

Minutes & Decisions

CABINET

7pm, Thursday, 13 February 2025

Meeting held at Committee Room 6 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW



Decisions Published on: 14 February 2025

Decisions come into effect, where stated, from: 5pm, 21 February 2025

Cabinet Members Present:

Ian Edwards (Chair)
Jonathan Bianco (Vice-Chair)
Martin Goddard
Susan O'Brien
Jane Palmer
Eddie Lavery
Steve Tuckwell

Members also Present:

Peter Smallwood OBE
Peter Curling
Stuart Mathers
June Nelson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Cabinet Members were present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS BEFORE THIS MEETING

No interests were declared by Members present.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST CABINET MEETING

The minutes and decisions of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 January 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

4. TO CONFIRM THAT THE ITEMS OF BUSINESS MARKED PART 1 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND THAT THE ITEMS OF BUSINESS MARKED PART 2 IN PRIVATE

It was confirmed that items of business marked Part 1 would be considered in public and those marked Part 2 in private.

5. 2025/26 BUDGET AND FUTURE MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY & BUDGET MONITORING

Consideration of this item was moved to the Cabinet meeting on 20 February 2025 at 7pm.

6. THE SCHOOLS BUDGET 2025/26

Consideration of this item was moved to the Cabinet meeting on 20 February 2025 at 7pm.

7. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet:

- 1) Note the significant homelessness pressure in Hillingdon, in line with national and London wide trends, and the increasing use of temporary accommodation to meet this need.**
- 2) Note the Temporary Accommodation Strategy and Action Plan in the Appendix.**
- 3) Agree to receive quarterly updates, or at a frequency as determined by the Cabinet Member, on progress delivering the Strategy and Action Plan, aligned with the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy and the impact on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, and to include details of actions being taken to bring empty homes across the Borough back into occupation.**

Reasons for decision

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth presented a report on the Temporary Accommodation Strategy and Action Plan, aimed at reducing costs and reliance on temporary accommodation in Hillingdon. As of January 2025, there were 1,275 households in temporary accommodation, with a significant increase in demand and costs. The Cabinet Member advised that the strategy focused on homelessness prevention, increasing housing supply, and financial sustainability. Key objectives cited included reducing homelessness demand, increasing housing supply, reducing temporary accommodation costs, and delivering long-term housing solutions. The Cabinet Member noted that the projected spend for 2024-2025 was £35.6 million, with a goal to reduce expenditure by £3.6 million in 2025-2026. Progress would be monitored and reported to the Cabinet. It was welcomed that the Residents' Services Select Committee was also reviewing homelessness, with a final report expected later in the year. The Cabinet noted the pressures, the strategy, and to agree to receive quarterly updates on progress.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for their efforts in addressing the national challenge of homelessness, which was particularly acute in London and by preparing a report that provided clarity in analysing the problem

and outlining solutions locally. The Leader requested that officers work to strengthen the Action Plan, where the measures needed to be more specific to determine whether targets were being met, with tighter target setting and monitoring, acknowledging that some estimates would be broad. The Leader asked the Chief Executive to take this forward and included within the next quarterly report to Cabinet.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None.

Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee
Expiry date for any scrutiny call-in / date decision can be implemented (if no call-in)	Cabinet's decisions on this matter can be called in by a majority of the select committee by 5pm, Friday 21 February 2025. If not called-in, Cabinet's decisions can then be implemented.
Officer(s) to action	Dan Kennedy / Debbie Weller
Directorate	Homes and Communities
Classification	Public - <i>The report and any background papers relating to this decision by the Cabinet are available to view on the Council's website or by visiting the Civic Centre, Uxbridge.</i>

8. REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet endorse and recommend the revised draft Local Development Scheme for adoption by Full Council.

Reasons for decision

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth introduced a report asking the Cabinet to endorse a revised local development scheme for adoption by the full Council. It was noted that this statutory requirement, under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, set out the Council's three-year programme for updating its planning policies. The update presented to the Cabinet was in response to the Deputy Prime Minister's request for all local planning authorities to publish a revised scheme by 6th March 2025, following changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. The Cabinet Member outlined the key objectives, which included ensuring compliance with national deadlines, introducing a three-stage local plan programme, and aligning local planning with the revised London Plan and housing targets. The scheme aimed to reduce legal challenges and delays, support sustainable development, growth, and high-quality housing and strengthen community engagement. It was noted that the cost would be met through existing budgets with minor additional expenditure for consultation and that failure to update the plan could result in Government or Mayoral intervention.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Cabinet's options were limited to meet the Ministerial requirement, and to minimise additional risks if the current plan was not updated.

Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee
Expiry date for any scrutiny call-in / date decision can be implemented (if no call-in)	This decision cannot be called-in and is referred to the full Council for determination.
Officer(s) to action	Julia Johnson / Gavin Polkinghorn
Directorate	Place
Classification	Public - <i>The report and any background papers relating to this decision by the Cabinet are available to view on the Council's website or by visiting the Civic Centre, Uxbridge.</i>

9. PUBLIC PREVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet note the reports to be considered later in private and Part 2 of the Cabinet agenda and comment on them as appropriate for public information purposes.

Reasons for decision

The Leader of the Council introduced the report which provided a public summary of the matters to be discussed in the private part of the Cabinet meeting later, increasing the Council's transparency.

Alternative options considered and rejected

These were set out in the public Cabinet report.

Relevant Select Committee	
Expiry date for any scrutiny call-in / date decision can be implemented (if no call-in)	This matter is not for call-in, as noting only.
Officer(s) to action	Mark Braddock
Directorate	Corporate Services
Classification	Public - <i>The report and any background papers relating to this decision by the Cabinet are available to view on the Council's website or by visiting the Civic Centre, Uxbridge.</i>

10. IMPROVEMENTS TO YEADING LANE ESTATE IN HAYES - EXTERNAL REPAIRS AND DECORATIONS 2024/25

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet:

- 1. Accept the tender from Greyline Builders Ltd for the provision of the External Repairs and Decorations – Phase 2 – Yeading Lane Estate, Hayes to the London Borough of Hillingdon for a period of 20 weeks at the value of £893k;**
- 2. agree to the capital release of £1,027k inclusive of contingencies and fees from the External Repairs and Decorations – Phase 2 – Yeading Lane Estate, Hayes to the London Borough of Hillingdon work-stream within the Works to Stock Programme 2024/25;**

Reasons for decision

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Property introduced a report, with recommendations that Cabinet approved, to accept a tender for external decorations and minor repairs at the Yeading Lane Estate, Hayes, following a competitive tender exercise.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Alternative options were considered by Cabinet as set out in the confidential report, primarily using more strategic contracts for such works, but these were discounted on value-for-money grounds.

Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure
<p>Expiry date for any scrutiny call-in / date decision can be implemented (if no call-in) Officer(s) to action Directorate Classification</p>	<p>Cabinet’s decisions on this matter can be called in by a majority of the select committee by 5pm, Friday 21 February 2025. If not called-in, Cabinet’s decisions can then be implemented.</p> <p>Merrick Knight Place</p> <p><i>Private - Whilst the Cabinet's decisions above are always made public, the officer report relating to this matter is not because it was considered in the private part of the meeting and contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it in accordance with Section 100(A) and paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).</i></p>

11. HILLINGDON'S PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet agree: -

1. To continue the contract with the Regional Adoption Agency (Ambitious for Adoption) which is a mandated requirement for local authorities, for the full extension period until 30th May 2029 at a cost of £2.35m;
2. Agrees that the Regional Adoption Agency contract be reviewed in line with the demand, ensuring timely permanency for our children and derisking the potential agency costs needed to meet the demand;
3. Any contract changes to be delegated to the Corporate Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education, who will also undertake regular contract monitoring.

Reasons for decision

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education introduced a report, with recommendations that Cabinet approved, to continue the Council's contract with the Regional Adoption Agency. The Cabinet Member noted that this would help improve local adoption services along with more efficient processes, and that there would be regular monitoring of the arrangements.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Cabinet considered the alternative options as set out in the confidential report, which were discounted due to their impact on the service and cost.

Relevant Select Committee	Children, Families & Education
Expiry date for any scrutiny call-in / date decision can be implemented (if no call-in)	Cabinet's decisions on this matter can be called in by a majority of the select committee by 5pm, Friday 21 February 2025. If not called-in, Cabinet's decisions can then be implemented.
Officer(s) to action	Poppy Reddy / Alex Coman
Directorate	Children's Services
Classification	Private - <i>Whilst the Cabinet's decisions above are always made public, the officer report relating to this matter is not because it was considered in the private part of the meeting and contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it in accordance with Section 100(A) and paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).</i>

12. CORPORATE DISPOSALS PROGRAMME 2024/25 - DISPOSAL OF SITE AT PUMP LANE, HAYES

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet:

- 1) Declares that the property at Pump Lane Hayes is now surplus to requirements; the property is shown edged red on the Land Registry title plan NGL411074 at Appendix 1.**
- 2) Authorises the disposal of the freehold interest of the land and buildings at Pump Lane Hayes UB3 3NB, on the terms and conditions detailed in this Cabinet report.**
- 3) Delegates all necessary future decisions regarding this disposal and the sale to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Property.**

Reasons for decision

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Property introduced a report, with recommendations that Cabinet approved, to proceed with the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in land at Pump Lane, Hayes, UB3 3NB to optimise the use of the Council's assets and ensure best value for taxpayers. Cabinet noted that the site included the Civic Hall and the Civic Hall Car Park.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Alternative options were considered by Cabinet, including redevelopment or retaining and modernising the site, as set out in the confidential report.

Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure
Expiry date for any scrutiny call-in / date decision can be implemented (if no call-in)	Cabinet's decisions on this matter can be called in by a majority of the select committee by 5pm, Friday 21 February 2025. If not called-in, Cabinet's decisions can then be implemented.
Officer(s) to action	Julia Thompson
Directorate	Place
Classification	Private - <i>Whilst the Cabinet's decisions above are always made public, the officer report relating to this matter is not because it was considered in the private part of the meeting and contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it in accordance with Section 100(A) and paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).</i>

13. IRRECOVERABLE CORPORATE DEBT

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approves writing off £55,495.32 in respect of Housing Benefit debt as set out in the report.

Reasons for decision

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Transformation introduced a report, with a recommendation which Cabinet agreed, to write-off housing benefit debt which was deemed as having no possibility of recovery due to the particular circumstances of the case.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None.

Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure
<p>Expiry date for any scrutiny call-in / date decision can be implemented (if no call-in)</p> <p>Officer(s) to action</p> <p>Directorate</p> <p>Classification</p>	<p>Cabinet’s decisions on this matter can be called in by a majority of the select committee by 5pm, Friday 21 February 2025. If not called-in, Cabinet’s decisions can then be implemented.</p> <p>Tiffany Boreham</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Private - <i>Whilst the Cabinet's decisions above are always made public, the officer report relating to this matter is not because it was considered in the private part of the meeting and contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it in accordance with Section 100(A) and paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).</i></p>

14. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN AGREES ARE RELEVANT OR URGENT

No further items were considered by Cabinet.

The meeting closed at 7.16pm

Internal Use only*	Implementation of decisions & scrutiny call-in
<p>When can these decisions be implemented by officers?</p>	<p>Officers can implement Cabinet’s decisions in these minutes only from the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period, unless otherwise stated in the minutes above, which is:</p> <p>5pm, Friday 21 February 2025</p>

	<p>However, this is subject to the decision not being called in by Councillors on the relevant Select Committee. Upon receipt of a valid call-in request, Democratic Services will immediately advise the relevant officer(s) and the Cabinet decision must then be put on hold.</p>
<p>Councillor scrutiny call-in of these decisions</p>	<p>Councillors on the relevant Select Committee shown in these minutes for the relevant decision made may request to call-in that decision. The call-in request must be before the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period above.</p> <p>Councillors should use the Scrutiny Call-in App (link below) on their devices to initiate any call-in request. Further advice can be sought from Democratic Services if required: Scrutiny Call-In - Power Apps (secure)</p>
<p>Notice</p>	<p>These decisions have been taken under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>This Cabinet meeting was also broadcast live on the Council's YouTube channel here for wider resident engagement.</p> <p>Please note that these minutes and decisions are the definitive record of proceedings by the Council of this meeting.</p> <p>If you would like further information about the decisions of the Cabinet, please contact the Council below: democratic@hillington.gov.uk Democratic Services: 01895 250636 Media enquiries: 01895 250403</p>