

Appendix 2

 <p>Brent</p>	<p>Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 8 November 2022</p>
	<p>Report from the Director of Engagement, Strategy & Communications</p>
<p>Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix A- Recommendations Scrutiny Tracker
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>Jason Sigba, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy and Partnerships Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Tom Pickup, Policy Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Partnerships Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Lorna Hughes, Director of Engagement, Strategy & Communications Lorna.Hughes@brent.gov.uk</p>

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the progress of the previous recommendations, suggestions, and information requests of the Committee be noted (Appendix A).

3.0 Detail

- 3.1** The Recommendations Tracker tabled at the 8 November meeting relates to the forthcoming 2022 – 2023 municipal year. It contains one update from the previous municipal year from the 9 February 2022 meeting on the item relating to flooding.
- 3.2** In accordance with Part 4 of the Brent Council Constitution (Standing Orders of Committees), Brent Council scrutiny committees may make recommendations to the Full Council or the Cabinet with respect to any functions which are the responsibility of the Executive, or of any functions which are not the responsibility of the Executive, or on matters which affect the borough or its inhabitants.
- 3.3** The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee may not make executive decisions. Scrutiny recommendations therefore require consideration and decision by the appropriate decision maker; the Cabinet or Full Council for policy and budgetary decisions.
- 3.4** The Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker (attached in Appendix A) provides a summary of scrutiny recommendations made during the municipal year, in order to track executive decisions and any implementation progress. It also includes suggestions of improvement and information requests, as captured in the minutes of the committee meetings.
- 3.5** Recommendations are removed from the tracker when they have been rejected or when implemented successfully and the review date has passed. This is the same for suggestions of improvement and information requests.

4.0 Procedure for Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees

- 4.1** Where scrutiny committees make recommendations to the Cabinet, these will be referred to the Cabinet requesting an Executive Response and the issue will be published on the Council's Forward Plan. This will instigate the preparation of a report to Cabinet and the necessary consideration of the response.
- 4.2** Where scrutiny committees develop reports or recommendations to Full Council (e.g. in the case of policy and budgetary decisions), the same process will be followed, with a report to Cabinet to agree an Executive Response, and thereafter, a report to Full Council for consideration of the scrutiny report and recommendations along with the Cabinet's response.
- 4.3** Where scrutiny committees have powers under their terms of reference to make reports or recommendations to external decision makers (e.g. NHS bodies), the relevant external decision maker shall be notified in writing, providing them with a copy of the Committee's report and recommendations, and requesting a response.
- 4.4** Once the Executive Response has been agreed, the scrutiny committee shall receive a report to receive the response and the Committee may review

implementation of the Executive's decisions after such a period as these may reasonably be implemented (review date).

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications for the purposes of this report.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 Section 9F, Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000, *Overview and scrutiny committees: functions*, requires that Executive arrangements by a local authority must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committees have the power to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are or are not the responsibility of the executive, or on matters which affect the Authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.

6.2 Section 9FE, *Duty of authority or executive to respond to overview and scrutiny committee*, requires that the authority or executive;-

(a) consider the report or recommendations,

(b) respond to the overview and scrutiny committee indicating what (if any) action the authority, or the executive, proposes to take,

(c) if the overview and scrutiny committee has published the report or recommendations, publish the response, within two months beginning with the date on which the authority or executive received the report or recommendations.

7.0 Equality Implications

7.1 There are no equality implications for the purposes of this report.

8.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

8.1 None for the purposes of this report.

Report sign off:

Lorna Hughes

Director of Engagement, Strategy &
Coimunications

Appendix A

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (RPRSC) Scrutiny Tracker 2022-23

These tables are to track the progress of scrutiny recommendations and suggestions for improvement made by the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, with details provided by the relevant lead departments. It is a standing item on the Committee's agendas, so that the Committee can keep track of the recommendations, suggestions and requests it has made, and the related the decisions made and implementation status. The tracker lists the recommendations, suggestions and information requests made by the committee throughout a municipal year and any recommendations not fully implemented from previous years.

The tracker documents the scrutiny recommendations to Cabinet made, the dates when they were made, the decision maker who can make each decision in respect of the recommendations, the date the decision was made and the actual decision taken. The executive decision taken may be the same as the scrutiny recommendation (e.g. the recommendation was "agreed") or it may be a different decision, which should be clarified here. The tracker also asks if the respective executive decisions have been implemented and this should be updated accordingly throughout the year.

Scrutiny Task Group report recommendations should be included here but referenced collectively (e.g. the name of the scrutiny inquiry and date of the agreement of the scrutiny report and recommendations by the scrutiny committee, along with the respective dates when the decision maker(s) considered and responded to the report and recommendations. The Committee should generally review the implementation of scrutiny task group report recommendations separately with stand-alone agenda items at relevant junctures – e.g. the Executive Response to a scrutiny report and after six months or a year, or upon expected implementation of the agreed recommendation of report. The "Expected Implementation Date" should provide an indication of a suitable time for review.

Key:

Date of scrutiny committee meeting - For each table, the date of scrutiny committee meeting when the recommendation was made is provided in the subtitle header.

Subject – this is the item title on the committee's agenda; the subject being considered.

Scrutiny Recommendation – This is the text of the scrutiny recommendation as it appears on the minutes – **in bold**.

Decision Maker – the decision maker for the recommendation, (**in bold**), e.g. the Cabinet (for Council executive decisions), full Council (for Council policy and budgetary decisions), or an NHS executive body for recommendations to the NHS. In brackets, (date), the date on which the Executive Response was made.

Executive Response – The response of the decision maker (e.g. Cabinet decision) for the recommendation. This should be the executive decision as recorded in the minutes. The Executive Response should provide details of what, if anything, the executive will do in response to the scrutiny recommendation. Ideally, the Executive Response will include a decision to either agree/reject/or amend the scrutiny recommendation and where the scrutiny recommendation is rejected, provide an explanation of why. In brackets, provide the date of Cabinet/executive meeting that considered the scrutiny recommendation and made the decision.

Department – the Council directorate (and/or external agencies) that are responsible for implementation of the agreed executive decision/response. Also provided, for reference only, the relevant Cabinet Member and strategic director.

Implementation Status – This is the progress of any implementation of the agreed Executive Response against key milestones. This may cross reference to any specific actions and deadlines that may be provided in the Executive Response. This should be as specific and quantifiable as possible. This should also provide, as far as possible, any evidenced outcomes or improvements resulting from implementation.

Review Date - This is the expected date when the agreed Executive Response should be fully implemented and when the scrutiny committee may usefully review the implementation and any evidenced outcomes (e.g. service improvements). (Note: this is the implementation of the agreed Executive Response, which may not be the same as the scrutiny recommendation).

Recorded Recommendations to Cabinet from RPRSC

Subject	Scrutiny Recommendation	Decision Maker & Executive Response	Cabinet Member, Lead Officer, and Department	Implementation Status	Review date
6 Sept 2022 - Cost of Living crisis	Lobby central government for increase to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates to help alleviate the burden of the cost of living crisis on residents	To follow.	Cllr Ellie Southwood, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Citizen Experience Peter Gadsdon, Corporate Director, Resident Services	To follow.	6 Jan 2023
	Use Council's role and relationship with the NHS to lobby for more support for our residents to strengthen our efforts in helping them through the cost of living crisis.	To follow.	Cllr Neil Nerva, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care Phil Porter, Corporate Director, ASC & Health	To follow.	2 Dec 2022

Recorded suggestions for improvement from RPRSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Suggestions for improvement	Council Department/External Partner	Responses / Status
19 July 2022 - Wembley Events Management	Review the abuse/use of parking permits on event days at Wembley Park.	Sandor Fazekas, Resident Services	<p>We are aware of the fraudulent use of event day parking permits, particularly in area in the close vicinity of Wembley Stadium. Officers have been working to tackle the issue and there have been operations over the summer to take action against permits abuse. The following provides details of the action we are taking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to work closely with partners including; Wembley Stadium LTD, the Football Association, Quintain Estates and Development and the Metropolitan Police Service on event planning. The Parking Client team in Healthy Streets and Parking develop detailed plans for parking enforcement for Wembley Stadium events, focussing on

			<p>areas where there are reports of illegal parking or potential misuse of permits. Monitoring and supervision of operations have also been improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serco (our parking enforcement service provider) have been briefing Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO's) on how to check printed permits and sample checks have been introduced. Where fraudulent use is suspected, permits can be confiscated, misuse reported to the Audit and Investigations team and vehicles issued with PCNs and removed. • The Healthy Streets and Parking Service are currently procuring two contracts for the provision of Parking and Traffic Enforcement services and Cashless Parking and Permits, from April 2023. This will provide the Council with the opportunity to improve the current permit system and potentially controls. • Officers are also in the process of reviewing our webpages, to include information on measures that we are taking to tackle fraud and discourage permit abuse. <p>The Council intends to update the Parking Policy 2020 for approval by Cabinet, following 12 months of implementation of the new Parking and Traffic Enforcement Contract from April 2023. This will provide further information on tackling permit abuse.</p>
6 Sept 2022 – Cost of Living crisis	Improve our publicity of credit unions within the borough, highlighting how residents can use these services to navigate the cost of living crisis.	Rob Mansfield, Engagement, Strategy, and Communications	<p>Additional information will be added to Cost Of Living (COL) online hub:</p> <p>https://www.brent.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help-and-advice</p>
	Explore co-operative options with regards to the Community Shop model	Sadie East, Resident Services	<p>We are looking at examples of other community shops built on the cooperative model and will build this into the development of plans for a shop in Brent, which is one of the initiatives being taken forward as part of our response to the cost of living crisis.</p>
	Incorporate NHS support for residents into the Council's Cost of Living communications plan.	Rob Mansfield, Engagement, Strategy, and Communications	<p>Additional resources will be added to COL online hub.</p> <p>At the moment we signpost to the NHS 24/7 crisis line on this webpage.</p> <p>In addition, we have advertised the mental health support services available to residents in Brent, including talking therapy and various drop-in services.</p>

			<p>Furthermore we advertise widely NHS online support and promote the Samaritans:</p> <p>https://www.brent.gov.uk/costofliving</p> <p>https://www.brent.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing</p>
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Information requests from RPRSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Information requests	Council Department/External Partner	Responses / Status
9 February 2022 – Flooding	To receive a copy of the independent review into the events of and response to the floods experienced across London in July when published and Thames Water’s response to the review	Thames Water	<p>Information has been requested and will be provided later in the calendar year. Ahead of the publication of the full report a series of interim reports will be published covering aspects of the flooding and the first one is due imminently. More details about the review can be found here.</p> <p>Stage 1 report can be found here: https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-1-report/</p> <p>Stage 2 report can be found here: https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-2-report/</p> <p>Stage 3 report can be found here: https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-3-report/</p>
6 Sept 2022 – Cost of Living Crisis	Provide breakdown of different sources of funding for the Cost of Living initiatives (i.e. funding received from central government, including any new monies, as well as the funding coming from the Council’s own income).	Ravinder Jassar, Finance & Resources	<p><u>Grant Funding from the Central Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household Support Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ COVID Winter Support Fund and COVID Local Support Fund, which commenced in December 2020. c. £5.5m has been distributed between Dec 20 and Mar 22 ✓ 2022/23 £2.7m grant to support Residents’ going through financial difficulties (from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Additional £2.7m funding announced by government to be given to Brent (from 01 October 2022 until 31 March 2023) • £17.5m funding allocated to Recovery Initiatives funded from non-ring-fenced COVID grant • £150 Energy Rebate Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ £13.6m paid out under the scheme – one-off £150 council tax rebate payment to eligible householder's to help with rising energy costs • Brent Residents Support Fund (RSF) paid out of non-ring-fenced COVID grant has supported 4,045 households. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ £3m was paid out in 21/22 ✓ £6m approved in total for 22/23 <p><u>Funding from the Council's budget</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Tax Scheme (CTS) – 27,600 households are supported through CTS of which 19,000 are working age and 8,600 are pension age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ c. £29m relief granted in 21/22 ✓ £30m relief earmarked for 22/23
Provide the Committee with a copy of the Financial Inclusion (FI) Dashboard Presentation that was previously presented to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on 1 August 2022	Tom Cattermole, Resident Services	Sadie East and Tom Cattermole presented the FI dashboard to Cllr Conneely – Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Committee. By the end of November 2022, Sadie and Tom will provide a presentation on the FI dashboard to the remaining committee members, as well as ward based heat maps/data centred around the information in the FI dashboard.
Provide information on the support the Council and central government are offering to businesses impacted by the Cost of Living crisis.	Peter Cosgrove, Resident Services	Business Support/Economic Development under Ala Uddin have offered advice through the weekly business e-newsletter, which goes to 13,000 recipients, regarding the energy bill relief scheme the government has made available, with a link to the webpage Energy Bill Relief Scheme: help for businesses and other non-domestic customers - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) This has also been highlighted on the Council's business support webpage: Business advice and support Brent Council

	Provide a copy of the Cost of Living communications plan.	Rob Mansfield, Engagement, Strategy, and Communications	The Cost of Living communications plan was distributed to committee members.
	Provide feedback from the NHS on any support for residents to navigate the cost of living crisis.	Nipa Shah, ASC & Health	<p>An overview of the cost of living support offered by the Council was presented to the Health Inequalities and Vaccination Executive Group in mid-September. The group includes senior representatives from the council, NHS and Public Health. Following the presentation, it was agreed that the Brent Health Matters (BHM) team would support the communications drive once ready. The communications assets will be circulated to Local Councillors and Brent Health Matters stakeholders, which includes BHM staff, the community teams, voluntary community sector (VCS) organisations and NHS staff. Furthermore, the Director of Customer Access will present what support is available in an upcoming GP forum meeting and Primary Care stakeholder meeting, to raise further awareness across NHS staff.</p> <p>Awaiting further response on NHS support.</p>
	Provide intelligence/data (if any) to Committee on whether Gambling is a trend amongst Resident Support Fund applications.	Tom Cattermole, Resident Services	Currently, an RSF can be used for paying off debts e.g. credit card loans (where a resident will be referred to our credit union for an interest-free loan). There is no evident trend to suggest an increase in Gambling related debts. This will be monitored and any change in that trend can be reported to members of the Committee, if desired.