

The following Committees are established under all Council powers:-

- (1) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 9 Members of the Council
- (2) Community, Health and Leisure Committee – 9 Members of the Council
- (3) Dismissal Appeals Committee – 9 Members of the Council
- (4) Environment and Housing Management Committee – 9 Members of the Council
- (5) Planning and Licensing Committee – 12 Members of the Council
- (6) Policy, Finance and Resources Committee – 9 Members of the Council
- (7) Staff Appointments Committee – 9 Members of the Council
- (8) Dismissals Advisory Panel – 3 Independent Persons

The Terms of Reference of the above are set out as follows:-

CHAPTER 3 - POWERS AND DELEGATIONS

PART 3.1 - POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES

1. Matters Reserved to meetings of Council

1.1 Council

The Council is the ultimate decision making body of Brentwood Borough Council and the principal forum for major political debate. All 37 Councillors who have been elected to represent the borough attend the Council meeting.

The Council decides the overall objectives, major policies and financial strategies of the Council. It also considers recommendations from the Scrutiny and Regulatory Committees on issues of significance.

Through the Constitution, it delegates responsibility for carrying out many of the Borough Council's functions and policies to its committees. It also agrees the membership of the committees/sub-committees.

1.2 Functions of the Council

Only the Council will exercise the following functions:-

- (a) adopting and approving changes to the Constitution;
- (b) adopting and amending Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations;
- (c) agreeing and/or amending the terms of reference for committees and any joint committees, deciding on their composition chairmanship and making initial appointments to them;
- (d) appointing representatives to outside bodies and consultative groups unless the appointment has been delegated by the Council;
- (e) adopting and amending a members' allowances scheme under Chapter 6;
- (f) to elect the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council;

- (g) to designate the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Council;
- (h) adoption of the Code of Conduct for Members;
- (i) electoral and ceremonial matters relevant to the Council
- (j) changing the name of the area, conferring the title of honorary alderman or freedom of the borough;
- (k) setting the Council's Budget and Council Tax;
- (l) approving the making of a virement or payment from the Council's reserves for values exceeding £200,000;
- (m) approving of the Council's Corporate Plan;
- (n) approving or adopting the Council policies and strategies which form the policy framework;
- (o) making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting bylaws and promoting or opposing the making of local legislation or personal Bills;
- (p) confirming the appointment or dismissal of the Head of Paid Service; Monitoring Officer; and Section 151 Officer;
- (q) to consider reports on cross cutting matters not expressly delegated to another committee;
- (r) all other matters which by law must be reserved to Council;

2. General Powers of Committees

This scheme of delegation sets out the functions of the Council to be discharged by its committees and sub-committees and includes the terms of reference of statutory and non statutory bodies set up by the Council.

Each committee or sub-committee will have the following general powers and duties:

- (a) To carry out the duties and powers of the Council within current legislation;
- (b) To comply with the Council's standing orders and financial regulations;
- (c) To operate within the budget allocated to the committee by the Council.
- (d) To guide the Council in setting its policy objectives and priorities including new initiatives, and where appropriate make recommendations to Council
- (e) To develop, approve and monitor the relevant policies and strategies relating to the Terms of Reference of the committee;
- (f) To secure satisfactory standards of service provision and improvement, including monitoring of contracts, Service Level Agreements and partnership arrangements;

- (g) To consider and approve relevant service plans;
- (h) To determine fees and charges relevant to the committee;

2.1 Policy, Finance and Resources Committee

1. The functions within the remit of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee include all financial matters relating to the budget, (and for the avoidance of doubt, being the superior Committee on all such matters including capital, revenue and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) except where the law otherwise requires), and, without prejudice to the generality of this, include the specific functions which are set out below.

Policy

To undertake and discharge any functions in relation to strategic policies including periodic reviews of the policy framework adopted by full Council from time to time except where required by law to be undertaken elsewhere.

Finance

- 1) Financial Services
- 2) Contracts, commissioning, procurement
- 3) Legal services
- 4) Health and safety at work (in so far as it relates to the Council as an employer)
- 5) Corporate communications and media protocols
- 6) Corporate and Democratic services
- 7) Member Development
- 8) Data quality
- 9) Human resources
- 10) Information Communication Technology
- 11) Revenues and Benefits
- 12) Customer Services
- 13) Assets (strategically)

2. Overall responsibility for monitoring Council performance.
3. To formulate and develop relevant corporate policy documents and strategies including the Corporate Plan.
4. To formulate the budget proposals in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework, including capital and revenue spending, and the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan (including rent setting for Council homes), in accordance with the Council's priorities and make recommendations to Council for approval.
5. To formulate the Council's Borrowing and Investment Strategy and make recommendations to Council for approval.
6. To take decisions on spending within the annual budget to ensure delivery of the Council's priorities.
7. To approve the making of a virement or payment from the Council's reserves with a maximum value of £200,000.
8. To approve the write-off of any outstanding debt owed to the council above the delegated limit of £5,000.
9. To determine capital grant applications.
10. To make recommendations on the allocation and use of resources to achieve the Council's priorities.
11. To manage and monitor the Council approved budgets;
12. To provide the lead on partnership working including the joint delivery of services.
13. To consider any staffing matters that are not delegated to Officers, such as proposals that are not contained within existing budgetary provision.
14. To strategically manage any lands or property of the Council and provide strategic property advice relating to the Council's Housing Stock and without prejudice to the generality of this, to specifically undertake the following:-

The Council's Asset Management Plan

- (a) The acquisition and disposal of land and property and taking of leases, licenses, dedications and easements.
- (b) The granting variation renewal review management and termination of leases licenses dedications and easements
- (c) Promoting the use of Council owned assets by the local community and other interested parties.

- (d) To manage any lands or property of the Council;
- (e) To include properties within the Council's Asset Management Portfolio including Halls etc.
- (f) To take a strategic approach to asset management, ensuring that the use of all of the Council's Property assets achieves Value for Money and supports the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities.
- (g) To review the Corporate Asset Management Plan annually.
- (h) The acquisition of land in advance of requirements for the benefit, improvement or development of the Borough.
- (i) Disposal of land (including by lease) surplus to the requirements of any Panel or Committee.
- (j) Appropriation of land surplus to the requirements of a committee.
- (k) Promote the use of Council owned assets by the local community and other interested parties where appropriate
- (l) Property and asset management, including acquisitions and disposals not included in the approved Asset Management Plan.
- (m) To take a strategic approach to commercial activity, both existing and new, ensuring the Council realises revenue generation opportunities and supports the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities.
- (n) Promoting a culture of entrepreneurialism and building the required skills and capacity.
- (o) To consider, and approve, business cases and commercial business plans for commercial activity.

15. To consider and propose matters concerning the promotion of economic development throughout the Borough and the interface with countywide or regional economic development initiatives.

Economic Development

- (a) To lead, consider and propose matters concerning the promotion of economic development throughout the Borough and the interface with countywide or regional economic development initiatives.
- (b) To promote and encourage enterprise and investment in the Borough in order to maintain and sustain the economic wellbeing and regeneration of the area.

- (c) To develop a climate where businesses and individuals can innovate, compete and contribute to the economic development and regeneration of the area; and excellence in local business.
- (d) To encourage the growth of existing businesses in the Borough and access to the skills and training necessary to support them.
- (e) To develop and deliver a Borough wide initiative on apprenticeships
- (f) To consider and determine matters relating to the promotion, maintenance and enhancement of the vitality and viability of shopping centres within the Borough.
- (g) To consult with the Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, residents and other interested third parties.
- (h) To maintain a special interest in promoting employment in the borough.
- (i) To promote and encourage tourism and heritage
- (j) Parking (off Street parking provision in Council owned/leased off-street parking places)
- (k) Crossrail

16. To review and facilitate the transformation of delivery of services.

Transformation

- (a) To approve and facilitate the transformation of delivery of services.

2.2 Environment and Housing Management Committee

1. The functions within the remit of the Environment and Housing Management Committee (including the operational management of assets which for the sake of clarity also comprises maintenance) are set out below:
 - 1) Waste management, refuse collection and recycling
 - 2) Environmental improvement schemes
 - 3) The quality of the public realm, including street services and grounds maintenance
 - 4) Highway matters that are the responsibility of the Borough Council (including highway closures under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847) and drainage
 - 5) Public conveniences
 - 6) Cemeteries and closed churchyards
 - 7) Unlawful incursions

- 8) Affordable housing
- 9) Housing strategy and investment programme where the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee does not decide to exercise such functions as the superior Committee
- 10) The Housing Revenue Account Business Plan where the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee does not decide to exercise such functions as the superior Committee
- 11) Housing standards, homelessness, homelessness prevention and advice
- 12) Housing needs assessment
- 13) Housing benefit - welfare aspects
- 14) Private sector housing and administration of housing grants
- 15) Tenancy Management and landlord functions
- 16) To make recommendations to Finance and Resources on the setting of rents for Council homes.
- 17) Operational facilities management (including maintenance) of the Town Hall and the Depot

2.3 Community, Health and Leisure Committee

1. The functions within the remit of the Community, Health and Leisure Committee are set out below
 - 1) Community and Localism Initiatives including Assets of Community Value
 - 2) The Voluntary Sector and community partnerships
 - 3) Leisure and cultural initiatives.
 - 4) Parish Council liaison
 - 5) Health and Wellbeing
 - 6) Grants to organisations/voluntary organisations.
 - 7) Parks, open spaces, countryside, allotments
 - 8) Environmental Health
 - 9) Environmental nuisance and pollution controls

- 10) Other miscellaneous powers enforced by Environmental Health
- 11) Food safety and health and safety
- 12) Community Safety and CCTV

2. To take the lead on community leadership and consultation with stakeholders.

2.4 Audit, and Scrutiny Committee

The Audit and Scrutiny Committee provides advice to the Council and the committees on the effectiveness of the arrangements for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs, including all relevant strategies and plans, acts as the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with all the powers under Part 3 of the Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012, and discharges the functions under section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 (local authority scrutiny of crime and disorder matters). Without prejudice to the generality of the above, the terms of reference include those matters set out below.

Audit Activity

- (a) To approve the Annual Internal Audit risk based plan of work.
- (b) To consider the Head of Internal Audit's annual report and opinion, and a summary of Internal Audit activity and the level of assurance it can give over the Council's corporate governance, risk management and internal control arrangements.
- (c) To consider regular progress reports from Internal Audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale.
- (d) To consider the External Auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance.
- (e) To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
- (f) To consider the arrangements for the appointment of the Council's Internal and External Auditors.

Regulatory Framework

- 1) To maintain an overview of the Council's Constitution in respect of contract procedure rules, financial regulations and codes of conduct and behaviour.
- 2) To review any issue referred to it by a Statutory Officer of the Council or any Council body.
- 3) To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the Council.
- 4) To monitor Council policies and strategies on

Whistleblowing
Money Laundering
Anti-Fraud and Corruption
Insurance and Risk Management
Emergency Planning
Business Continuity

- 5) To monitor the corporate complaints process.
- 6) To consider the Council's arrangements for corporate governance and agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice.
- 7) To consider the Council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.

Accounts

- 1) To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.
- 2) To review the Council's Annual Governance Statement.
- 3) To consider the External Auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

Scrutiny

- 1) To prepare the annual overview and scrutiny work programme taking into account items put forward by members and the Corporate Leadership Board ensuring that such items relate to the Council's functions and corporate priorities.
- 2) To propose 'place based' or local scrutiny for issues where a local investigative approach with a range of people or organisations is an appropriate way forward.
- 3) To manage scrutiny resources efficiently and effectively so that the outcomes of scrutiny are likely to lead to real improvements for the people of Brentwood.
- 4) To establish working groups (in line with agreed protocols) to undertake the work programme, including setting their terms of reference, the reporting arrangements, and to co-ordinate and review the work of the working groups.
- 5) To receive reports and other evidence from organisations, individuals and partnerships which the committee or working groups considers relevant to their work.
- 6) To review and/or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions of the Local Authority.
- 7) To deal with those issues raised through the 'Councillor Call for Action' scheme in line with agreed protocols and procedures.

- 8) To make reports or recommendations to the Local Authority, any committee or sub-committee of the Local Authority, any officer of the Local Authority, or any joint committee on which the Local Authority is represented or any sub-committee of such a committee, with respect to the discharge of any functions of the Local Authority
- 9) To review matters of local community concern including partnerships and services provided by 'other' organisations such as the National Health Service and Essex County Council.
- 10) To make reports or recommendations to the Local Authority, any committee or sub-committee of the Local Authority, any officer of the Local Authority, or any joint committee on which the Local Authority is represented or any sub-committee of such a committee, on matters which affect the Borough of Brentwood or the inhabitants of the Borough of Brentwood.
- 11) To review and/or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions
- 12) To make reports or recommendations to the Local Authority with respect to the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions
- 13) To be responsible for scrutiny of the Council's strategic and budgetary framework and its implementation.
- 14) To report annually to Council on the progress of the work programme and to make relevant recommendations.

2.5 Planning and Licensing Committee

Planning

- (a) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and any related legislation including:-
 - (i) determination of planning applications;
 - (ii) enforcement of planning control;
 - (iii) waste land notices, purchase notices, etc.
- (b) Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990
 - (i) determination of applications for Listed Buildings and Conservation Area consent;
 - (ii) enforcement of Listed Building and Conservation Area legislation.
- (c) To consider and determine the Council's comments where appropriate on major development outside the Borough when consulted by other Local Planning Authorities.
 - (a) To guide the Council in setting its policy objectives and priorities.
 - (b) To carry out the duties and powers of the Council under current legislation;

- (c) To develop, implement and monitor the relevant strategies and policies relating to the Terms of Reference of the committee.
- (d) To secure satisfactory standards of service provision and improvement, including monitoring of contracts, Service Level Agreements and partnership arrangements;
- (e) To consider and approve relevant service plans;
- (f) To comply with the standing orders and financial regulations of the Council;
- (g) To operate within the budget allocated to the committee by the Council.
- (h) To determine fees and charges relevant to the committee;

To review and monitor the operational impact of policies and to recommend proposals for new initiatives and policy developments including new legislation or central government guidance

- (d) Powers and duties of the local planning authority in relation to the planning of sustainable development; local development schemes; local development plan and monitoring reports and neighbourhood planning

Licensing

- (a) Except in relation to the statement of Licensing Policy, to discharge all functions conferred upon the council as licensing authority under the Licensing Act 2003.
- (b) Except in relation to the statement of Licensing Policy, to discharge all functions conferred upon the council as licensing authority under the Gambling Act 2005.
- (c) To determine all fees and charges relevant to matters disposed by the Planning and Licensing Committee.
- (d) To exercise all other functions relating to licensing and registration including
 - i. Trading Requirements
 - ii. All functions relating to hackney carriage drivers and vehicles and private hire drivers vehicles and operators
 - iii. Animal Welfare and Security
 - iv. Skin Piercing, Acupuncture, Electrolysis and Tattooing
 - v. Sex establishments (including Sex Entertainment Venues (SEV))
 - vi. Pavement Permits
 - vii. Charitable Collections
 - viii. Camping, Caravan Sites and Mobile Homes
 - ix. Scrap Metal
 - x. Game Dealers
- (e) Any other matters relating to licensing as may be referred to the committee for consideration.

- (f) To hear and determine licensing applications and appeals where objections and /or representations have been received in relation to any of the above functions.

- (g) To manage and monitor the budgets in respect of licensing and vehicle licensing.

2.6 Licensing Sub-Committees

To hear and determine applications that do not sit within the scope of delegation to officers, usually where representations have been received either by a third party against grant of a license, or from the applicant against intended refusal or revocation of a license/registration.

The Planning and Licensing Committee has delegated all functions other than relevant policies and fees setting to officers, with the exception of those other matters as indicated below, which are heard by licensing sub-committee unless otherwise indicated:

Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005

- (a) Determination of any application type where a representation has been received in accordance with the legislation.

- (b) Determination of applications for review or expedited review.

Hackney Carriage vehicles and drivers (including enforcement of ranks) and Private Hire vehicles, drivers and operators, with the exception of:

- (a) Suspension or revocation of drivers' licenses (save for initial suspension under provision of Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 S61 (2B) if it appears that the interests of public safety require the suspension to have immediate effect).

- (b) Where representation has been submitted by the applicant/license holder against refusal of any application.

- (c) Where representation has been received from an applicant to vary a licensing or pre-licensing condition.

Scrap Metal Dealing

- (a) Determination of applications where representations have been received against refusal in accordance with legislative requirements; and

- (b) Consideration of revocation of a license where representations have been received in accordance with legislative requirements

Street Collections and House to House Collections

- (a) Appeals against refusal to grant or renew a license.

Licensing of sex establishments

- (a) Determination of all applications, revocations and appeals.

Street Trading

- (a) Determination of applications where representation(s) has been received.
- (b) Determination of applications that fall outside of current policy.
- (c) Determination of matters relating to revocation of a license.

Acupuncture, Tattooing, Skin and Ear Piercing and Electrolysis

- (a) Appeals against refusal to grant or renew a registration.
- (b) Revocation of a registration.

Animal Welfare and Security, except for the following:

- (a) Appeals against refusal to grant or renew a license.
- (b) Revocation of a license.

Exercise of Powers under Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, except for:

- (a) Refusal and revocation of licenses, (other than urgent refusals which are delegated to officers)

Mobile Homes

- (a) Appeals against revocation of a license and/or conditions attached to the grant of a license.

2.7 Staff Appointments Committee (to meet on demand) has the following functions:

- (a) To appoint the following designated officers:

Head of Paid Service
Section 151 Finance Officer
Monitoring Officer

and such other posts as may be determined from time to time by Group Leaders in consultation with the Head of Paid Service.

- (b) To comply with the requirements set out in Chapter 4 of the Constitution (Staff Employment Procedure Rules).
- (c) To agree, review and amend to salary and grading structures for chief officer posts in line with the agreed remuneration policy.

2.8 Dismissal Appeals Committee (to meet on demand) has the following functions:

- (a) To consider and determine any appeal by the Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Officer or Monitoring Officer against dismissal.
- (b) To consider and determine any allegation or issue of misconduct, incapability or breakdown in trust against the Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer or a Deputy Monitoring Officer.

2.9 Dismissal Advisory Panel (to meet on demand) has the following functions:

- (a) To advise full Council on matters relating to the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer

NB. This Panel comprises three independent persons who are not Members of the Council.

Extract from Part 4.1 – Council Procedure Rules

18. Size

Committee	Membership	Quorum
Policy, Finance and Resources	9	3
Environment and Housing Management	9	3
Community, Health and Leisure	9	3
Planning and Licensing	12	4
Audit and Scrutiny	9	3
Staff Appointments*	9	3
Dismissal Appeals *	9	3

* These committees meet on demand.

20. Appointments and Substitutes

- 20.1 Following Annual Council, the Head of Paid Services on the nomination of Group Leaders, or in their absence, Deputy Group Leaders, appoints and removes members of committees and sub-committees.
- 20.2 A substitute Member may attend a particular meeting of the committee, and will have full powers of the committee Member, provided that the Member is a specified nominated substitute for that Member of the particular political group and in a list agreed by full Council. In the event that the absent committee Member is a non-aligned Member, the specified substitute for that Member can be any Member of the Council.
- 20.3 The names of substitutes shall be announced at the start of the meeting by the Chair. The substitution shall be for the whole meeting and cease at the end of the meeting.
- 20.3 The names of substitutes shall be announced at the start of the meeting by the Chair and the substitution shall cease at the end of the meeting.
- 20.4 Substitutes for regulatory committees must be drawn from Members who have received training in regulatory decision making. If a casual vacancy occurs on a regulatory committee it will not be filled until the nominated member has been trained.
- 20.5 All Members are entitled to attend the training provided for members of regulatory committees.