



HILLINGDON
LONDON



Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee

Councillors on the Committee

Michael Markham (Chairman)
Shirley Harper-O'Neill (Vice-Chairman)
Janet Duncan (Labour Lead)
Judy Kelly
June Nelson
Susan O'Brien

Date: TUESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY
2011

Time: 5.30 PM

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM 6 -
CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH
STREET, UXBRIDGE
UB8 1UW

**Meeting
Details:** Members of the Public and
Press are welcome to attend
this meeting

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

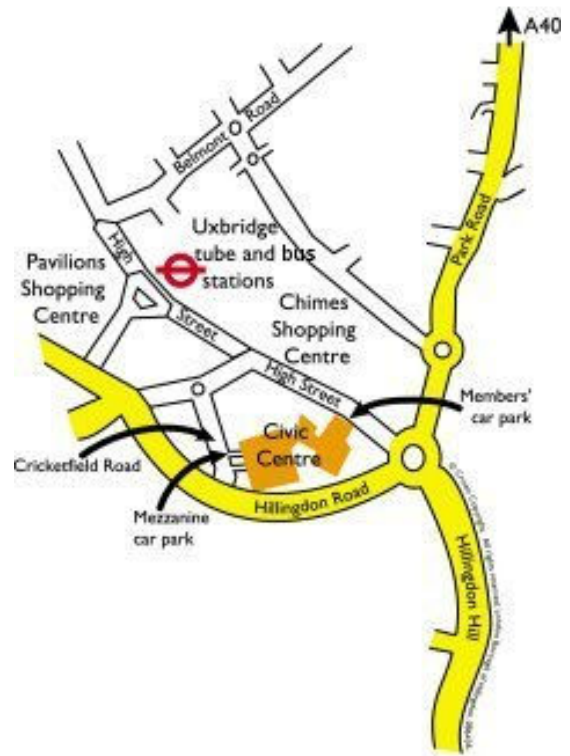
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Residents' & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee

Terms of Reference

To perform the policy overview role outlined below:

1. conduct reviews of policy, services or aspects of service which have either been referred by Cabinet, relate to the Cabinet Forward Plan, or have been chosen by the Committee according to the agreed criteria for selecting such reviews;
2. monitor the performance of the Council services within their remit (including the management of finances and risk);
3. comment on the proposed annual service and budget plans for the Council services within their remit before final approval by Cabinet and Council;
4. consider the Forward Plan and comment as appropriate to the decision-maker on Key Decisions which relate to services within their remit (before they are taken by the Cabinet);

In relation to the following services:

1. culture, arts and sport including the provision and/or management of museums, art galleries, theatres, archives and local history activities, libraries, leisure centres, swimming pools and other like facilities;
2. lifelong learning;
3. community safety;
4. the provision, planning and management of parks and open spaces, allotments, cemeteries, pitches and other like facilities;
5. transport, highways and parking;
6. waste management and recycling;
7. conservation and biodiversity;
8. safety education;
9. licensing and registration;
10. trading standards;
11. consumer protection;
12. environmental health functions
13. planning and building control
14. the Council's planning policies (including the Unitary Development Plan and other plans for the use and development of land), Local Agenda 21 Strategy and Local Transport (Implementation Plan).

Policy Overview Committees will not investigate individual complaints.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Declaration of Interest in matters coming before this meeting
- 3 To confirm that all items marked Part 1 will be considered in Public and that any items marked Part 2 will be considered in Private
- 4 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2011 1 - 4
- 5 Review 1 - Consideration of Hillingdon's Khat Consultation Paper 5 - 18
- 6 Forward Plan 19 - 30
- 7 Work Programme 2010 31 - 34

Minutes

**RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

18 January 2011



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

	<p>Committee Members Present: Councillors Michael Markham (Chairman), Shirley Harper-O'Neil (Vice-Chairman), Janet Duncan (Labour Lead), Judy Kelly, June Nelson and Susan O'Brien.</p> <p>LBH Officers Present: Jean Palmer (Director) Planning, Environment & Community Services Bill Ogden (Deputy Director) Corporate Landlord James Rodger (Head of Service) Planning & Enforcement Andy Evans (Head of Service) Finance & Business Services Ed Shaylor (Senior Manager) Community Safety Natasha Dogra, Democratic Services Officer</p>	
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>None.</p>	Action by
2.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>None.</p>	Action by
3.	<p>TO CONFIRM THAT ALL ITEMS MARKED PART 1 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND THAT ANY ITEMS MARKED PART 2 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>It was confirmed that all items on the agenda were marked Part 1 and therefore were considered in public.</p>	Action by
4.	<p>TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2010 (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The minutes of the RESPOC meeting held on 7 December 2010 were agreed as an accurate record.</p>	Action by
5.	<p>HILLINGDON'S KHAT CONSULTATION PAPER (<i>Agenda Item 5</i>)</p> <p>The Committee considered the consultation paper on Khat which had been circulated to previous witnesses and had been formally submitted to the Deputy Mayor of London. The deadline for comments on the paper was Friday 21 January 2011. Members asked officers how many people the paper had been sent to for comments. Officers informed Members that 80 past witnesses and external agencies had been sent</p>	Action by

	<p>the Consultation paper. The Committee were pleased that so many people had been given the opportunity to take part in Hillingdon's review of Khat, as it allowed those affected by Khat and senior officials to put forward their array of views on Khat to help the Committee with their review.</p> <p>Members considered some options for possible conclusions and recommendations to present Cabinet with. The Committee agreed that all witnesses had suggested that Khat needed to be classified, but no one knew what it needed to be classified as. Members discussed classifying Khat as a food stuff, but agreed that this would lead to Khat becoming a legitimate substance. Classifying Khat as a vegetable could seem as though it had some nutritional value. Members said calling Khat a good may send out a message to young people that Khat was fine for consumption, which was not what the Committee wished to do.</p> <p>The Committee likened Khat to chewing tobacco, as it had health affects yet was available for buying and selling. Members suggested that Khat should be classified in its own group as this would allow for health warnings and age restrictions to be enforced. Members agreed that this would form a final recommendation, as the Committee agreed that Khat needed to be classified as something.</p> <p>Members also agreed that classifying Khat would ensure an authority would be responsible for it and therefore take responsibility for health and safety checks on Khat imports at the Port of Entry. The Committee agreed that the Port of Health should hold this responsibility.</p> <p>Members were also informed that Senior Health Officials had been sent the Consultation Paper and may request a special meeting to discuss the Committee's findings next month.</p> <p>Noted: The Committee noted the Khat update and would discuss conclusions and recommendations at the meeting in February.</p>	
6.	<p>PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES BUDGET PROPOSALS 2011 (<i>Agenda Item 6</i>)</p> <p>Officers presented Planning, Environment and Community Services' budget report to the Committee.</p> <p>The budget report to Council for Council Tax setting for 2010/11 contained an initial savings requirement of £20.3m for 2011/12. As part of the continuing work on the HIP Business Improvement Delivery project, a budget strategy was devised to address this gap. Each group was given a specific savings target for 2011/12 to deliver through their BID programme, with the initial total savings target set at £10.5m. In addition groups were tasked with reviewing and reducing all pressures and a review was also started on all corporate pressures</p>	Action by

The revenue budget proposals had been developed to deliver a zero increase in Council Tax for 2011/12 whilst maintaining balances and reserves at £12m over the medium term.

The real challenge in delivering a balanced budget for 2011/12 was the development of significant savings of around £22m, more than double the £10.3m required in 2010/11. Those savings proposals had been developed alongside the in-year challenge of responding to a £3.6m government grant cut to funding in 2010/11. The main pressure for the Council to deal with was the income from Government Formula Grant reducing by an estimated £10.8m. This was partially offset through an additional central government grant enabling a freeze in Council Tax in 2011/12.

In addition to the £22m savings proposals are £3.8m of corporate pressures, £7.5m of service pressures, an allowance of £2m for inflation, proposals for £0.3m of growth and a reduction to the contingency requirement of £0.5m.

The development of savings proposals had concentrated on more efficient delivery methods and the new operating model and focusing on core services; and on not creating new pressures by providing services no longer funded by Central government, but instead seeking to avoid local impact as far as possible by new ways of working.

The draft capital programme for 2011/12 and indicative allocations for the following three years were detailed. The draft capital programme over four years was worth £256.5m with £105m of capital expenditure in 2011/12. This included funding for new General Fund projects of £8.3m for the development of Yiewsley Pool site which includes a new health centre, and a major refurbishment of the Central Library.

In addition, the capital programme provided almost £9m of funding for key ongoing programmes including the Chrysalis programme, the Leader's Older Peoples Initiative and the upgrade of local town centres; and £19m of funding for ongoing major projects such as the Libraries refurbishment programme, Highgrove Pool Phase II and the South Ruislip Development

The initial approach to the delivery of savings within Planning Environment & Community Services Group had been largely driven by the delivery of efficiencies through the merger of the former 2 groups of Planning & Community Services and Environment & Consumer Protection. The savings programme development had also focused on a rigorous review and questioning of expenditure across the combined Group, and has reviewed the scale of fees and charges. The work to date had identified savings of £3.45m in 2011/12. The savings had been developed within 3 main categories.

BID Efficiencies – The creation of 4 new service heads within the combined group had enabled large scale reorganisation, restructuring and removal of duplication. The next stage in the development of these

	<p>new service groupings would focus on the roll out of the Council's operating model in order to identify further savings opportunities.</p> <p>Expenditure Review – With the formation of the new Group the opportunity had been taken at a strategic level to question the need for services and method of service delivery in all areas. At an operational level the expenditure review process had also generated savings opportunities.</p> <p>Fees & Charges – Opportunities exist within the Group to review the scale of fees and charges, and a number of savings proposals had been developed on this theme.</p> <p>The Committee thanked Officers for a well presented report. Members thanked officers for taking a compassionate stance to job losses and understood the reasons for the proposed savings.</p> <p>To Note: The Committee noted the budget projections and combined budget proposals put forward by the Planning Environment & Community Services Group, within the context of the corporate budgetary position.</p>	
7.	<p>FORWARD PLAN (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p> <p>Noted: The Committee noted the Forward Plan.</p>	Action by
8.	<p>WORK PROGRAMME 2011 (<i>Agenda Item 8</i>)</p> <p>The Committee discussed the Work Programme for 2011 and thought it would be timely to formally agree their Town Twinning final report, as the report had been circulated for comments to the Committee prior to the meeting. Members were content with the final report and agreed for the report to be presented to Cabinet in February.</p> <p>Agreed: The Committee agreed the Review of Town Twinning final report.</p> <p>Noted: The Committee noted the Work Programme for 2011.</p>	Action by
<p>The meeting, which commenced at 5.30 pm, closed at 6.45 pm.</p>		

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Nadia Williams on 01895 277 488. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.



HILLINGDON
LONDON

THE HILLINGDON KHAT REPORT 2011

The story of Khat and the implications for the residents of Hillingdon and beyond

Contents

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- Part V: The Hillingdon story / health issues caused by Khat**
- Part VI: The Hillingdon story / crime and ASB issues**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Part I: The international story - from the desert to the UK

1. For centuries, the male elders of tribes in the Horn of Africa have spent their evenings out in the desert chewing the leaves of Khat, whilst talking over the day's events with their friends in convivial conversation. A cultural pastime that is still seen today.
2. Historically, Khat has been consumed because of its stimulant properties and its low production costs (Gebissa, 2010). To many, it is an inexpensive way to relieve the poor quality of life experienced in those areas.
3. Historically Khat has been used to treat various ailments such as depression. The New Testament contains the earliest written record of the medical use of Khat (Cox, 2003).
4. Harvested throughout the year in a variety of climates and soils, the evergreen shrub is cultivated as a small bush or tree. Its aromatic seedless leaves have a slightly sweet taste. The plant is sown as a seed and can take up to five years to mature enough to be consumed. It thrives in the arid desert conditions of Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the Yemen where over 100,000 hectares of land are used for its cultivation (Beckerleg, 2010). The plant is harvested in the early hours of the morning and by late morning it is sold in the market.
5. Khat is conventionally chewed, with only a small number of users consuming a drink made with dried Khat leaves. Khat leaves and stalks are chewed slowly to release the active ingredients of Khat which are swallowed with saliva. Leaves and stalks are chewed into a ball shape, which is characteristically stored in the user's cheek for a while.
6. Khat varies in strength from region to region. Kenyan Khat is considered to be the strongest and, thus, the most popular (Neil, 2007).
7. Once mature, the plants are cut by hand, made into bundles of some 250 grams in weight and wrapped in banana leaves to maintain freshness. Up to 200 bundles are then placed in cardboard boxes for transportation (RESPOC, 2010).
8. In addition to bundles, Khat can also be obtained via the internet as alcoholic drinks, some 40 per cent proof, as leaves for tea, as chewing gum, in seed form and as small plants (FreshGAT™, 2010).
9. The land used for its cultivation and sale is, it is believed, owned by a small number of companies with some of these companies thought to be officially controlled, particularly in those areas currently seeing internal conflict (Beckerleg, 2010).
10. These organisations utilise highly sophisticated methods of cultivation, production and transportation of Khat to all parts of the world, mainly by air.
11. Today, large refrigerated lorries transport the bundles of Khat from the areas of production to such airports as Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi and Moi International Airport in Mombassa for shipment to the UK.
12. Flights arrive daily from these airports to Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Manston in Kent (RESPOC, 2010).
13. This well managed and controlled supply chain management system ensures that the Khat arrives with the consumer within three to five days of cultivation. This is of significant

importance as Khat loses its potency the longer the time lapse between cutting and chewing (Books Llc, 2010). Three days is considered the maximum time of durability for chewing. However, it has become apparent that Khat can be frozen and still maintain a degree of potency.

14. It would seem to be a very big industry particularly in Kenya and subsequently, the Kenyan Embassy in London has been contacted by the Deputy Mayor of London's office to provide any information as to its value to the local economies and how many people are employed in production and distribution.
15. The total annual imports of Khat into the UK come from Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen and Somalia via Kenya. An annual total of around 1,95million kgs/1,917 tons. (RESPOC, 2010)
16. Each flight brings in over 36 tons of Khat a week equating to 7 tons per flight, there is one flight a day, five days a week. A total of 9,000 boxes or 1.8 million bundles each week being imported into the UK (RESPOC, 2010).
17. The demand for Khat has increased with the growth in the number of refugees and immigrants from the Horn of Africa who have moved to the UK.

Part II: The national story - Khat consumers

18. The main users of Khat come from Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen. The most recent recorded data that is from the 2005 ACMD report. The number of users are estimated at 400,000 people (200,000 men, 100,000 women and the rest children aged over 12 years (ACMD, 2005). It is estimated 300,000 are over 18 years old.
19. It was reported that an estimated 34 per cent of men are users – 68,000, an estimated 20 per cent of women are users – 20,000 women. A total of 88,000 users or consumers in the UK.
20. In London there are an estimated 50,000 users and approximately in Hillingdon there are 10,000 users.
21. It must be noted that these figures can not be substantiated due to lack of up to date or available data, although we have been informed that they reflect figures held by the Home Office.
22. Based upon the total street value of Khat imported into the UK (£468 million), and with an estimated 88,000 consumers, the average expenditure on Khat is circa £5,300 per user (RESPOC, 2010).
23. Of the total number of users we have two clearly defined group; occasional users and heavy users. Approximately eighty per cent are occasional users i.e. up to two bundles per week and one bundle at a time and spending around £10.00 to £15.00 a week (circa £780 per annum) on purchase (Buffin, 2008).
24. The balance can be defined as heavy users, consuming more than two or three bundles at a time, every day, at a cost of well over £100.00 per week. In addition, heavy users tend to chew Khat whilst smoking cigarettes and/or cannabis, drinking alcohol and eating food. Therefore, a heavy user's expenditure is very high per week. The vast majority of heavy users are men aged between 20 and 40 years (Turning Point).

25. Occasional users normally chew Khat in their own homes but heavy users meet with other Khat users in various types of buildings – called Khat houses or Mafreshi (Patel, 2007). Some can be described as cafes, others are private homes. In Hillingdon, they are mainly around the Hayes town centre. Many heavy users spend most of their days and nights at Khat houses with their friends.
26. There is anecdotal evidence that Khat is beginning to be used outside of the Somali community and therefore the type of environment used for Khat consumption will vary.

Part III: The national story - from Heathrow to the streets of Hillingdon

27. There are three agencies responsible for checking cargo into the UK:
 - UKBA handles security and VAT
 - Port Health Authority ensure that materials will not be of harm to consumers; and
 - DEFRA who ensure that plants are not imported that might have a damaging effect on indigenous flora and fauna.
28. Every container flown into UK airports is scanned for radio-active materials. Occasionally, the UKBA carry out spot check searches on individual containers to ensure that they contain what is put on the manifest. Last year Port Health at Heathrow carried out check on a shipment of Khat and found it to be unfit for human use due to dangerously high levels of pesticides (Date, 2003). However, they had to release the shipment as they did not have the jurisdiction to confiscate the shipment.
29. None of the above agencies are responsible for Khat imports. This is due to lack of clarity to its 'definition' and, therefore a lead authority cannot be identified.
30. Boxes of Khat are not checked by any agency and there are national security concerns that some of these boxes, particularly from Somalia, may contain other items, i.e. illegal drugs, other products, including, possibly, guns and explosives for use by terrorists in the UK and Europe.
31. There are also concerns relating to the smuggling of Khat from Heathrow into countries where it is illegal, particularly the USA. We understand that discussions are taking place between the UKBA and its US counterparts regarding steps that might be taken to prevent such activities.
32. Khat is banned in most countries, with the exception of the UK and the Netherlands due to two chemicals naturally found in the leaves - Cathonine and Cathine. These chemicals are considered to be constituents of Class C drugs. Although the report published by the UK's Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) in 2005 disagreed and recommended to Government that Khat need not be banned as an offence is only committed if Cathonine and Cathine are isolated from the Khat plant (ACMD, 2005).
33. Once at Heathrow, Khat is taken to a storage area where agents arrive to collect the boxes of Khat. The agent pays the VAT due on each box which is usually paid in cash by the agent. The total amount of VAT collected on Khat imports is in the region of £3 million per annum (RESPOC, 2010).
34. Boxes of Khat are put on large lorries and taken out of the airport domain to various nearby locations usually car parks. It has been estimated that each lorry load contains 10 to 20 large boxes. No one knows who controls these lorries.

35. From this point the boxes are bought by ‘retailers’ from across the UK.
36. Each box contains up to 200 bundles and costs each retailer around £35.00. On average, it takes approximately 2 hours for each lorry load to be sold (RESPOC, 2010).
37. Each retailer purchases, on average, 2 boxes (400 bundles) – a cost of £70.00 or 17p per bundle. The boxes are put in cars or vans for onward transportation to other London boroughs and to other UK cities such as Bristol, Manchester, Sheffield and Birmingham (RESPOC, 2010).
38. The bundles are then sold to the consumer/user for an average of £5.00 per bundle. A profit of approximately £4.30 per bundle to the retailer.
39. With each bundle being sold for an average of price £5.00, and with 1.8million bundles being imported each year, the UK street market value of Khat is around £9 million per week or £468 million per year.
40. Heathrow is also used as a channel to smuggle Khat into the USA. It is estimated that twenty per cent may be the amount illegally shipped to the USA each week (360,000 bundles or 900,000 kilograms). Based on a US street value of \$400 per kilo (ACMD, 2005), the US Khat market is worth some \$360 million per week. If this is the case, the amount of Khat used in the UK may, therefore, be reduced.
41. In Hillingdon, it is believed that there are off-licenses, cafes, restaurants and grocery stores selling Khat, mostly situated around a small area of Hayes in the south of the Borough (Uxbridge Gazette, 2010). These range from grocery type shops to cafes specially designed for Khat users known as Mafreshis.

Part IV: The Hillingdon story / Social issues caused by Khat

42. A culture-based and social activity, Khat chewing is thought to enhance social interaction. The plant is chewed at Yemeni and Somali social occasions to increase socialisation. Khat is also thought to be to a stimulant used to stay awake. We understand that nightshift workers use the plant to postpone fatigue and stay awake. There is also anecdotal evidence that students are experimenting with Khat in an attempt to boost mental performance prior to exams.
43. There are numerous social problems associated with the use of Khat, particularly caused by male heavy users.
44. These problems include a detrimental effect on family life – whereby the husband/father is unemployed, spending most days and nights and the majority of the family’s income at Khat houses. He is not at home to assist his wife in family matters, including managing the children. We have also been advised of instances of domestic violence. A significant proportion of Somalis also appear to be living in privately rented accommodation, much of it in poor condition. All these issues may result in family breakdown.
45. In addition, there are such issues as the noise and nuisance coming from Khat houses during the day and night and groups of heavy Khat users chewing Khat and spitting out chewed leaves on the pavements and smoking, drinking and shouting outside of the premises (RESPOC, 2010). This type of behaviour is seen to be very intimidating, anti social and is creating community tensions within these areas.

46. However, it must be said that there is no evidence to substantiate that Khat is the sole cause of these social problems.
47. It could be argued that it is the joint consumption with other substances and alcohol, along with the frustration of being unemployed, family issues, being alienated from the main stream community due to poor English and lack of personal esteem that together contribute to these social problems.
48. Whilst it is accepted that some Somali women chew Khat, there is no evidence that they also use Khat houses or, indeed, cause family or social problems.
49. It also appears that most Somali children recognise the dangers of the misuse of Khat and are not chewing it themselves. It seems that it is the over twenties who are giving most cause for concern (Nabuzoka, 2005).
50. There are over forty groups in the UK established to assist Somali refugees, fifteen in Hillingdon, with a broad range of remits (Mental Health Alliance, 2009).
51. In addition, in Hillingdon agencies such as HAGAM and Tageero, EACH and the Somali Mental Health Project also provide help and guidance to Somali families (Mental Health Alliance, 2009).

Part V: The Hillingdon story / Health issues caused by Khat

52. The potential health risks of Khat many and varied and, in most cases are dependent upon the physical and psychological manner of each individual, whether they are occasional or heavy users.
53. It is recognised that there is unlikely to be much harm from chewing Khat on an occasional basis i.e. once or twice a week. Although this does depend on each individual's metabolism.
54. It is also recognised that Khat can be addictive to some users but this could be due to the individual's personality as the same can be said for other substances like alcohol, tobacco and drugs (Kebede, 2002).
55. The main health problems associated with the heavy use of Khat include increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, insomnia, constipation, lethargy, hyperactivity, loss of appetite, diminishing sex drive, depression, tooth darkening, euphoria and hallucinations, and mental health
56. However, there is no clear evidence that Khat alone is causing these problems. It has become apparent in our finding that heavy users consume a range of other substances and it may well be that these health problems are caused by a number of factors.
57. Indeed, the misuse of any one substance or a mixture of a number can be detrimental to health.
58. Heavy users who have become addicted to Khat are able to receive help through national bodies such as Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). In Hillingdon the local NHS Trust, HAGAM, Tageero, EACH and the Somali Mental Health Project can also provide support and assistance for this and other related issues (Mental Health Alliance, 2009).

59. Unfortunately, co-ordination between agencies, in terms of helping Khat users could be handled better, although we understand that it is intended to establish clearer channels of communication and to take a more positive multi-agency approach when dealing with heavy users of Khat.

Part VI: The Hillingdon story / Crime and anti social behaviour issues

60. Of concern to resident groups and the Police in Hayes, Hillingdon (where the majority of Khat users in the Borough live, are the effects of such anti social behaviour as the noise from Khat houses day and night, together with groups of heavy Khat users chewing, smoking, drinking, urinating, shouting and spitting out chewed leaves on the pavements outside of these buildings and in local streets (Uxbridge Gazette, 2010).

61. However, the vast amount of anti social behaviour is not caused by Khat users but by youngsters aged 14 to 20 who use Khat houses as a base for meetings and for smoking cannabis and drinking alcohol (Bashford, 2003).

62. To overcome such anti social behaviour, it is possible for local Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams to close down Khat houses by applying for Anti Social Behaviour Orders or a Closure of Premises Order under the Anti Social Behaviour Act.

63. It is believed that some Khat users are driving whilst still under its influence, although there is no evidence to confirm this, although a biochemical test is now commercially available to detect Khat constituents in urine (Cox, 2003).

64. Other than occasional anti social behaviour, no other criminal acts are considered to be undertaken by Khat users.

65. From a policing point of view, it is accepted that banning Khat will not stop its use but drive it underground and in the hands of criminal gangs – if such gangs are not already involved. Further, if it is made illegal the social circumstances that are already an issue may be exacerbated i.e. if the majority of the household income is already funding the use of Khat what are the possibilities of other activities taking place if there is no more money in the budget.

66. There is unanimous agreement that Khat requires a classification so that it can be regulated in some form, although there is no firm view as to what that classification might be at the moment.

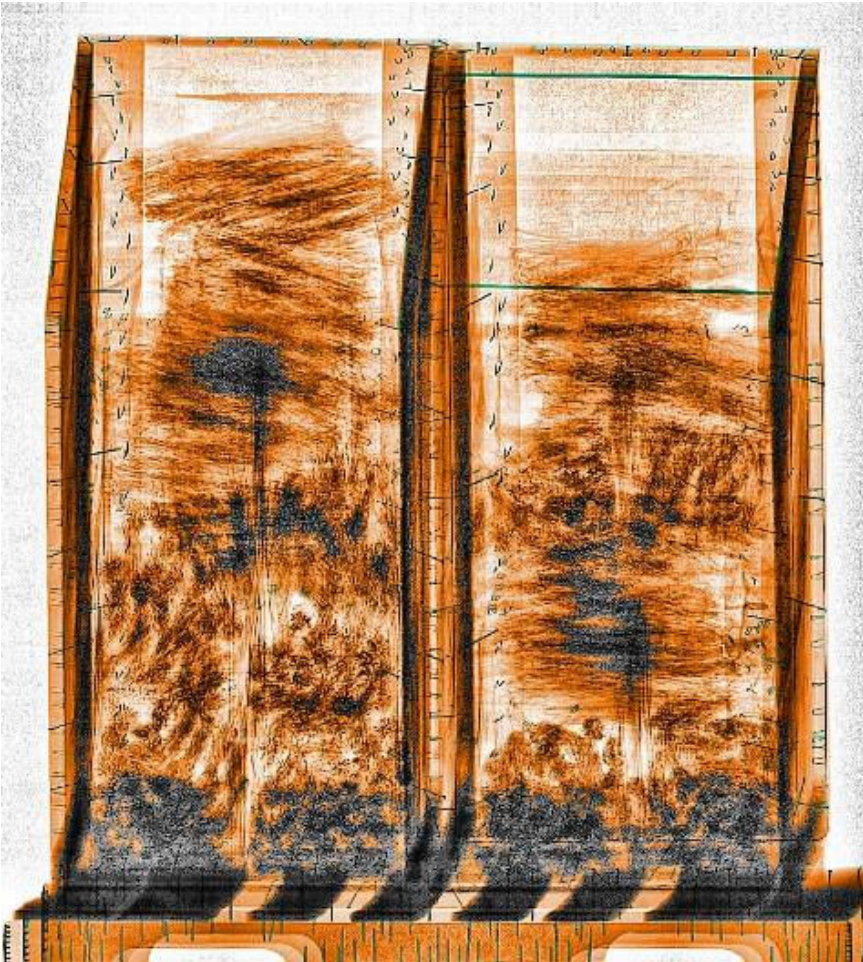
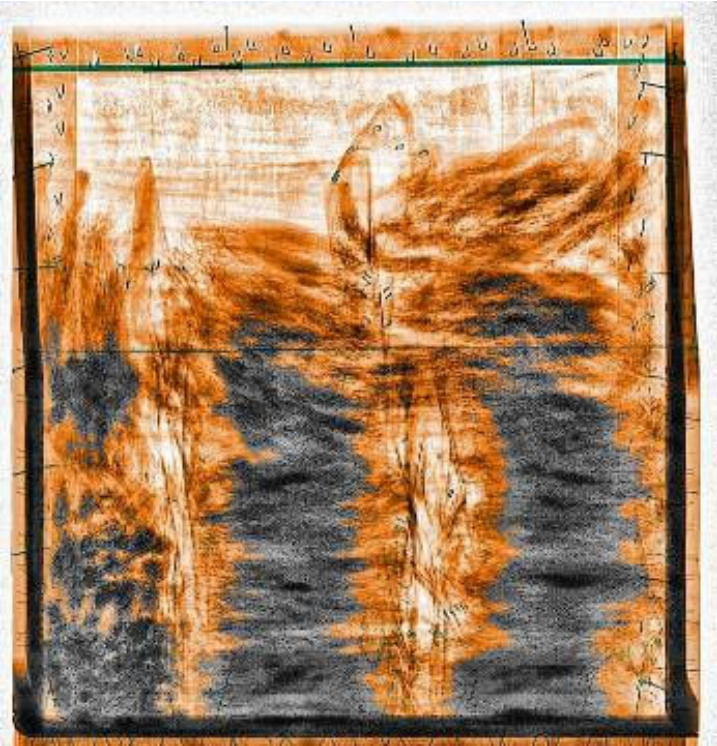
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X-Ray images of Khat shipments



Outer crates often of heavy cardboard or plywood construction (sometimes wrapped in black plastic)

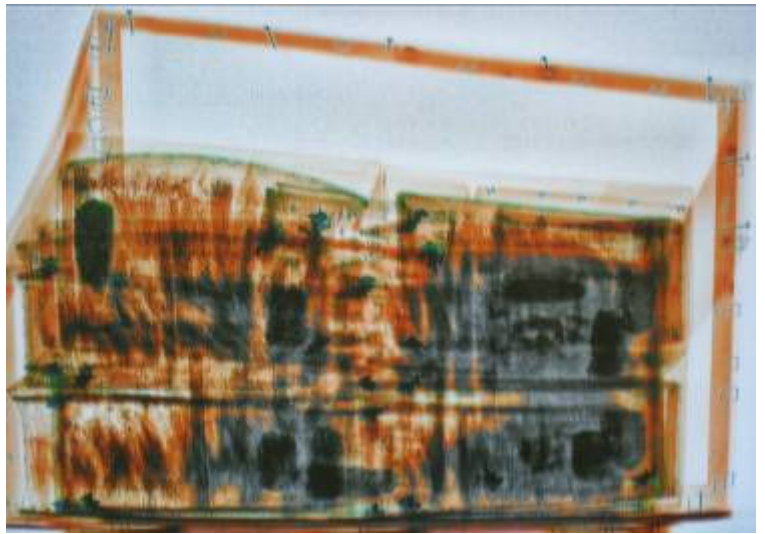
Inner cardboard boxes / cloth bags containing bundles of Khat





Outer cardboard box containing computer tower carcass with concealed bundles of Khat





Khat bundles hidden inside "Video Rocker Gaming Chair"



Typical x-ray image of Khat bundles with stalks clearly visible

FORWARD PLAN: 2010 – 2011

**Contact officer: Natasha Dogra
Telephone: 01895 277488**

REASON FOR ITEM

The Committee is required by its terms of reference to consider the Forward Plan and comment as appropriate to the decision-maker on key decisions which relate to services within its remit (before they are taken by Cabinet or Cabinet Member).

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

- To comment on items going to the Cabinet or Cabinet Members for decision.
- Or to note the items and decide not to comment.

INFORMATION

The Forward Plan

1. The Forward Plan for the following months has been published. Those items that are within this Committee's remit are shown on the attached version of the Forward Plan. The Committee may wish to consider these items and comment to the decision-maker.
2. Committee Members are requested to send in any questions they have on any items in the attached Forward Plan or in the published Cabinet agenda and reports, and to request any officers that they wish to be present to give advice.

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- To consider whether there are comments or suggestions that the Committee wishes to make that will aid Cabinet's decision-making.

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The Cabinet Forward Plan

Ref	Report Title	Advance information	Ward(s)	Report to Full Council	Cabinet Member(s) Responsible	Officer Contact	Consultation	Background Documents	NEW ITEM
<small>ASCH&H = Adult Social Care, Health & Housing; DCEO = Deputy Chief Executive's Office; E&CS = Education & Children's Services; F&BS = Finance & Business Services; PECS = Planning, Environment & Community Services</small>									
CABINET - 17 FEBRUARY 2011									
553	Parking Enforcement Contract extension	In May 2008, Cabinet recommended that the Parking Enforcement Contract be awarded to Mouchel Traffic Services Ltd. This provides services for an initial period of three years with a possibility of extending the contract for a further two years. The contract commenced in August 2008 and this report considers the extension until August 2013.	All		Cllr Keith Burrows	PECS - Roy Clark	Corporate Teams		
554	7 Breakspear Road North, Harefield	Cabinet will be asked to approve that 7 Breakspear Road North is declared surplus to requirement and to consider selling the property.	Harefield		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	PECS - Mayur Patel			
539	Procurement of Building Works at Hayes End Library Site	To accept a tender for the demolition of the existing library and the construction of a new library and 15 one and two bedroom residential flats including external works and parking.	Charville		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	PECS - Chris Mafico			
531	Progress Report on the Disabled People's Plan	This report provides Cabinet with a performance update on the delivery of the Disabled People's Plan for 2010/11.	All		Cllr Philip Corthorne	ASCH&H - Beverley Grayley			
533	Regulation of Street Entertainment (Busking)	Cabinet will be asked to consider consultation responses and final approval for regulation of street entertainment (Busking).	Town Centre Wards		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	PECS - David Frost / Bill Hickson			

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514	The Council's Budget - Medium Term Financial Forecast 2011/12 - 2014/15	Following consultation, this report will set out the Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF), which includes the draft General Fund reserve budget and capital programme for 2011/12 for recommendation to full Council for approval.	All	24-Feb-11	Cllr Jonathan Bianco	F&BS - Paul Whaymand	Public consultation through the Policy Overview Committee in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework rules and statutory consultation with business ratepayers	Local government finance settlement information on DCLG website	
SI	Reports from Policy Overview Committees	Scheduled for this Cabinet meeting is a review from the Residents' & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee on the effectiveness of current Town Twinning arrangements.	TBC		as appropriate	DCEO - Democratic Services			Updated
SI	Monthly Council Budget - monitoring report	The Cabinet receives a monthly report setting out in detail the council's revenue and capital position.	All		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	F&BS - Paul Whaymand			
CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS - FEBRUARY 2011									
468	Direct Payments Policy	This report will ask Cabinet to agree a revised policy for Direct Payments. The Direct Payments Service provides independent advice and support to people in receipt of a direct payment or considering a direct payment including assistance with recruitment of personal assistants, advice on being an employer and assistance with pay roll.	All		Cllr Philip Corthorne	ASCH&H - Beverley Grayley / Barbara Apgar			Moved from Dec 2010
538	Street Naming Policy	The Leader of the Council will be asked to approve a revised Street Naming Policy for the Borough, including the approval of any street names that have recently arisen.	All		Cllr Ray Puddifoot	PECS - James Rodger			Moved from Jan 2011

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522	Mobile Solutions Contract	The Cabinet Member will be asked to decide whether to extend a contract for mobile voice and data solutions for the Council for a period of 1 year from April 2011.	N/A		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	F&CS - Steve Palmer	Corporate Teams	Cabinet Report - March 2009	
SI	Standard Items taken each month by the Cabinet Member	Cabinet Members make a number of decisions each month on standard items - details of these standard items are listed at the end of the Forward Plan.	Various		All	DCEO - Democratic Services	Various	Various	
CABINET - 17 MARCH 2011									
558	New Years Green Lane Civic Amenity Site	Cabinet will receive an update on the site redevelopment and be asked to take any relevant or related decisions.	Harefield		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	PECS - Bill Ogden	Corporate Teams		NEW
569	Low Cost Home Ownership - Contract Award for New Build in Hillingdon	In January 2011 Cabinet agreed to accept the £725,000 grant from the Homes and Communities Agency to build 29 units of new low cost housing for purchase by Hillingdon residents. Cabinet also approved that officers conduct a tender in order to identify the most appropriate developer and specialist advisers to deliver the homes. This report now seeks Cabinet approval to award contracts to a Contractor, Employers Agent and CDM Co-ordinator (to advise on health and safety). The Council will then be able to be in contract by 1st April 2011 in order to ensure that the allocation of grant can be retained. These new build homes will be developed on garage and small infill sites originally approved by Cabinet in March 2008. The delivery of the 29 new homes is Phase 2 of the Council's Housing Revenue Account Pipeline Scheme.	Northwood Hills, Botwell, Uxbridge North, Pinkwell, Townfield, Brunel, South Ruislip		Cllr Philip Corthorne and Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	ASCH&H - Paul Feven	Corporate Teams		NEW

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570	West London Framework Agreement for Temporary Accommodation Procurement and Management	The report seeks the Cabinet's authority for the council to take part in a joint procurement scheme with other West London local authorities to develop a framework agreement with providers for the supply of Temporary Accommodation for homeless people which can be used to prevent homelessness as well as discharging the Council's duty to house. The scheme is referred to as Private Managed Accommodation and will involve a framework of providers procuring and managing accommodation directly from the private sector. The scheme will therefore increase the supply of properties to help meet the council's demand for temporary accommodation.			Cllr Philip Corthorne and Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	ASCH&H - Paul Feven	Corporate Teams		NEW
530 Page 24	Amendments to Regulation of Street Trading	Cabinet will be asked to consider the consultation responses and final approval of additions and amendments to Street Trading Terms & Conditions (Regulations) under London Local Authorities Act to accommodate streamlining of the application process for community events and delegation of authority.	Town Centre Wards		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	PECS - David Frost / Bill Hickson			Moved from Jan 2011 Cabinet
541	Water Quality Services	To accept a tender for the provision of Water Quality Services for the monitoring of water supplies across all Council buildings.	All		Cllr Jonathan Bianco & Cllr Seaman-Digby	PECS - Geoff Eldridge			

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503b	Gatehill Farm Estate Conservation Area Status	As part of the ongoing programme of review of the Borough's Conservation Areas, Gatehill Farm Estate Area of Special Local Character (ASLC) has been reconsidered. It is felt that the area is eligible for designation as a conservation area. Following the public consultation, the report informs the Cabinet of the outcome of the consultations and seeks approval for upgrading Gathill Farm Estate Area of Special Local Character as Conservation Area.	Northwood Hills		Cllr Keith Burrows	PECS - Nairita Chakraborty	Ward Councillors, local residents, owners and other interested groups within the proposed area	Various	
SI	Quarterly Planning Obligations Monitoring report - Quarter 3	Regular monitoring report with information about spending on section 106 (developer contribution) monies.	All		Cllr Keith Burrows	PECS - Jales Tippell / Vanessa Scott		Previous Cabinet Reports	
SI	Reports from Policy Overview Committees	Major Policy Review recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet as and when completed.	TBC		as appropriate	DCEO - Democratic Services			
SI	Monthly Council Budget - monitoring report	The Cabinet receives a monthly report setting out in detail the council's revenue and capital position.	All		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	F&BS - Paul Whaymand			
CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS - MARCH 2011									
SI	Standard Items taken each month by the Cabinet Member	Cabinet Members make a number of decisions each month on standard items - details of these standard items are listed at the end of the Forward Plan.	Various		All	DCEO - Democratic Services	Various	Various	
CABINET - 14 APRIL 2011									

Ref	Report Title	Advance information	Ward(s)	Report to Full Council	Cabinet Member(s) Responsible	Officer Contact	Consultation	Background Documents	NEW ITEM
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565	Tender for the supply of Tyres and associated repair services	The report will outline the tender process carried out by Procurement to provide replacement tyres and repair services for the Fleet of Vehicles operated by the Council. Following the evaluation of tender submissions the report will recommend a contract award for a 3 year period with a possible 2 year extension.	N/A		Cllr Keith Burrows and Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	PECS - David Fisher	Corporate Teams		NEW
568	Award of contract: Housing Support Services for People with Complex Needs	A set of specialist accommodation-based and floating services to support people with low-level complex needs has been competitively tendered. This report recommends to Cabinet award of contract to the successful provider. The new service will enable people to live independently within the community rather than in institutional settings that are unnecessary and expensive. The new service will be delivered with efficiency savings for the council and the new contract is focused on an improved set of outcomes for improving the lives of service users.	All		Cllr Philip Corthorne and Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	ASCH&H - Paul Feven	Corporate Teams		NEW
549	Borough Transport Strategy - Local Implementation Plan 2011-14 (Policy Framework)	Following the expected decision in December 2010 by Cabinet to consult on this 4 year transport strategy for the Borough, the Cabinet will be requested to formally endorse it. As a policy framework document Cabinet may recommend it to full Council for formal adoption. It will detail the fund allocation approved by Transport for London for the Borough up to 2014.	All	12 May 2011	Cllr Keith Burrows	PECS - Jales Tippell	Various stakeholders and the relevant Policy Overview Committee		
SI	Reports from Policy Overview Committees	Major Policy Review recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet as and when completed.	TBC		as appropriate	DCEO - Democratic Services			

Ref	Report Title	Advance information	Ward(s)	Report to Full Council	Cabinet Member(s) Responsible	Officer Contact	Consultation	Background Documents	NEW ITEM
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SI	Monthly Council Budget - monitoring report	The Cabinet receives a monthly report setting out in detail the council's revenue and capital position.	All		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	F&BS - Paul Whaymand			
CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS - APRIL 2011									
SI	Standard Items taken each month by the Cabinet Member	Cabinet Members make a number of decisions each month on standard items - details of these standard items are listed at the end of the Forward Plan.	Various		All	DCEO - Democratic Services	Various	Various	
CABINET - 26 May 2011 (date tbc)									
SI	Reports from Policy Overview Committees	Major Policy Review recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet as and when completed.	TBC		as appropriate	DCEO - Democratic Services			
SI	Monthly Council Budget - monitoring report	The Cabinet receives a monthly report setting out in detail the council's revenue and capital position.	All		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	F&BS - Paul Whaymand			
CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS - MAY 2011									
SI	Standard Items taken each month by the Cabinet Member	Cabinet Members make a number of decisions each month on standard items - details of these standard items are listed at the end of the Forward Plan.	Various		All	DCEO - Democratic Services	Various	Various	
CABINET - 23 June 2011 (date tbc)									

Ref	Report Title	Advance information	Ward(s)	Report to Full Council	Cabinet Member(s) Responsible	Officer Contact	Consultation	Background Documents	NEW ITEM
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552	High Speed 2 - Consultation Response	The Cabinet will give a comprehensive and robust response on behalf of the Borough and its residents to the anticipated Government consultation on proposals for a High Speed Rail route potentially impacting upon the Borough.	West Ruislip, Manor, Ickenham, South Ruislip, Harefield and beyond		Cllr Keith Burrows	PECS - Jales Tippell	Residents, Residents Associations and relevant organisations within the Borough, other local authorities.	Department for Transport Consultation Documents	Updated date
SI	Quarterly Planning Obligations Monitoring report - Quarter 3	Regular monitoring report with information about spending on section 106 (developer contribution) monies.	All		Cllr Keith Burrows	PECS - Jales Tippell / Vanessa Scott		Previous Cabinet Reports	
SI	Voluntary Sector Leases Report	Regular report on discounted leases to voluntary sector organisations that benefit residents and the wider community	All		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	PECS - Gregory Morrison			
SI	Reports from Policy Overview Committees	Major Policy Review recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet as and when completed.	TBC		as appropriate	DCEO - Democratic Services			
SI	Monthly Council Budget - monitoring report	The Cabinet receives a monthly report setting out in detail the council's revenue and capital position.	All		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	F&BS - Paul Whaymand			
CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS - JUNE 2011									
SI	Standard Items taken each month by the Cabinet Member	Cabinet Members make a number of decisions each month on standard items - details of these standard items are listed at the end of the Forward Plan.	Various		All	DCEO - Democratic Services	Various	Various	

CABINET - 28 July 2011 (date tbc)

Ref	Report Title	Advance information	Ward(s)	Report to Full Council	Cabinet Member(s) Responsible	Officer Contact	Consultation	Background Documents	NEW ITEM
ASCH&H = Adult Social Care, Health & Housing; DCEO = Deputy Chief Executive's Office; E&CS = Education & Children's Services; F&BS = Finance & Business Services; PECS = Planning, Environment & Community Services									
563	Local Development Framework - Core Strategy and Development Management Documents (Policy Framework)	Following consultation, Cabinet will be asked to recommend to Council the adoption of an amended Core Strategy.	All	08/09/2011 (tbc)	Cllr Keith Burrows	PECS - Jales Tippell	Public consultation has been carried out during the preparation of the documents.	Draft Core Strategy and Development Management documents.	NEW
564	West London Waste Plan: Proposed Sites and Policies	Following consultation by the six West London boroughs - Hillingdon, Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hounslow and Richmond-upon-Thames, Cabinet will be asked to approve an up-to-date policy framework to assess planning applications for waste management facilities - also forming part of the Local Development Framework for each Borough.	All		Cllr Keith Burrows	PECS - Jales Tippell			NEW
SI	Reports from Policy Overview Committees	Major Policy Review recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet as and when completed.	TBC		as appropriate	DCEO - Democratic Services			
SI	Monthly Council Budget - monitoring report	The Cabinet receives a monthly report setting out in detail the council's revenue and capital position.	All		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	F&BS - Paul Whaymand			

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RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 2010-11

Contact Officer: Natasha Dogra

Telephone: 01895 277488

REASON FOR ITEM

All Committee meetings will begin at 6.00 p.m. That the Committee consider revisions to the scheduling of existing meetings based upon review topics during 2010/11 as set out below:

WORK PROGRAMME

8 June 2010	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review Discuss – to discuss potential review topics for 2010/11.
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
27 July 2010	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review 1 – to consider various scoping reports and decide on one or two review topics for 2010/11.
	LDF - Core Strategy: Consultation on Policy Framework document.
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
22 September 2010	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review 1 – Witness Session: Importation and Distribution
	Review 2 – Consideration of Scoping Report
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.

7 October 2010	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review 1 – Witness Session: Social
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
16 November 2010	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Statement of Licensing Policy - consultation update
	Annual Safety at Sports Ground Report – Committee update.
	Review 1 – witness session: Health
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
07 December 2010	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review 1 – witness session: crime and anti-social behaviour
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
18 January 2011	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review 1 – to consider conclusions and recommendations
	Review 2 – to agree the final report
	Budget Reports for consideration
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
15 February 2011	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review 1 – to consider the final report
	Review 1 – National witness session (tbc)
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
9 March 2011	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review 1 – to agree the final report

	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
12 April 2011	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.

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