

# Public Document Pack



## Notice of Meeting: **Council**

**Meeting Location:**

Council Chamber, Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, Ealing W5 2BY

**Date and Time:**

Wednesday, 8 March 2023 at 7.00 pm

**Contact for Enquiries:**

**Email:** [democraticservices@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@ealing.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 020 8825 6253

**Chief Executive:**

Tony Clements

**This meeting will be held in public. If you would like attend in person and have any special requirements in order to attend, please email [democraticservices@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@ealing.gov.uk) or telephone on 020 8825 6253 at least three clear working days in advance wherever possible.**

### **Committee Membership: Councillors**

M Ahmed, S Ahmed, J Anand, P Anand, J Ball, J Blacker, G Busuttil, J Gallant, K Sahota, K Bains, C Anderson, T Sidhu, B Rai, R Dheer, B Mahfouz, C Summers, L Brett, D Crawford, A Young, P Driscoll, V Alexander, Y Gordon, H Haili, M Hamidi, B Hashani, C Hersch, M Iqbal, A Jammu, S Jassal, Y Johnson, H Kaur Dheer, A Kelly, S Khan, I Kingston, P Knewstub, S Kohli, S Kumar, K Dhindsa, T Mahmood, G Malcolm, S Manro, D Martin, J Martin, P Mason, M Midha (Mayor), F Mohamed, K Mohan, G Murtaza, K K Nagpal, K Nagpal, I Nijhar, S Padda, G Quansah, F Conti, A Raza, M Rice, R Baaklini, C Sharma, G Shaw, D Costigan, G Stafford, A Steed, K Crawford, H Tailor (Deputy Mayor), C Tighe, L Wall, R Wall, B Wesson, S Donnelly and A Zissimos

# AGENDA

14 Cabinet Portfolio and Responsibility Update

(Pages 3 - 8)

Published: Tuesday, 28 February 2023

## **FULL COUNCIL 8 MARCH 2023**

### **CABINET PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

Item added pursuant to Rule 5(b) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules

Council is asked to note that:

1. Cllr Lauren Wall resigned her position as cabinet portfolio holder for Genuinely Affordable Homes
2. The Leader has updated the responsibilities of the portfolio holder for Genuinely Affordable Homes, in accordance with his powers under Article 7.09 of Part 2 of the constitution. The portfolio responsibilities of that portfolio now comprise the following:

- The Social Housing Regulator referral and recovery plan
- Housing asset management,
- Fire health and safety,
- HRA including business plan,
- Housing allocations,
- Tenancy management including housing hubs,
- Homelessness & temporary accommodation management,
- Housing strategy,
- New housing supply including HRA and Broadway Living,
- Estate regen / renewal,
- Temporary accommodation (acquisition),

3. The Leader has appointed the following cabinet members to carry out the respective responsibilities of the portfolio holder for Genuinely Affordable Homes:

Cllr Steve Donnelly – Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy & Safe, Secure Council Homes

- The Social Housing Regulator referral and recovery plan
- Housing asset management,
- Fire health and safety,
- Housing allocations,
- Tenancy management including housing hubs,
- Homelessness & temporary accommodation management,
- HRA business plan (revenue & non-renewal capital projects)

Cllr Shital Manro – Cabinet Member for Good Growth & New Housing

- Housing strategy and policy
- New housing supply including HRA and Broadway Living,

- Estate regen / renewal,
  - Temporary accommodation (acquisition),
  - HRA business plan (renewal capital projects).
4. The Leader will put in place longer term arrangements in due course and report these to annual council



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Dear Peter,

I am writing to inform you that, due to personal family circumstances, I am no longer in a position to be able to carry out my cabinet responsibilities in full and am therefore, with great regret, resigning from my post.

I remain strongly committed to the renewed and inspiring vision you, as leader, have shown for the improvement of our borough and commend you for your hard work and determination to achieve it, and I have been very pleased to have been part of this during the past two years.

I am personally particularly proud of our many achievements so far. Perhaps the most salient has been our recognising and swift addressing of shortcomings we discovered along the road; the most important of which, for me, was the health and safety of the residents we provide homes for. Our resolve to refer ourselves to, and work with, the Regulator of Social Housing, with urgency, and to inform all interested parties immediately, stands as a testament to the strong commitment we made to be open and transparent at all times, even the most difficult.

There are many more achievements we have made since 2021 despite significant financial and capacity challenges and pressures as a direct result of the pandemic, Brexit, and the cost-of-living crisis – all made significantly much worse only days after Liz Truss announced her damaging mini-budget. I am so glad that our resolve to ride the tide and deliver on our manifesto commitments, despite the odds, never left us for a moment and the efforts we all put in to find a way forward are paying off.

I am proud that we are still able to provide the new homes we promised to build, homes that residents can genuinely afford to live in and genuinely afford to heat - and having witnessed housing and energy costs rise so sharply recently, homes that have never been so needed.

I am also very happy that we revised the way we allocate our homes so that the process is fair, efficient, and transparent and that we brought our Housing Revenue Account back onto a stable and financially sustainable footing for the future, which will ensure homes are safe, well maintained, insulated and free from hazardous damp and mould. We have also done much to relieve homelessness in the past two years. We have done our utmost to bring rough sleepers in from the streets and the cold and get them the support they need to get their lives back on track or medical needs attended to. Our ambitious acquisitions programme is enhancing the lives of families who find themselves in need of temporary accommodation after being made homeless and avoiding the need to place them in bed and breakfast hotels.

I would like to take this opportunity to say what a rewarding experience it has been for me and how much I have enjoyed the role, enjoyed working with you and the cabinet team and how very proud I



am of the energised good work the cabinet is doing and the real difference we are making to the lives of people in Ealing.

It is with regret that I must depart at this time and I very much hope to be able to re-join the team at some point in the future when my circumstances change.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Labour group and Cabinet colleagues, and in particular, yourself, Shital and Steve, for all the help and support you have given me in recent weeks.

With best wishes,

Lauren

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Wall'.

Councillor Lauren Wall  
Councillor for Northolt West End



Cabinet Office  
Perceval House,  
14-16 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2HL

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Dear Lauren,

Thank you for your letter.

Can I first start by wishing you and your family every bit of strength and fortitude. I know all of Cabinet and the Group will share these sentiments too. At any time, all of us will undoubtedly be faced by very challenging situations either personally or professionally. Having had the chance to speak with you about the challenges you are facing, I completely understand your reasons for stepping back from cabinet.

Let me say clearly that I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you, and have appreciated greatly the rigour, discipline and attention for detail that you have brought to the portfolio since joining cabinet in 2021. I have greatly appreciated your commitment to delivering the manifesto commitments to deliver genuinely affordable housing, to improving the quality of our housing stock, and to do everything we can to end rough sleeping. This has been despite the odds being stacked against us both by the financial challenges and legal shortcomings determined by government.

You have built over the last two years strong working relationships with senior officers, to oversee and give political direction to the serious improvements both required, and now being delivered in health and safety and resident engagement. Officers have always been clear with me that they greatly appreciate the high challenge, high support culture you have built with the team to enable strong performance and accountability, and I know that they will miss working with you. As will cabinet and I.

In the coming months, we will be topping out several Broadway Living housing developments, as well as bringing on stream a number of temporary accommodation homes brought under council control through the acquisition strategy you have overseen. None of which would have been possible without you, and if the circumstances allow and you are able, I hope you will consider joining me at one or two of the topping out ceremonies.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Councillor Peter Mason  
Leader of Ealing Council

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