

	<p align="center">Full Council 21 November 2022</p>
	<p align="center">Report from Director Engagement, Strategy & Communications</p>
<p align="center">Resources and Public Realm Committee Chair's Report</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	Two Appendix 1 Committee Work Programme 2022-23 Appendix 2 Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker
Background Papers:	None
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1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide updates on the meetings and activities of the Resources and Public Realm Committee since the last Full Council meeting on 21 September 2022.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the updates from the Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

3 Detail

- 3.1. Brent Council has two scrutiny committees; the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The Council is also a member of the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NWL JHOSC).
- 3.2. A scrutiny committee can look at anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit.
- 3.3. Brent Council Standing Orders allow for the chairs of the scrutiny committees to report to ordinary Council meetings on the activities of their committees¹.

The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

- 3.4. The remit of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for scrutiny committees². The remit of the Committee includes:

Corporate policy, partnerships and resources; Budget; Customer services; Commercial services; Planning policy; Environmental policy; Public realm; Employment and skills; IT; Recycling; Regeneration; Transport and highways; Community safety; Property; Emergency planning and business continuity.

- 3.5. The Committee is also the Council's "crime and disorder committee" for the purposes of Section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006 and as such may review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of the crime and disorder functions by the responsible authorities (as defined by section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) who make up the Safer Brent Partnership, in order to make reports or recommendations to Full Council.

2023/23 update

- 3.6. Since the last update to Full Council on 21 September 2022 the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee has met one time (8 November 2022).
- 3.7. The Committee heard from Councillor Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities, and Culture; and received a paper from

¹ Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s123308/Part%202%20April%202022%20Procedural%20Rules.pdf>

² Brent Council Constitution Part 4.

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s123310/Part%204%20May%202022%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20.pdf>

Communities & Regeneration on the Council's grants programmes. This report highlighted the grants offered by the Council to support voluntary and community sector organisations, as well as to enable community action. The report also included detail on the 'You Decide' participatory budgeting initiative which has been used to distribute funding from the Carbon Offset Fund, Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL), and Brent Health Matters Health & Wellbeing grants. The Committee invited evidence from applicants and residents who participated in the 'You Decide' sessions to gain their insights and feedback on the initiative's delivery. Additionally, the Committee shared feedback on the grants presented, and commented on how future 'You Decide' programmes could be improved. The recommendations to the Executive mainly centred around ensuring the awarded grants are focused and targeted to support residents/areas in most need. Also, a request was made for measures to be implemented to ensure voters in the 'You Decide' process are representative of the borough's demographic.

- 3.8. The Committee also heard from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Muhammed Butt, who presented a report on the draft Borough Plan 2023-27. The draft plan is current under consultation with the aim of finalising the ambitions in February 2023. Highlights in the report included how the vision and strategic priorities were developed; and how the Council plans on engaging/consulting residents and partners to ensure the strategic priorities identified are fit for purpose. Members put forward a number of questions/concerns related to the development of the strategic priorities to date. For example, whether or not the strategic priorities were realistic, taking into consideration the Council's budget gap of £28m; and whether the language used to describe the outcomes under the strategic priorities is specific and accountable enough. These themes led to the Committee making numerous recommendations, which included ensuring that climate action featured more prominently in the strategic priorities, and that the outcomes listed under the strategic priorities are more specific and measurable in the final plan.
- 3.9. Members received the Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2021/22 to note, and were updated by Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, on the delivery of the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) priorities and objectives for 2021/22. The Committee also had the opportunity to provide recommendations to feed into the "Safer Brent – Community Safety Strategy" and related delivery for 2023 – 2025, which included for the Partnership to:
 - i. Look further into the statistics of Homophobic, Biphobic, Transphobic, and Islamophobic Hate Crime in Brent, and should there be a strong evidence base, include these areas within the strategic priorities of the Strategy and related delivery for 2023 – 2025.
 - ii. Include a health representative on the Safer Brent Partnership Board.
 - iii. Develop proposals on how we specifically engage with communities in the crime hotspot areas identified in the Annual Report (2021/22).
 - iv. Look into how we can improve our communications in promoting safe ways of reporting domestic violence.
- 3.10. Following on from the previous item, Superintendent Tania Martin, Metropolitan Police, provided a verbal presentation to Committee Members on Police Engagement in Brent. Specifically, around the effectiveness of ward panels in the borough. The Chair then invited Committee members to share their experiences of ward panels. This led

to the Committee making a recommendation for local councillors to be better utilised by the police in increasing participation and engagement in ward panels.

3.11. The Chair of the Committee went onto highlight that changes had been made to the Scrutiny Work Plan 2022/23 (please see Appendix 1).

3.12. Lastly, the Chair highlighted the Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker (Appendix 2), which has assisted the Committee in monitoring the progress of recommendations, suggestions, and information requests made by members in past committee meetings. With regards to the suggestions for improvements related to the abuse of parking permits arising from the Committee Meeting on 19 July 2022, an update was provided by Resident Services (please see Appendix 2). Additionally, all information requests and suggestions for improvement made at the meeting on 6 September 2022 have been responded to, and can be found in Appendix 2.

Next meeting: 13 December 2022

3.13. The next meeting of the Resources and Public Realm Committee will be held on 13 December 2022, where members will review the following report:

- Redefining local services in Brent

3.14. The Scrutiny work plan (Appendix 1) is a living document, where agenda items could be subject to change ahead of the next Committee meeting.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6 Equality Implications

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Councillors will discuss this report at the Council meeting.

Report sign off:

Lorna Hughes

Director of Engagement, Strategy &
Communications