



Item 7.1: Questions from Members of the Public
Full Council – 13 July 2020

1. Question from Robin Sharp (Chair- Brent Patient Voice) to Councillor Hirani, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure & Culture

- 1(a) What is the latest number of deaths in Brent from or related to Covid-19?
- 1(b) What is the latest number of “excess” deaths in Brent compared to the same period last year (i.e. from the start of the pandemic in the UK)
- 1(c) Is there any estimated breakdown of the number of these excess deaths that may be from Covid-19 and those arising because the person dying did not access care due to the NHS focus on Covid-19? Can ward level figures be supplied please?
- 2. In the case where ONS have supplied a breakdown of Covid-19 deaths at ward level for Brent have any contributory factors for especially high death rates in particular wards been provisionally identified, such as presence of care homes, one or more super-spreaders, a special event where transmissions might have taken place?
- 3. Do the deaths in Brent relate to the place of death, e.g. a hospital, or to the place of normal residence of the person who died?
- 4. Is there data showing how many died from Covid-19 in hospitals, in care or other residential homes and in the community?

Response:

- 1.(a) According to the latest Office for National statistics figures, the number of COVID-19 related deaths is 484 as up to the 19th of June 2020. These are provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in Brent.
- 1(b) The provisional number of excess deaths from the beginning of the pandemic until May 31st compared to the same period in 2019 is 482.

Month - Year	Total Number of all deaths occurred	Number of COVID-19 related deaths
January 2019 – May 2019	749	-
January 2020 – May 2020	1231*	475*

**Note: These are provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in Brent.*
 Data source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

- 1(c) It is likely the vast majority of excess deaths were due to Covid-19. There is no information available on deaths arising due to a person dying as a result of the individual not accessing NHS care.
2. The Office for National Statistics does not supply this level of detail. Where it supplies deaths at local level they are just a number of deaths in what is called a Middle Super Output Area, a unit of geography used by the Office for National Statistics. This can be converted into ward level information approximately. There is no individual detail on the cases or the likely source of infection.
3. The Office for National statistics (ONS) data for Brent residents relates to the place of normal residence.
4. Below is the provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in Brent, deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19), by place of death for which data are available. COVID-19 Deaths that occurred from 1st January 2020 up to 19th June 2020 but were registered up to 27th June 2020

	<i>Brent</i>
<i>Hospital</i>	<i>389</i>
<i>Care Homes</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Hospice</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Home</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Other communal establishment</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Elsewhere</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>484</i>

Source of data: Office for National Statistics (ONS).

2. Question from Martin Francis to Councillor Amar Agha, Cabinet Member for Schools, Employment & Skills

There was some confusion at the Planning Committee that approved the new North Brent School in Neasden Lane about the catchment area of the new school.

Pupils currently attending the North Brent School on the Wembley campus of Wembley High School Academy Trust will transfer when the new school opens.

Is it the intention to have a North Brent catchment area for the school as it admits more year groups, or will the catchment area extend to the Neasden/Harlesden/Stonebridge area?

What will be the geographical admission criteria for the new school?

Response:

The Wembley Academy Trust, as the overarching Trust of which the North Brent School is a part, acts as its own admissions authority and as such publishes its own admissions arrangements, including catchment areas. The current admissions arrangements for North Brent School are published on their website and set out the following as part of the oversubscription criteria:

- 75% of places will be offered to children who live closest to Wembley High Technology College. Distance will be measured using a straight-line measurement from the main entrance of Wembley High Technology College to the main entrance of the child's home.
- 25% of places will be offered to children who live closest to the permanent site of North Brent School. Distance will be measured using a straight-line measurement from the main entrance of North Brent School to the main entrance of the child's home

In terms of future admissions arrangements, as Wembley Academy Trust acts as its own admissions authority, this is a question that should be put to the Trust directly. We can confirm however that the Trust has engaged proactively with the wider community in establishing current admissions arrangements and has committed to continue to do so in any changes proposed to future admissions arrangements

3. Question from Amandine Alexandre to Councillor Shama Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning

Please could you advise when Brent council submitted the first bid for the TfL emergency fund

Response:

Brent submitted the first bid to TfL for London Streetspace funding on 12th June.

A second bid was submitted on 19th June.

4. Additional Public Question (received in advance of submission deadline) from Scott Wade to Councillor Shama Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning

In relation to the Community Asset Transfer at Tenterden Pavilion & Sports Ground (recommendations approved at Cabinet on 27 June 2016), please could you:

1. Provide an update on progress to date, current status and future outlook.
2. Clarify the rationale behind excluding the following considerations from the tender process and recommendations. This should include outlining the potential risks to the implied community benefit:
 - a. Requisite access to the existing facilities (sports pitches); and
 - b. Existing and potential future demand for car parking spaces for community users.
3. Outline the impact on existing use and users of any potential delays in execution and mitigating steps that have or will be taken

Response:

1. Wembley Education Charitable Trust (WECT) have been progressing their proposal and subject to revised plans a Cabinet Report will be undertaken going forward. It is intended to go to September Cabinet with a proposal to extend the longstop date on the CAT agreement proposal.
2. All matters relating to the successful completion of the agreement have and will be considered.
3. Existing use(s) will continue as they are until the progression of the agreement, all parties will continue to be kept informed.



Item 7.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament

Full Council – 13 July 2020

1. Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council

1. As a body that not only represents black communities but also many other BAME communities, does the council feel obligated to speak up on the matter? Is it simply enough to show purple lights to condemn the killing of George Floyd? On behalf of young people in the borough we are concerned that there has been no talk of action that can be taken to support BLM, even though this movement has highlighted the prevalence of systemic racism in the UK.
2. Brent's communities are very diverse and some themselves do not think about the way they treat black people. Prevalent issues such as colourism in the Asian communities often cause such discrimination. As representatives of these communities would you call upon various ethnic minorities within Brent to consider their treatment of black people?
3. Moving forward, in order to create change, would the council consider reviewing the education system in Brent? As many schools in Brent are Academies, does this not allow the council some leverage and encourage schools to implement the teaching of Black history?
4. Would the council consider commissioning a project to express black injustice in a creative way such as a Mural, similar to the one dedicated to the Grunwick strike, in order to remind those that come into the borough that we not only recognise black injustice but as a result we are dedicated to correcting the situation?
5. Finally, how is the council planning on reaching young people in Brent that may be isolated or marginalised to reassure them about the council's position on the black lives matter movement?

Response:

Questions 1 & 2:

Communities in Brent, one of the most diverse boroughs in the country, continue to be affected by inequalities and require decisive and urgent action by the Council and partners. In the context of global and local challenges and events the Council met with 72 black community leaders and representatives on 11 June

to listen to concerns and take decisive action to make improvements for residents.

In partnership with the black community leaders the Council has created the Black Lives Matter Action Plan and it is a demonstration of the council's commitment to making long lasting changes for the Black communities of Brent. The council wants to show respect, support and solidarity to our black community in Brent and that we are a borough where there is no place for racism and where equality and diversity are respected.

Question 3:

Brent young people are our future. The Council has a leadership role, in partnership with schools and colleges and a successful track record of working together to deliver good and outstanding education. As an example of the impact of this partnership approach, a project commissioned by the Council and started in 2018 has helped raise the achievement of boys of Black Caribbean Heritage. The most recent (2018/19) achievement data shows significant narrowing of gaps between the attainment of boys of Black Caribbean heritage and all pupils at Key Stage 2. In reading, writing and mathematics combined there has been an improvement of 16pcp representing a remarkable 70 per cent fall in the size of the gap. For the youngest children, there was a significant reduction in gaps for the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. At Key Stage 4 for older children there was also an improvement, with the gaps between boys of Black Caribbean heritage and all pupils down from 12 percentage points to 8 percentage points.

We will continue to work with schools to encourage the teaching of black history. Brent Council has provided Brent schools with support to help them develop their curricula, for example, as part of Brent's London Borough of Cultures 2020 programme, an education programme has been co-created with school leaders and young people, to help connect children and young people creatively with their local area, their heritage and their hopes for the future. Brent Council will build on this work to continue to influence and promote the teaching of black history in Brent schools. Many of our schools offer excellent examples of the teaching of black history. Good practice examples include our schools which have been awarded the United Nations Rights Respecting Schools Award and schools complementing the national curriculum with the United Nations global sustainable development goals to reduce inequality and to promote inclusive societies and institutions. For those Brent schools which are academies, it is correct to say that they have some further flexibilities in setting their curriculum as they do not have to follow the national curriculum. Once schools and colleges have fully opened in the autumn, the Council, along with the Brent Schools Partnership, will be discussing the development of curricula with schools, to stimulate the positive teaching of black history in Brent schools.

Question 4:

The council supports the idea of creating a mural in the borough to express black injustice and is willing to explore this idea.

Question 5:

We are committed to young people having a voice. In close consultation with local black community leaders/representatives, including young people, the Council has put together a Brent Black Community Action Plan setting out steps that will be taken to ensure we can help make improvements for local residents. The action plan includes an explicit commitment “to engage with young black people in the borough in settings and ways that are convenient for them. Treating young people as stakeholders with a voice.”

Actions being taken include the following:

- The Council is collaborating with Young Brent Foundation to produce a series of podcasts exploring issues and concerns for young people in relation to the BLM movement and the impact of Covid-19 in the borough. The podcast will be designed to engage with young people, particularly those from BAME communities, through a series of conversations designed to encourage meaningful and constructive responses to BLM in their localities.
- We recently commissioned a special ‘Time to Talk Covid-19’, phone-in radio show with The Beat London to discuss why the BAME community is so disproportionately affected by Covid-19. The panel included a Brent Councillor, a community leader and a young person and aired during prime time to reach a large proportion of the young BAME community. We plan to continue working with The Beat London as one of our main channels for two-way engagement with young people in Brent around BLM issues.

The Council see Brent Youth Parliament as a crucial part of reaching young people in Brent who may feel marginalised, to reassure young people as to the Council’s actions and to give more young people the opportunity to have a voice, as you have so creditably done today.