located within the areas having now been advised. Further communication

would be issued once the final “go live” dates were confirmed and final signage installed with the necessary Traffic Management Orders now having been amended to enable implementation.

- (v) Councillor Long regarding the inspection programme and process for reporting concerns regarding the condition of yellow parking restrictions and pedestrian crossings particularly where they were worn or in need of replacement, given safety concerns.

In response Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, advised how the Council continued to work with its contractors in order to ensure delivery of the necessary maintenance, repair and renewal programme for road markings. Whilst the renewal programme was prioritised through the asset management system and use of video condition surveys members were advised that improvements to the process for reporting issues were also being reviewed as part of the Redefining Local Services process.

- (vi) Councillor Miller regarding delivery of infrastructure to support cycling across the borough, including safe cycle storage facilities and cycle lanes.

In responding Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, highlighted the work being undertaken by the Council to respond to various requests for cycle lanes, hangers and supporting infrastructure, particularly within the south of the borough and on housing estates. She advised that engagement was continuing with local residents, which she would also be happy to discuss further with ward councillors, as required.

- (vii) Councillor Kansagra regarding the current planning requirements in relation to the installation of cavity wall insulation.

Whilst keen to ensure the planning process was operated as efficiently as possible, Councillor Tatler in responding as Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, felt it important to recognise the relevant planning policies which the Council was required to follow in respect of the assessment of individual planning applications. These had been designed to ensure the necessary building safeguards and protections were in place for each development, which she pointed out the Council would be required to continue operating under pending any subsequent change in legislation or relevant regulations.

- (viii) Councillor Kennelly seeking assurances on the actions being taken to manage and address fire safety within the Council’s parks and open spaces following the increase in summer temperatures being experienced and recent wildfires within his ward.

In responding Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, began by highlighting the importance and value of the meadows programme introduced within the borough’s parks and open spaces, from a biodiversity perspective. Given these spaces were now well established and appreciated by residents she confirmed there were no plans to remove any of the areas as a result of concerns relating to the risk of

wildfires due to the hot weather, although it was recognised that a sensible balance needed to be achieved in the way the risks identified were managed. As a result the Council had prohibited the use of BBQs in parks, through its Public Spaces Protection Order, supported by the Council's Parks Team and contractors through a programme of mowing and the provision and widening of fire break areas to protect wildlife and neighbouring properties on the boundary of these spaces. As further assurance members were also advised that this had also been supported by a communications programme to highlight the fire risks associated with the use of BBQs and dropping of cigarette's etc during such extreme hot weather.

At this stage in the proceedings, the Mayor advised that the time available for the open question session had expired. He therefore thanked all members for their contributions and advised that he would now move on to the next item.

13. **Report from Chairs of Scrutiny Committees**

Before being presented with the updates from each Scrutiny Committee, the Mayor reminded members the time set aside for this item was 12 minutes, with each Chair having up to three minutes in which to highlight any significant issues arising from the work of their Committees. Once these updates had been provided, the remaining time available would then be opened up for any other non-Cabinet members to question (without the need for advance notice) the Scrutiny Committee Chairs on matters relating to the work of their Committee.

As Councillor Conneely had given her apologies for the meeting, the Mayor invited Councillor Long as Vice-Chair of the Committee to introduce the update report on the work being undertaken by the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, with the following issues highlighted:

- The broad ranging nature of the Scrutiny Committee's ongoing work programme for 2022-23. This had included recent updates on the plans being developed to address the uncertainties and risks associated with the current level of economic and financial uncertainty as part of the Council's budget setting process for 2023-24 and Medium Term Financial strategy alongside a progress update on delivery of the Council's Digital Inclusion Strategy.
- Other issues which had been subject to review included progress on implementation of the recommendations from the Baroness Casey review in relation to the management of events at Wembley following the UEFA Euro 2020 Final and on the actions being taken by the Council to support residents in managing the cost-of-living crisis.
- These reviews had led to a number of recommendations and suggestions for improvements being made, progress against which was now being regularly monitored through a scrutiny tracker update.
- As part of future reviews the Committee would be considering the Council's grants programme at their next meeting alongside the Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report with Councillor Long also highlighting the commitment to maintain a watching brief on items scheduled for decision on the Council's Forward Plan as part of the Committee maintaining a flexible work programme that remained responsive to the needs of members and local residents.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Long for her update and then invited Councillor Ketan Sheth as chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to introduce the update report on the work being undertaken by that Committee. The following issues were highlighted as part of the update:

- In reflecting on the period of national mourning following the death of HRH The Queen, Councillor Ketan Sheth began his update by advising of the decision taken to postpone the last meeting of the North West London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) which had been scheduled to take place in advance of the state funeral. He confirmed this had now been rescheduled to meet in October.
- Key issues considered at the previous JHOSC had been an update on emerging issues highlighted through the recently established Northwest London Integrated Care System, a review of proposals for an elective orthopaedic centre at Central Middlesex Hospital and new community diagnostic centres in North West London along with proposals to develop a Northwest London framework for tackling health inequalities.
- Highlighting the ongoing importance in scrutiny continuing to work in partnership with the NHS to ensure the best outcomes were being delivered for local residents, members were advised that the next JHOSC was also due to review palliative care, access to primary care and GP services along with local A&E and London Ambulance Service performance.
- In terms of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, upcoming reviews included support for Brent's children with special educational needs and disabilities and the borough's preparedness for the implementation of the SEND Review, as set out in the government's Green Paper. Members were advised that the Committee were also due to review Brent's Early Help service as part of the process in seeking assurance regarding the way in which every child or young person was being supported across the borough.
- As a final update, Councillor Ketan Sheth also highlighted the establishment of a Task Group by the Committee in order to explore and review the use of social prescribing in Brent and the opportunities available through partnership working with key stakeholder in seeking to add value and make a positive impact for residents across the borough

The Mayor thanked Councillors Long and Ketan Sheth and it was **RESOLVED** that the contents of both update reports be noted.

Following the updates provided, the Mayor advised that the remainder of time available would be open for questions from non-cabinet members to the Scrutiny Chair in attendance. The Mayor reminded members of the need to ensure that questions raised were focused on the updates provided or the work being undertaken by the relevant Committee. The following question was raised and response provided:

- (i) In response to the update on the work of the Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Kabir requested details on proposals to ensure the voluntary & community sector were engaged in the work being undertaken through the North West London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to review palliative and end of life care.

In response, Councillor Ketan Sheth, provided an assurance regarding the level of engagement planned with key stakeholders in relation to the review of palliative care across North West London, which he advised would include an opportunity for representatives of the voluntary and community sector to participate.

As no further questions were raised the Mayor thanked members for their contribution before moving on to the next item.

14. **Report from the Vice-Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee**

The Mayor invited Councillor Chan, as the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee, to introduce the report updating members on the work of the Committee.

In terms of issues highlighted, Councillor Chan drew members' attention to the important role and work undertaken by the Committee in relation to monitoring and advising on various governance matters relating to audit activity, the Council's finance, accounting and regulatory framework and members standards of conduct. As one of their key responsibilities, members were advised that the Committee were in the process of reviewing and signing off the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts 2021-22 having considered the External Auditors report. The Committee were also continuing to monitor the Council's Strategic Risk Register which had included the recent addition of the impact arising from the cost-of-living crisis. As part of their focus on this issue, members had also received a demonstration of the Financial Inclusion Dashboard being used as a business tool to assist in targeting support for local residents and were also keen to develop cross cutting work with scrutiny around the same issue.

Councillor Chan advised the Committee were looking forward to continuing their work with members and other key stakeholders to ensure the necessary focus was maintained in relation to compliance and control of the Council's key governance arrangements.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Chan for the update provided and it was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

15. **Non Cabinet Members' Debate**

In accordance with Standing Order 34, the Mayor advised that the next item on the agenda was the non-cabinet member debate, with the subject chosen for consideration being the introduction of one hours free car parking on Brent's high streets.

Members were advised that the motion submitted as the basis for the debate had been circulated with the agenda and that the time available for the debate was 25 minutes.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Mistry to introduce the motion. As context for the debate, Councillor Mistry highlighted the difficulties that small businesses had faced in the aftermath of the pandemic, as acknowledged in Brent's Covid 19 Recovery Support Plan. As such, Councillor Mistry advised members were being asked to

consider proposals for a trial implementation of a one hour free on-street parking scheme designed to encourage an increase in activity within local high streets. Highlighting the high priority identified by local business in relation to parking, it was also felt the proposal would assist in terms of supporting the Borough Plan objectives to build an economy fit for all, the Meanwhile Use strategy to assist with High Street diversification and the Council's Small Business Saturday awards and shop local campaigns, to deliver inclusive and sustainable local economic growth whilst safeguarding jobs and creating new employment opportunities for Brent's diverse population.

Whilst recognising the initial financial implications, Councillor Mistry felt these would be offset as a result of the longer-term economic benefits for local businesses arising from the proposal and at the same time would address the lack of parity between businesses operating along the borough boundary on Kenton Road where Harrow had introduced a free on-street parking scheme. Given the benefits identified, Councillor Mistry commended the proposal to Council for consideration.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Mistry for introducing the motion and then opened up the debate for contributions from other members.

In responding to the motion, Councillor Krupa Sheth expressed her disappointment at what she felt to be the Conservative Group's lack of awareness and stance in relation to the climate emergency and measures being undertaken in Brent to address the position. In seeking to encourage car use she felt the proposal put forward for consideration was in direct conflict with Brent's goal in seeking to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and to promote cheaper, greener, healthier and more active modes of travel such as walking, cycling or utilising public transport. In terms of wider support to local business and the economy, Councillor Krupa Sheth felt that on-street parking charges in Brent remained competitive, and felt it important to highlight how the funding generated from parking was passed back to directly support Brent residents through the Freedom Pass scheme. In closing her response Councillor Krupa Sheth reminded members of the importance placed on supporting local businesses by the Council both pre and post pandemic and for the reasons outlined therefore encouraged members to reject the proposal and motion put forward for consideration.

Councillor Mitchell also spoke in objection to the proposal, again expressing disappointment at the impact it was felt any proposals designed to encourage an increase in car journeys would have on the priority identified in tackling the climate emergency and in working towards net zero. In terms of the local economy, Councillor Mitchell highlighted the detrimental cost to businesses as a result of increased congestion and felt it would therefore be more advantageous from a health and environmental perspective to encourage more active forms of travel as a means of increasing local footfall on high streets and ensuring high streets were a more safer, attractive and cleaner environment for pedestrians to use rather than prioritising car use.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Kansagra queried whether the concerns highlighted could be related more to any potential loss of parking revenue than the impact on the environment. Highlighting what he felt was a genuine need to support local businesses and employment, he considered the proposed introduction of a trial period of free on-street parking across the boroughs High

Streets would greatly assist as similar initiatives had provided a boost to local businesses in neighbouring boroughs.

These comments were supported by Councillor Mistry who, in summing up, felt the proposal would demonstrate a real commitment to support local businesses and economic growth by not only encouraging passing trade but also in seeking to address the confusion for businesses operating along both sides of Kenton Road.

As there were no further contributions, the Mayor then invited Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, to summarise and close the debate.

Councillor Krupa Sheth, assured members that the objections being raised in relation to the proposal were based on a desire by the Labour Administration to prioritise the environment, health and prosperity of Brent residents rather than income generation, with members reminded that revenue achieved through on-street parking charges was invested back into the community through the Freedom Pass scheme. In concluding the debate she highlighted the efforts being made by the Council to support local businesses and for the reasons outlined urged all members to join her in rejecting the proposal put forward for consideration as the basis for debate,

The Mayor thanked all members for their contributions and then moved on to put the motion to a vote. As a result of the vote the following motion was declared **LOST** and therefore not approved as the outcome of the non-cabinet member debate:

“One Hour Free Parking on Brent’s High Streets”

This Council notes:

That following the pandemic local businesses have been impacted and require economic recovery support. Brent Council’s Covid-19 Recovery Strategy sets out a number of objectives to support local businesses.

The high priority highlighted by businesses in relation to parking, as part of the economic recovery support from the pandemic.

This Council believes:

The implementation of a one hour free parking scheme in on-street paid for parking bays will assist the recovery of local businesses in the borough following the pandemic and in advance of the looming cost of living crisis. This can be implemented as a temporary measure and monitored through the council’s routine parking surveys and reports.

Local businesses require economic recovery support from the pandemic. This new proposal of one-hour free on-street parking will assist, in conjunction with the Borough Plan objectives to build an economy fit for all, the Meanwhile Use strategy to assist with High Street diversification and the Council’s Small Business Saturday awards and shop local campaigns, to deliver inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The proposal will assist in building a stronger economy and supporting local businesses as well as in safeguard jobs and creating new employment opportunities for Brent's diverse population.

With this in mind this Council resolves:

To pledge to support local businesses in the recovery from the pandemic by providing, subject to approval of the necessary Traffic Management Orders and new tariff, the implementation of a one-hour free on street parking scheme in paid for parking bays.

To recognise that the one hour on-street parking proposal will:

- compliment the physical improvements that are taking place on Brent's High Streets to increase footfall, dwell time and spend, by way of also providing support to local businesses and the economy; and
- Support families who are making short trips to our town centres with children and the elderly.

To continue to communicate with residents about responsible parking and walking, where possible."

16. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2021-22

The Mayor then invited Councillor Mili Patel, as Deputy Leader And Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform Leader, to introduce a report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources updating members on the Council's Treasury Management Activity during 2021-22. In introducing the report the Deputy Leader felt it important to recognise the significant economic impact and challenges created in relation to delivery of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy created as a result of the ongoing recovery from the pandemic, war in Ukraine and higher levels of inflation and interest rates, which had been reflected with the outturn report. In addition, members attention was also drawn to the changes made to CIPFA'S Prudential Code for Capital Finance and Treasury Management, which it was noted were due to be introduced during the 2023-24 financial year.

As no other members had indicated they wished to speak and Councillor Mili Patel had confirmed she did not need to exercise her right of reply the Mayor then put the recommendations in the report to the vote and they were unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To note and approve, following its consideration by Audit & Standards Advisory Committee on 7 June 2022 and Cabinet on 18 July 2022, the 2021/22 Treasury Management outturn report in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code).
- (2) To note that for 2021/22 the Council had complied with its Prudential Indicators which were approved by Full Council on 22 February 2021 as part

17. **Changes to the Constitution**

The Mayor invited Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, to introduce a report from the Corporate Director of Governance outlining a number of proposed changes to the Constitution. In introducing the report it was noted that the changes had primarily been designed to reflect the new senior management structure and requirements within the Health & Care Act 2022 impacting on the Terms of Reference for the Health & Wellbeing Board.

As no other members had indicated they wished to speak and Councillor Muhammed Butt had confirmed he did not need to exercise his right of reply the Mayor then put the recommendations in the report to the vote and they were unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

Council therefore **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To approve the amendments to the Constitution as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report reflecting the Council's new senior management structure, the updated Terms of Reference for the Health & Wellbeing Board; update in process for managing joint scrutiny meetings and review of the Members Code of Conduct.
- (2) To note that, to the extent that the changes related to executive functions of the Council, they had been approved by the Leader.
- (3) To authorise the Corporate Director, Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly, including making any necessary incidental or consequential changes.

18. **Motions**

Before moving on to consider the motions listed on the summons, the Mayor advised members that a total of 40 minutes had been set aside for the consideration of the four motions submitted for debate, based on an initial allocation of 10 minutes per motion. Should the time taken to consider the first motion be less than 10 minutes he advised that the remaining time available would be rolled forward for consideration of the remaining motions.

18.1 1st Motion (Conservative Group) – Kingsbury Curve

The Mayor invited Councillor Maurice to move the first motion which had been submitted on behalf of the Conservative Group. Councillor Maurice, began by providing context to the issue highlighted within the motion by sharing an audio clip of the sound made by trains travelling along the Kingsbury Curve section of the Jubilee line track running between Kingsbury and Wembley Park underground stations. In moving the motion he outlined the nuisance, disturbance and detrimental impact being experienced by local residents living adjacent to the Kingsbury Curve as a result of the noise generated by the frequency of services running along that part of the track. It was felt this had coincided with the removal

of trees and shrubs from the railway bank and re-laying of the track along that section of the line by TfL, with residents affected even when their windows were closed. In view of the detrimental impact on the quality of life, health and wellbeing of those residents living adjacent to the line the motion was calling upon the Council to take action to protect residents and to ensure that TfL took the necessary action to rectify the cause of the issues identified, which he hoped all members would support.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Maurice for moving the motion and then drew members' attention to an amendment submitted on behalf of the Labour Group, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Muhammad Butt was then invited to move the amendment on behalf of the Labour Group who began by acknowledging the work also undertaken by Councillors Johnson and Fraser (as local ward councillors) to support local residents in their attempts to address the concerns highlighted relating to the impact of the noise being experienced. Whilst recognising the detrimental impact on local residents, Councillor Butt explained that the amendment moved on behalf of the Labour Group was seeking to strengthen the action being sought by looking to work in partnership with TfL and local residents in order to mitigate the ongoing impact whilst identifying a robust engineering-led solution and to prioritise these works as quickly as possible. The amendment also recognised the need to continue lobbying central government for the additional capital investment required to support the upgrade and improvement of TfL infrastructure which it was felt would also be key in addressing the concerns identified. On this basis the amendment moved was as follows:

To add the wording underlined and delete the wording indicated

"Kingsbury Curve

Residents living either side of the Jubilee line between Kingsbury and Wembley Park have to put up with the excruciating noises when the trains go past on what is known as the Kingsbury Curve. ~~On Fridays and Saturdays, it goes on through the night.~~ Following the return of Night Tube services on the Jubilee line, a speed restriction has been applied during Night Tube services.

The noise is so bad that it can be heard in people's homes even with all the windows shut! ~~It often exceeds the maximum sound levels recommended by the World Health Organisation.~~ The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that noise exposure levels should not exceed 70 dB over a 24-hour period, and 85 dB over a 1-hour period to avoid hearing impairment. Residents have suggested that this section of the track regularly exceeds these levels.

The track has been there for around 90 years, yet it is only in the past 4 years that these noises have started which coincided with the removal of trees and shrubs from the bank together with replacing the sleepers with concrete ones and relaying the track.

~~TfL are aware of the problems and have tried to resolve the problem, albeit unsuccessfully.~~ work continues to find the right solution but it is anticipated that it will be a long-term piece of work. TfL have conducted trials over the summer period

and are reviewing whether a small reduction in speed could be applied to all trains in this section of the track without adversely impacting the service we provide to passengers. However, speed restrictions are implemented sparingly given the impact on timetables across the entire Jubilee line.

~~These affected are suffering from mental health issues & sleep deprivation. They can't sell their houses and move away because of the noise. They can't use their gardens in the summer or leave their windows open. Their children can't study because the noise is a serious distraction.~~

We appreciate that residents have raised multiple concerns about the impact of the noise on their wellbeing and their quiet enjoyment of their home. They cannot fully enjoy their gardens in the summer or leave their windows open and children struggle to study because the noise is a serious distraction.

This Council is asked to recognise:

The legal duty it is under to take such action to enforce those who create excessive noise, whether that be by loud parties, music, cars revving their engines, or even night time deliveries, duties which this Council does its best to carry out.

It's duty to protect its residents from this intrusive and excruciating noise.

This Council therefore resolves:

~~To utterly condemns TfL for allowing these noises to go unresolved for nearly 5 years.~~

~~To request that TfL rectify the faults forthwith to stop this noise. This could and possibly should include relaying of tracks to the way they previously were.~~

~~To request that TfL close down the network over the winter holiday period to fully address the problem and that the New Year becomes a period where residents can enjoy noise free solution from that point onward.~~

To request that TfL work with residents and Brent Council to address the noise concern with a robust engineering-led procedure to prioritise works as quickly as possible.

To request that TfL provide residents with a named contact, with ready access to experts that are working to tackle the root cause of noise. This involves visits to residents' homes to measure noise levels both before and after any work is undertaken.

To request that TfL explore measures to mitigate the impact of the noise over the Christmas holidays.

To lobby the Secretary of State for Transport for additional capital investment to upgrade and improve the infrastructure that helps keep London on the move such as the track on the Kingsbury curve."

The Mayor then invited other members to speak on both the original motion and amendment, with the following contribution received.

Speaking in support of the amended motion, Councillor Johnson highlighted the work already undertaken in conjunction with Councillor Maurice and other local councillors, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Krupa Sheth (as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action), Krupesh Hirani (as London Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow) and Barry Gardiner MP to advocate on behalf of residents with TfL in seeking a resolution to the noise issues being experienced. One of the key issues identified had been the removal of trees and shrubbery from the bank of track along the curve and the failure to provide any replacement noise barrier, which had amplified the noise for adjacent properties. Whilst recognising the subsequent efforts made by TfL to identify a solution, the amendment also sought to recognise the impact of the current funding restrictions imposed on TfL by the Government. In welcoming the cross-party nature of support and work being undertaken in seeking a resolution for residents, Councillor Johnson felt the amendment moved would be able to secure the most effective actions moving forward.

As there were no further contributions, the Mayor then invited Councillor Maurice (as mover of the original motion) followed by Councillor Muhammed Butt (as mover of the amendment) to exercise their right of reply.

In summing up, Councillor Maurice advised that whilst the Conservative Group were not supportive of reference within the amendment to lobbying for additional funding to support TfL, believing that sufficient additional Government funding had already been provided to upgrade and improve infrastructure across the network, they were minded to accept the amendment in order to secure approval of the motion in the best interests of local residents

Given acceptance of the amendment moved, Councillor Muhammed Butt advised that he would not need to exercise his right of reply and the Mayor therefore thanked councillors for their contributions and moved straight to the vote on the motion starting with the amendment.

The amendment as set out above, was then put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**

The Mayor then moved on to put the substantive motion, as amended and set out below, to a vote which was unanimously declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following motion:

“Kingsbury Curve

Residents living either side of the Jubilee line between Kingsbury and Wembley Park have to put up with the excruciating noises when the trains go past on what is known as the Kingsbury Curve. Following the return of Night Tube services on the Jubilee line, a speed restriction has been applied during Night Tube services.

The noise is so bad that it can be heard in people’s homes even with all the windows shut! The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that noise

exposure levels should not exceed 70 dB over a 24-hour period, and 85 dB over a 1-hour period to avoid hearing impairment. Residents have suggested that this section of the track regularly exceeds these levels.

The track has been there for around 90 years, yet it is only in the past 4 years that these noises have started which coincided with the removal of trees and shrubs from the bank together with replacing the sleepers with concrete ones and relaying the track.

TfL are aware of the problems and work continues to find the right solution but it is anticipated that it will be a long-term piece of work. TfL have conducted trials over the summer period and are reviewing whether a small reduction in speed could be applied to all trains in this section of the track without adversely impacting the service we provide to passengers. However, speed restrictions are implemented sparingly given the impact on timetables across the entire Jubilee line.

We appreciate that residents have raised multiple concerns about the impact of the noise on their wellbeing and their quiet enjoyment of their home. They cannot fully enjoy their gardens in the summer or leave their windows open and children struggle to study because the noise is a serious distraction.

This Council is asked to recognise:

The legal duty it is under to take such action to enforce those who create excessive noise, whether that be by loud parties, music, cars revving their engines, or even night time deliveries, duties which this Council does its best to carry out.

It's duty to protect its residents from this intrusive and excruciating noise.

This Council therefore resolves:

To request that TfL work with residents and Brent Council to address the noise concern with a robust engineering-led procedure to prioritise works as quickly as possible.

To request that TfL provide residents with a named contact, with ready access to experts that are working to tackle the root cause of noise. This involves visits to residents' homes to measure noise levels both before and after any work is undertaken.

To request that TfL explore measures to mitigate the impact of the noise over the Christmas holidays.

To lobby the Secretary of State for Transport for additional capital investment to upgrade and improve the infrastructure that helps keep London on the move such as the track on the Kingsbury curve."

18.2 2nd Motion (Liberal Democrat Group) – Ending heartless “No Recourse to Public Funds”

The Mayor invited Councillor Georgiou to move the second motion which had been submitted on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group. Councillor Georgiou, in

moving the motion began by highlighting the plight and many challenges faced by individuals and families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) in Brent being able to access much needed support. Concern was expressed at the restrictions placed on local authorities in seeking to intervene and support these individuals as a result of the provision within the Immigration & Asylum Act, which it was felt did not recognise the reality or situations faced by those affected in terms of poverty and housing need. As a result, he pointed out, the motion had been designed to seek cross-party support in lobbying the government to act by removing the NRPF restrictions in order to ensure those most in need were not excluded from support, as well as recognising the efforts being made by the Voluntary & Community sector alongside charities in addressing the gaps and providing assistance for those he felt were currently being ignored by the Government. In highlighting this work, he advised the motion was also seeking to further strengthen the Council's relationship with these organisations to ensure their continued support in being able to offer such valued and much needed advice and guidance for those with no recourse to public funds. As a result, he hoped all members would support the motion as moved.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Georgiou for moving the motion and invited other members to speak on the motion, with the following contributions received.

Councillor Muhammad Butt thanked Councillor Georgiou for highlighting such an important issue which he felt was already reflected in the breadth of work being undertaken by the Council in seeking to ensure that as much support as possible was provided for refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Brent. As part of this approach he felt it important to recognise that Brent had been one of the first councils to welcome Syrian and Afghan refugees, as well as having provided support for Ukrainian refugees through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. In outlining the Labour Groups support for the motion, Councillor Muhammed Butt felt there was a need for the Government to recognise the negative impact of their current policies in supporting those most in need and in providing opportunities for them to succeed and make a positive contribution within the communities in which they lived. He was therefore supportive of a clear message being sent to the Government regarding the need to act and remove the restrictions currently being placed on support, particularly given the challenges faced as a result of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and in seeking to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to succeed and thrive in the UK.

Councillor Matin also spoke to express her support of the motion and reflected upon the difficult decisions that migrants and refugees faced when leaving their home country to come to the UK in order to seek safety and security. Councillor Matin felt it important to reflect on the fact that many migrants and refugees arrived with the intention to work and contribute to society, however, were often being pushed further into poverty as a result of the restrictions being placed on the support available for them. Given the impact cost-of-living crisis it was noted that the challenges being experienced by so many would be magnified for those with no recourse to public fund and, as such, she also urged all members to support the action outlined within the motion.

Councillor Kansagra, speaking on behalf of the Conservative Group, also advised that he welcomed and supported the motion and in doing so highlighted what he felt was the need to ensure that migrants and refugees were welcomed and provided

with the necessary and appropriate levels of support and shelter (irrespective of their status) pending their immigration claims being processed.

As no further members had indicated they wished to speak and the time allocated for the debate had expired the Mayor then invited Councillor Georgiou to exercise his right of reply as mover of the motion.

In exercising his right of reply, Councillor Georgiou expressed his gratitude for the cross-party support expressed towards the motion with a unified response, he felt, being one of the most powerful ways to work together in order to support effective change for one of the most vulnerable groups in society.

Having thanked Councillors for their contributions, the Mayor then moved put the motion to the vote which was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following motion:

“Ending Heartless ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’

This Council notes:

That the Cost-of-Living Emergency declared at our last Full Council meeting will have a huge impact on all who live in Brent, including many here who are unjustly excluded from any financial or legal support from the state.

There are a growing number of people in our Borough who, through no fault of their own, are unable to access the help they desperately need. This number will almost certainly increase as we approach what will be an unprecedented and difficult few months ahead.

Elected Members and Council Officers are currently effectively prevented from supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community, because of Section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, which states that a person will have ‘*no recourse to public funds*’ if they are ‘*subject to immigration control*’.

The restrictions in this section of the law do not recognise the reality on the ground, which currently means we have individuals sleeping rough outside our very own Civic Centre and elsewhere across Brent.

‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ restrictions have pushed migrants and their families into severe poverty and in some cases homelessness.

The limitations in our ability to support individuals with ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ and the need to apply further political pressure on the Government to act.

The commendable efforts of the voluntary, charity sectors and many in our community who seek to give individuals who currently have ‘no recourse to public funds’ the support they need, whether by offering shelter, food or legal advice.

The Council calls on the Government to:

1. Reduce the risk of people experiencing destitution and acknowledge that the current laws around eligibility for financial and legal assistance means that we are leaving far too many without any help at all
2. Ensure that no one is excluded from social services' support which operates as a short-term safety net
3. Urgently suspend 'No Recourse to Public Funds' conditions in order to offer needed assistance to people who are currently ignored by the state

This Council resolves to:

1. Work in a cross-party way to lobby the Government to remove the heartless 'No Recourse to Public Funds' restrictions on migrants and their families
2. Immediately ask the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group to sign an open letter to the new Home Secretary and Ministers in the Home Office highlighting our local authorities' huge concerns about the number of people with 'No Recourse to Public Funds' being pushed into acute poverty and therefore requiring immediate financial assistance
3. Make public the number of known individuals in our borough who are currently barred from any support whatsoever, due to them not having 'Recourse to Public Funds', as a way of highlighting the extent of the problem we face
4. Further strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary and charity sector and community groups who are already giving support to individuals who have 'No Recourse to Public Funds', by inviting them to the Refugee Summit (as agreed at the July 2022 Full Council meeting) in order to establish ways the Council can also intervene and offer any resource we have to help with the work that they do
5. Work with Praxis and other similar organisations, who have expertise in supporting people with 'No Recourse to Public Funds', to develop an easy access document, which consolidates all possible avenues of help (*largely in the voluntary and charity sector*) that can be distributed across the Council to make it easier for Elected Members, Council Officers and others to offer the best possible advice and guidance when approached for help
6. Produce a similar public document that the Council will make available to all interested groups in the community and voluntary and charity sectors, that can also be shared on the Council website and online channels."

18.3 3rd Motion (Labour Group) – A Place to Call Home: Safety and Security for tenants during the cost of renting crisis

The Mayor then invited Councillor Ethapemi to move the first motion submitted by the Labour Group. In moving the motion, Councillor Ethapemi felt it was important to recognise the challenging environment for renters not only within Brent but across London with these pressures being further exacerbated as a result of the

cost-of-living crisis. Highlighting that Brent was one of the most expensive outer-London boroughs in which to rent he also referred to the continued surge in rental charges as well significant challenges in terms of affordability for many households and first-time buyers in seeking to purchase their own property. As a result of these challenges, along with the increasing demand for affordable housing he advised the motion was seeking to outline the impact of the growing cost-of-renting crisis. Whilst recognising and supporting the efforts being made by the Council to increase the supply of affordable housing across the borough the motion was also calling on the Government to expedite the implementation of proposals within the Renters Reform White Paper designed to enhance the security available for renters as well as seeking support for the Mayor of London's call for a two-year rent freeze within the Private Rented Sector and introduction of rent controls to help support renters in Brent and across London. Given the economic hardship, and instability being experienced by so many renters within the Borough he urged all members to support the motion and ended by also highlighting and commending the work of the London Renters Union and Advice for Renters in supporting the case for a borough-wide selective landlord licensing scheme covering the Private Rented Sector that would also assist in driving up standards.

The Mayor then invited other members to speak on the motion, with the following contributions received.

Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam spoke in support of the motion, again taking the opportunity to highlight the severity of the hardship being experienced by so many within the Private Rented Sector. In doing so the extent of the average increase in rental costs over the past year was also noted. Councillor Ahmadi Moghaddam shared his concern at the impact this, along with the cost-of-living crisis would have for many residents across Brent. In closing his comments, he also commended the London Renters Union for their support in bringing forward the motion and for the advice, guidance and support they were providing for renters across the Borough. He therefore also urged members to support the motion and work being undertaken by the London Renters Union and Advice for Renters in Brent.

Councillor Lorber then spoke and began by reflecting that whilst the wider challenges highlighted in relation to the impact of the current increase in energy prices and cost-of-living crisis remained an immediate concern and focus, the impact and hardship being created as a result of demands on affordable housing and rising costs in the housing rental sector remained of longer-term concern. As a result he supported the call on the Government for strong leadership and the necessary interventions to be taken in order to address the issues highlighted within the motion and to provide the necessary security for those in the housing rental sector. In noting the financial support provided by the Government in response to the energy crisis, he also felt urgent action was needed to ensure the necessary regulation of the private rental market whilst enhancing the security and standards for tenants. On this basis Councillor Lorber confirmed the Liberal Democrat Group would be voting in support of the motion.

In speaking on the motion, Councillor Hirani felt it was important to understand the context of the current cost-of-living crisis given the impact of the war in Ukraine and resulting rise in energy costs. She also felt there was a need to recognise the significant package of financial support provided by the Government for both

households and businesses, which she felt reflected their commitment to hard working families and also the most vulnerable in society.

Councillor Knight, in responding to and supporting the motion as Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness & Renters Security, began by thanking Councillors Ethapemi, and Ahamdi Moghaddam along with the London Renters Union and Advice for Renters for bringing forward the motion in order to highlight such an important issue for many local residents. Reflecting on the challenges in supporting residents to secure affordable housing she felt it important to recognise that private rental accommodation in Brent outweighed all other tenures across the borough. Given the challenges highlighted in terms of the increase in rents and available supply of suitable and affordable accommodation she welcomed and fully supported the calls on the Government to take urgent action in order to extend the support available for renters in Brent whilst also thanking officers for the work being undertaken to deliver the Council's affordable homes programme and provide support, guidance and advice to those most in need.

At this stage the Mayor advised that he would not be able to take any further contributions as the time allocated for the debate had expired and therefore invited Councillor Ethapemi to exercise his right of reply as mover of the motion.

In responding Councillor Ethapemi thanked members for the support expressed. In contrast to the approach taken by the Government he felt the motion reflected a more caring attitude on the part of the Council which positively sought to impact on the severe challenges and hardship being faced by many of the boroughs residents as a result of the current cost-of-living and renting crisis.

The Mayor thanked members for their contributions and then put the motion, as set out below, to a vote which was declared CARRIED.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following motion:

“A Place to Call Home: Safety and Security for tenants during the cost-of-renting crisis.

Full Council notes:

1. London is one of the most expensive places to rent in Europe, while Brent is the second most expensive outer-London borough.
2. Rents have risen three times faster than wages since 2010 and continue to rise, by 15.8% in the year to May 2022. The London Renters Union branch in Brent is regularly seeing rent increases of 30%, 40% or even 50%, contributing to the cost of living emergency and pricing residents out of the borough.
3. Brent has also seen a significant dent in first-time buyer affordability, with the average price paid up by more than double the national average. Those buying their first home in the borough now pay a huge £89,753 increase compared to pre-pandemic market values.

4. People under 30 are facing a growing cost-of-renting crisis. According to recent reports, 4 in 10 of this age group are now spending more than 30% of their pay on rent.
5. In Brent there are over 22,880 households containing 53,644 individuals that remain on the housing waiting list, with an average waiting time for a 3-bedroom council property typically over a decade.
6. Brent Council is continuing to tackle the demand for affordable homes by increasing supply, with a target of 5,700 affordable homes to be built by 2028, of which, 1,700 will be built by the Council.

This Council further notes:

1. While the government has rejected calls for intervention, rent controls are common practice in Europe, both regulating the initial rent that landlords can charge, and the rate of rent increase within tenancies.
2. Brent Labour has made a commitment on behalf of renters to use its voice to call upon the government to introduce new legislation to regulate rent increases, strengthen enforcement and improve the energy standards of the rental sector.
3. That the government is consulting on capping rents for council and housing association homes to prevent them from rising significantly. Although welcome, it will come at significant cost to councils and registered providers that will absorb the brunt of inflation, with no funding announcements made by government to match the steep shortfall in income.
4. Like inflation, energy bill increases serve only to impact residents that are already struggling in some of the worst housing conditions.

This Council believes:

1. That the pandemic has shown that regulating the actions of landlords is a political choice and they can be regulated for the public good at times of crisis.
2. Without intervention in the private rented sector, rents will continue to rise causing economic hardship, instability and homelessness for tens of thousands of Brent residents.
3. The government must rethink mechanisms to regulate the cost of rents and ensure that low and middle income tenants do not have to spend more than a third of their income on rent.
4. The Renters Reform Bill is an essential piece of legislation for renters' security. In order to meet its aims, rent rises within tenancy must be limited so that landlords cannot evict through massive rent hikes.

5. As energy bills soar, private tenants' right to a warm home should be protected and landlords should be required by the council to meet the legislation relating to energy efficiency.

This Council resolves to:

1. Publicly support the Mayor of London's call for a two-year rent freeze within the private rented sector and the introduction of rent controls to help ease the cost of living crisis facing Londoners.
2. Work with the Mayor of London to make the case for Brent to participate in the "right-to-buy-back" scheme – and help bring more properties back into public ownership.
3. Create a new Private Renters Strategy, mapping out the council's approach to enforcement, our support available to tenants; and our plans to bring more of the 2,734 empty properties in Brent back to the market.
4. Work with London Renters Union and Advice for Renters to support the case for a borough-wide selective licensing scheme covering the 40,000 PRS properties in Brent that would drive up standards.
5. Urge the new Secretary of State to expedite the commitments to renters in the recent white paper, including: the removal of Section 21 evictions, the introduction of a rental sector ombudsman, the outlawing of discrimination against benefit claimants, and the application of the Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector for the first time."

18.4 4th Motion (Labour Group) – Transport for London Funding

The Mayor then invited Councillor Fraser to move the final motion submitted by the Labour Group who began by expressing her disappointment at what she felt was the inadequate level of Government funding and support being provided for Transport for London (TfL). In recognising the importance of maintaining transport links across Brent it was felt a sustainable funding deal from the Government for TfL was required as part of the ongoing pandemic recovery programme in order to ensure local residents were able to continue accessing an affordable and environmentally sustainable public transport network, particularly given the ongoing impact of the cost-of-living crisis and climate emergency. In commending the motion to members, Councillor Fraser advised that the actions being sought included support for the current industrial action being undertaken by transport workers to safeguard their terms and conditions, whilst lobbying the Government in order to secure a fair and long term sustainable funding deal for TfL in order to provide the necessary forward investment to keep Brent on the move and avoid the scrapping of local bus routes relied on by so many residents across the borough.

Following the motion being formally moved the Mayor opened the motion up to debate, with the following contributions received.

In supporting the motion, Councillor Rubin outlined what he felt to be the adverse impact being created by the lack of a sustainable Government funding settlement for TfL and publicly funded transport system not only in assisting to tackle the

climate emergency and improve air quality but also in terms of support for economic growth, housing and community wealth. Referring to what he felt was the failed transport policy of the Conservative Government, he highlighted the importance in seeking to oppose any cuts in service and fare increases as a direct result of the Government's unsustainable funding arrangements for TfL and in seeking to stand in solidarity with staff and trade unions in protecting jobs and their terms and conditions.

Councillor Hack also spoke in support of the motion highlighting the need to protect workers rights as well as the importance of working together to protect and secure public services for local residents, including an efficient transport system. In sharing his frustration and concern at the approach adopted by Government in relation to the funding and protection of public services, the welfare state and workers rights, Councillor Hack advised he would be supporting the motion as a means of protecting universal access to public services and a sustainable public transport system.

In further support of the motion, Councillor Grahl felt it important to highlight the severe impact which the removal of bus routes within the borough would have on many local residents, particularly those on low incomes, with particular reference made to the proposal affecting the No.16 service. In supporting the need to protect and maintain public services, including a properly funded public transport system, she also took the opportunity to remind members of the fact that many TfL workers had remained on the frontline delivering essential transport services as key workers throughout the pandemic and therefore also deserved solidarity and support at this time.

In responding to the comments made, Councillor Jayanti Patel felt there was a need to recognise that the Government had sought to provide TfL with a long-term funding settlement, which, following the pandemic, had been designed to secure their financial sustainability rather than a reliance on ongoing Government support. This was, he pointed out, also in addition to significant funding support provided during the pandemic which taken together the Conservative Group felt had been sufficient to provide a sustainable funding solution at a time when resources were needing to be prioritised.

In responding to the motion Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, advised that she disagreed with the stance taken by the Conservative Group highlighting that prior to the pandemic TfL had been in good financial health and were in fact being forecast to deliver an operating surplus for the first time in their history. Recognising the impact of the pandemic, Councillor Krupa Sheth felt the approach adopted by the Government towards the funding settlement for TfL, when compared to the financial support provided for private train operating companies, had reflected their ongoing stance towards public services and also London as a whole. In recognising the importance of local residents being able to access an affordable and environmentally sustainable, publicly funded transport network alongside concerns relating to the potential loss of services and increase in fares, Councillor Krupa Sheth ended by advising the Council had formally opposed the loss of bus services across the borough whilst also supporting the case for investment in new rolling stock on the Bakerloo line and the West London Orbital scheme and therefore encouraged all members to support the motion.

As no further members had indicated they wished to speak and the time allocated for the debate had expired the Mayor then invited Councillor Fraser to exercise her right of reply as mover of the motion.

In responding Councillor Fraser expressed her disappointment at the Government's stance in relation to the funding and support for TfL given the negative impact on residents across Brent and London as a whole. In thanking members for the support expressed, she hoped the motion would be able to assist in delivering much needed support for local residents as well as those working for TfL.

The Mayor then put the motion, as set out below, to a vote which was declared CARRIED.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following motion:

“Transport for London Funding

This Council notes:

1. With Brent residents currently facing an unprecedented cost of living crisis, as well as a climate emergency, it has never been more important that residents can access an affordable, green and publically funded transport network across our capital.
2. London is the only major city in the world that does not consistently subsidise its public transport. TfL relies upon passenger fare income to fund seventy-two per cent of its costs. By comparison, fares income covers only thirty-eight per cent of transport network costs in New York and in Paris, with public funds providing the remainder.
3. This is largely down to the fact that the Government took the decision, in 2015, to remove TfL's £700 million annual operating grant from April 2018 onwards. As a result TfL has faced a 37% cut to their budget in just five years.
4. The root of TfL's financial problems is the pandemic. Before the pandemic, TfL's finances were in good health and it was on track to record an operating surplus for the first time in TfL's history.
5. The Mayor of London has stood up for our capital during a tough month of negotiations with a zombie government to find a new funding settlement. He has successfully fought to ensure TfL no longer faces moving into managed decline.
6. However, the government has been clear that its war against London is not over. Ministers are still refusing to provide enough funding for our transport network, which will likely mean TfL will be forced to increase fares in the future and proceed with some bus cuts. If this happens, Londoners should know that it will only be the government that's to blame.

This council believes:

1. A sustainable funding deal for TfL is an essential component of any pandemic recovery programme, it supports the growth of jobs, housing and community wealth; and crucially reduces carbon emissions in the capital by taking cars off of the streets.
2. That TfL desperately requires new funding sources, taking inspiration from other global cities that have raised additional revenue through land value capture and emission charges.
3. It is inexcusable that of the funding announced there is no new monies to expedite the delivery of new rolling stock on the Bakerloo Line, with the oldest trains in use in the United Kingdom. It could also jeopardise potential funding for the new West-London Orbital line, a shovel-ready new Overground line that could transform regional transport connections.
4. It is a travesty that TfL has been forced to propose the scrapping of 22 bus routes and a service reduction on almost 60 more. In particular, the removal of the number 16 and number 31 route will severely impact residents in Brent.
5. Brent's Labour Council has always worked to support residents with cheap and sustainable travel options. The implementation of School Streets, publishing of a Climate Emergency Strategy and ongoing provision of the freedom pass for residents show our commitment to supporting active travel and providing accessible transport options for every resident.
6. A decrease in the funding made available by TfL to London boroughs will negatively impact our residents and our ambition to keep Brent on the move.

This council therefore resolves:

1. To request that the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change write to Transport for London's Commissioner Andy Byford expressing this chambers opposition to the scrapping of 22 bus routes, including the number 16 and number 31; and the reduction of provision more generally.
2. To voice its opposition to unsustainable funding arrangements for TfL, calling upon the incoming Secretary of State for Transport to close the funding gap once and for all, during the next round of negotiations.
3. To request that each respective Group Leader considers writing to local branches of ASLEF, RMT and Unite showing support for their industrial action against the impact on jobs, terms and conditions of these proposed cuts."

19. Urgent Business

There were no urgent items of business raised at the meeting so the Mayor, in closing the meeting, thanked all members for their co-operation and support and advised that he looked forward to seeing everyone again in person at the next Full Council which would be on Monday 21 November 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

COUNCILLOR ABDI ADEN
Mayor