

Draft Final Report of this Committee's Major Review: Impact of a Pandemic in Hillingdon and the Effects on Council Services

Contact Officer: Khalid Ahmed
Telephone: 01895 250833

REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to consider its findings contained in its draft final report into the review into the impact of a Pandemic in Hillingdon and the effects on Council services.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. To make suggestions or amendments to the report and to give consideration to the proposed recommendations based on the evidence provided during the review

INFORMATION

- i) The review into the impact of a Pandemic in Hillingdon and the effects on Council services commenced on 7 July 2009. Three witness sessions have taken place where Members have heard evidence from Council officers on the existing business and continuity plans which are in place to enable the Council to counteract a Pandemic. Another witness session focussed on communications and the plans which were in place in schools if there was an expected upsurge of Pandemic Flu, together with a presentation from the Primary Care Trust on the work of the Hillingdon Flu Pandemic Committee.
- ii) As a result of the first two witness sessions and because of the urgent need to implement recommendations, an interim report of the review was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 15 October.
- iii) Cabinet agreed the following:
 1. *“That Cabinet ask officers to consider, if feasible, the following initial recommendations of the Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee which relate to their review into the effects of a pandemic in Hillingdon and the effects on Council services:*
 - a) *That a skills and knowledge audit be undertaken of the Council's workforce to build up a computerised database. This information to include details about staff who have been vaccinated against the swine flu virus, those who have had swine flu, those with children*

and childcare responsibilities, those staff who were front line staff and those that come into contact with the public.

- b) That enhancements be considered to the Council's Constitution to provide further contingency arrangements for the decision making processes of the Council, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.*
- c) In order to mitigate the impact of a major pandemic, officers ensure that business and continuity plans are in place at all educational and care establishments operating within the borough. This includes but is not limited to playgroups, nurseries, schools, further education and higher education establishments as well as social care homes.*

2. That progress on implementing the above is reported back to Cabinet as and when the Policy Overview Committee submits its final report."

- iv) At the last witness session Members heard evidence from an officer from Adult Social Care, Health and Housing who provided Members with details of the business and continuity plans for the service and which indicated that the Council was well prepared in this respect. In addition at the last meeting Members heard evidence from a representative from Brunel University and from the Head Teacher of Hayes Park Primary School who provided reassurance to the review that the organisations were well prepared for a Pandemic.
- v) This draft final report contains details on the overall review, together with some draft recommendations for Members to discuss.

PAPERS WITH THE REPORT

Draft of the Review's Final Report - Appendix 1