

Brent Cultural Compact – Chair

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in Brent's Cultural Compact and the role of Chair. In 2026 Brent Council launched Brent Creates, a 5-year cultural strategy which positions culture as central to the borough's ambitions for health, education, regeneration and sustainability. The strategy has now moved into its implementation phase. A key delivery mechanism of the strategy will be via a new independent Cultural Compact which will take responsibility for pulling together key sector partners and stakeholders to deliver this far-reaching, diverse and ambitious plan to deliver real impact and change for Brent.

We are now seeking a Chair to lead the Cultural Compact and support this implementation. This is a unique opportunity to shape a newly established, borough-wide cultural partnership at a pivotal moment for Brent.

The Chair will work alongside a group of Trustees to drive cultural development and partnerships across Brent ensuring Brent Creates reaches its goals. They will be someone who can act as a senior ambassador for culture in Brent, who understands the borough and its communities and who can work across the public and private sectors to drive collaboration, income generation and change. They will have a clear interest and passion for the role that culture can play in generating positive impact.

This is an exciting new opportunity for an experienced and passionate leader to make a transformative impact on Brent and its communities.

About Brent Creates

Culture is a vital part of everyday life in Brent, and it can be felt across the entire borough. From our high streets and schools to parks, faith spaces and community centres, culture is a living and breathing part of Brent's diverse character and identity.

Brent Creates – our cultural strategy 2026 – 2031 – recognises the impact of culture on the borough's wide-reaching ambitions across diverse areas including health, education, regeneration and sustainability. It builds on Brent's rich and diverse cultural heritage and our designation as the London Borough of Culture in 2020.

The strategy was created through engagement with a range of local people and organisations across our cultural landscape and is based on six core strategic goals:

1. Inclusive Cultural Access
2. Creative Skills and Careers
3. Cultural Health and Wellbeing
4. Community-led Placemaking
5. Infrastructure and Investment
6. Environmental Sustainability

Its implementation will be delivered through a distinctive partnership model with programmes led through ViBrent, Creative Community Brent and the Brent Cultural Compact. The council will act as a facilitator and convenor – connecting partners, advocating for and leveraging investment to support cultural activity. Overall, the successful delivery of Brent Creates will hinge on collaboration across sectors, including internal departments (Public Health, Education, and Regeneration) with key roles play by Brent’s cultural organisations, community groups, and major venues.

Role and Structure of the Cultural Compact

To support the implementation of Brent Creates we are developing a Brent Cultural Compact which will launch in 2026.

A Cultural Compact is a strategic partnership which brings together diverse stakeholders such as local authorities, businesses, cultural institutions and grassroots community groups to promote and implement a shared vision for culture in a specific place. It is led by a Board of Trustees to advocate for and drive forward culture as a key determinant of promoting placemaking and regeneration. It is inherently designed to foster cross-sector collaboration and to leverage strategic investment by making the case for culture at the heart of our borough’s future strategy.

Brent’s Cultural Compact will, therefore, be an independent organisation which will work with other key partners across the borough, including Brent Council, ViBrent and Creative Community Brent. It will advocate for culture across the borough and ensure the successful implementation of Brent Creates and its vital role in supporting development and growth across the borough. Its final constitutional status will be determined by the Board in due course.

The Cultural Compact will focus on building partnerships across the borough both within and outside of Brent’s cultural sector to ensure culture remains at the heart of decision-making and positive change. The Chair will lead the Cultural Compact and establish its priorities and ensure a successful launch in 2026 whilst working in close partnership with the project leads at Brent Council.

Main Purpose of the Role

The Chair is responsible for the development and establishment of the Cultural Compact ensuring collaboration remains at its core. The role is focused on facilitating partnerships between the local authority, Brent's public and private sector and other key stakeholder groups to drive forward the vision behind Brent Creates – to ensure inclusion, wellbeing and growth across Brent through engagement with culture.

By the end of the first year, the Chair will have successfully established the Cultural Compact, built a strong and representative Board, and set clear strategic priorities to drive the delivery of Brent Creates.

Main Responsibilities of the Role

Strategic Leadership and Governance

- Chair Board of Cultural Compact including leading meetings ensuring all viewpoints are heard and considered
- Ensure effective governance of the Board
- Shape the priorities of the Compact in line with Brent Creates and its strategic delivery
- Lead the strategic delivery and drive the implementation of Brent Creates
- Represent Brent in meetings with key stakeholders within the cultural sector and with wider sectors across the borough including funders and delivery partners
- Lead the Cultural Company Board to work in close collaboration on implementing Brent Creates with key partners within the local authority, businesses and wider government as required

Strategy Implementation

- Ensure a joined-up approach to the implementation of Brent Creates across all key stakeholders ensuring key milestones are met and progress is appropriately evaluated and monitored
- Engage with a diverse range of stakeholders across multiple sectors to ensure the smooth implementation of key strategic programmes ensuring all stakeholders priorities are heard and considered

Income Generation

- Lead the development and implementation of fundraising strategy
- Work with the Cultural Compact Board, the Council and other key partners to unlock investment to support the implementation of Brent Creates including from statutory and private sources

Who We Are Looking For

We are looking for someone with a proactive, dynamic and strategic approach to leadership who truly believes in the value of culture to bring about change and drive impact, particularly in supporting young people. You will be someone with a knowledge of Brent and a passion for its diversity and potential. You will be someone who can build trust, lead and inspires others.

Your experience and knowledge will include an understanding and knowledge of Brent and its key communities. You will understand the role of culture in strategically connecting to key elements of wider borough goals and initiatives and will have a working knowledge of the funding ecology particularly for culture or wider charities. You will have the ability to work across the public and private sector and will be confident in the basic principles of charity governance and income generation.

We particularly welcome applications from individuals who reflect Brent's diverse communities and who are committed to equity, inclusion and widening access to cultural opportunity.

Person Specification

- A trusted and respected leader with a proven track record of engaging with diverse stakeholders
- Proven experience of working and/or living in Brent and understanding of the borough and its demography
- Experience of working effectively with a Board of Trustees or Directors
- Clear interest in and knowledge of the cultural sector and the role culture can play in delivering real change and impact

Desirable

- Income generation experience within a cultural or wider charity
- Experience of leading a Board of Trustees within a charitable setting

Terms and Conditions

Key Relationships Cultural Compact Board

Local Authority representatives across departments

Other strategy delivery partners including ViBrent and Creative Community Brent

Brent's wider culture and business sectors

Contract This is a voluntary role

Time Commitment

It is anticipated that the role will require, on average 10.5 – 12 days per year with an additional 3 – 5 days in the first 12 months to support establishing the Board.

An estimated breakdown is as follows:

Activity	Time Commitment	Detail
Chairing Board Meetings x 4	4 days per year	1 day per Board meeting to include meeting, prep and follow up time
Board Management including annual Board one to ones	2 days per year	Including meetings, prep and follow up time and ad hoc engagement with Board members
Events	1.5 days per year	Attendance at Brent-wide cultural events to build network and advocate for the work across the sector
Advocacy and General Engagement	3 days per year	Includes prep time and meetings with potential partners, funders and other key stakeholders
Board Recruitment	5 days in first 12 months	5 additional days spread across first 6 months in post to meet with, interview and on-board new Board members

How to Apply

We are working with [Achates](#) as our recruitment partner for this role.

To apply for role of Chair of the Brent Cultural Compact, please send a supporting statement outlining why you would be interested in the role and how you meet the person specification, and your CV to recruits@achates.org.uk.

Achates will review all applications on our behalf before sharing them with the Brent Council team for shortlisting.

If you would like an informal, confidential conversation about this role before application, please contact Vicki Grace at Achates Recruits on vicki@achates.org.uk. These conversations will not influence our selection process.

Closing date for applications	10am Tuesday 30 June
First Round Interviews	wc 6 July
Second Round Interviews	wc 13 July

If you require any of this information in an alternative format, then please email recruits@achates.org.uk.