

Review - Maximising Council Spaces: A Review of Business and Private Hire Opportunities

Committee name	Corporate Resources and Infrastructure Select Committee
Officer reporting	Anisha Teji, Democratic Services
Papers with report	Scoping Report for Review
Ward	All

HEADLINES

At its meeting on 9 January 2025, the Corporate Resources and Infrastructure Select Committee agreed to undertake a review into assessing the availability and utilisation of Council owned space.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee meet with officers and ask questions pertaining to the review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Witness Session One - 17 June 2025

The first witness session initiated the discovery phase of the review. It was attended by Karrie Whelan (Corporate Director of Place) and Fiona Sweet (Museums & Heritage Manager).

During the session, the Committee began by establishing a shared understanding of the current landscape and the use of spaces available for hire. Officers outlined the existing provisions, with particular attention given to the Cultural Team's role in venue hire. The discussion also explored the identification of key teams that could support the review moving forward.

Timelines were considered to determine how the review could best progress, including the need to gather data on all short-term hire spaces across services. Officers highlighted several challenges and broader issues that might impact the review, setting the stage for further lines of enquiry in future sessions.

Witness Session Two – 23 July 2025

The Committee will hear from Darren Deeks (Head of Libraries & Cultural Services) and his team on the work being undertaken in the libraries service.

Lines of enquiry for this session may include:

- Exploring the provisions already in place, particularly the work by the Cultural Team hiring venues.
- Challenges and any wider issues relating to the review.

- Establish how this can be extended on a wider scale

Further information on this witness session will follow.

Implications on related Council policies

A role of the Select Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet, who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

Select Committees directly engage residents in shaping policy and recommendations from the Committees are presented to Cabinet to consider, and ultimately seek to improve the way the Council provides services to residents.

Financial Implications

It is important that the Committee considers cost effective proposals that benefit resident taxpayers in relation to this review, which would ultimately be determined by Cabinet as part of the Council's broader budget planning process.

Legal Implications

None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.