

	<p align="center">Council 13 July 2020</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Assistant Chief Executive</p>
<p>Chair's Report: Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
Appendices:	One Appendix 1: Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Annual Work Programme 2019-2020
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officers:	Michael Carr - Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer Tel: 020 8937 2855 Email: michael.carr@brent.gov.uk

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At each meeting of Council, the Chairs of Scrutiny Committees may submit written reports on any matter in respect of which the committees have been consulted or which it has been reviewing and to speak to highlight significant issues to Council, in accordance with Part 2, paragraph 36 of the Brent Council Constitution.
- 1.2 This report provides a brief complementary summary of the activities of Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

2 Recommendation

That the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee be noted.

3 Detail

- 3.1. Brent Council has two scrutiny committees; the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The Council is also a party to the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2. Brent Council Standing Orders allow for the chairs of the scrutiny committees to report to ordinary council meetings on the activities of their committees¹.

The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

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

Corporate policy, partnerships and resources; Budget; customer services; commercial services; planning policy; environmental policy; public realm; employment and skills; IT; recycling; regeneration; transport and highways; community safety; property; emergency planning and business continuity.

- 3.4. The committee is also the Council's statutory Crime and Disorder Committee and as such may review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Safer Brent Partnership.
- 3.5. The last meeting of the committee was on 12 March 2020. At this meeting the committee considered the Brent Cycling Strategy and the Brent Parks Strategy and also appointed a Scrutiny Task Group to consider the issue of violence against women and report back to the committee with a report and any recommendations to the Cabinet and Safer Brent Partnership later this year.
- 3.6. At this meeting the committee received oral evidence from Mr David Arditti from the Brent Cycling Campaign, along with the Cabinet Members; Krupa Sheth - Cabinet Member for Environment and Councillor Shama Tatler - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning, and council officers, as well as written reports from the Regeneration and Environment directorate.
- 3.7. For both the Brent Cycling Strategy and the Brent Parks Strategy inquiries, the Committee agreed several points for consideration by the Cabinet in the development of new strategies in these policy areas.
- 3.8. Due to the coronavirus epidemic, it was decided to postpone the April meeting of the committee. The scrutiny chairs have given evidence to the independent Poverty Commission and it is anticipated that their report should be available in September, which may come before a special meeting of the committee.

¹ Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, paragraph 36.

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

The committee is responding to the concerns raised through the recent “Black Lives Matter” protests and it is intended to bring such concerns up with the community safety partnership and a special Black Leaders report in May next year.

- 3.9. In May, members of the committee received a briefing from the Director of Finance on the financial implications of the covid19 epidemic and public health restrictions on the council, including financial assistance from the Government, the financial impact of covid19 on Brent Council and the impact on the delivery of savings and the medium term financial strategy
- 3.10. In June, members of the committee were consulted on issues for inclusion on the committee work programme for the year ahead. This included consultation with Cabinet Members and the relevant council departments.
- 3.11. The independent Chair of the Council’s Audit and Standards Advisory Committee was also consulted on the issues for the scrutiny work programmes and the respective roles of the audit committees and scrutiny committees were considered in this.
- 3.12. The scrutiny work programmes will be considered by the scrutiny committees and forwarded to a future meeting of Council for agreement, in accordance with Brent Council Constitution².
- 3.13. The next meeting of the committee is on 14 July 2020, when issues including the Public Realm, the Brent Economy and Social Welfare, will be considered, in the light of the implications of current epidemic and public health restrictions.

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.

7 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 The Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee has been consulted. Councillors will also discuss this report at the Council meeting.

² Brent Council Constitution, Part 3: Responsibility for Functions, Table 6 List of Functions That May Only Be Exercised by Full Council.

Report sign off:

SHAZIA HUSSAIN

Assistant Chief Executive