

Residents' & Environmental Services POC Review - Using Our Water: Improving Efficiency and Developing Long-Term Strategies

Recommendations	Updates
<p>1. That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services considers asking officers to facilitate regular meetings with Affinity Water, Council leisure centre operators and the Greater London Authority to share best practice, foster stronger partnerships and develop a strategic approach to reducing the water usage of the Council and its partners.</p>	<p>The Compliance Team will lead on this area and set up regular meetings with all stakeholders to develop a strategy for the LBH.</p>
<p>2. That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services requests officers to liaise with schools to pass on information regarding water-saving measures and encourage small-scale initiatives to reduce usage.</p>	<p>The Compliance Team will lead on this and communicate via the schools forum.</p>
<p>3. That Cabinet commend the work already undertaken by officers to receive detailed billing data from Affinity Water and commit to pursuing this until it is agreed as a long-term measure.</p>	<p>Officers met with Adam White Account Manager at Affinity Water on 26th November 2014. The structure of Affinity's billing system meant that producing a comprehensive overview of Hillingdon's water usage would take longer as the sites are not set up under a parent account. An initial report was received from Affinity in December 2014. Officers identified that the report from Affinity did not contain a complete list of the Authorities Accounts. An exercise is in progress to use this information to build the database of the Authorities water accounts and meters on the Council's Energy Management software. This involves a comparison of Affinity data, water invoices paid on the financial system Oracle, and then a gap analysis with Asset data on the Energy Management software. Site details, Account numbers, meter size, VAT status and meter serial numbers are being recorded. This is an essential task as the Council will need to have a comprehensive and accurate list of its water portfolio in preparation for the deregulation of the water market in April 2017. (As of 16/06/2015 details of 123 accounts and meter details have been entered into the Energy</p>

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	<p>Management software.)</p> <p>Currently Affinity cannot provide billing data in an electronic format that could be uploaded into the software to produce consumption data. Officers have provided Affinity with information on the electronic invoice formats used by the Council's gas and electricity suppliers so that Affinity can develop their systems in line with current best practice. It is likely that Affinity will develop these systems in time for water deregulation in April 2017.</p> <p>Officers attended a presentation on Water Deregulation on 15th May 2015 by Laser (The Council's Energy Buying group) Laser is preparing an OJEU compliant framework that is anticipated to be complete in advance of the market opening. Contact has been made with Matt Hull at Laser who is leading on Water deregulation.</p>
<p>4. That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services considers that, once data is provided, officers undertake a comprehensive audit of the Council's water usage and produce a league table highlighting key users across the estate with a view to identifying areas for efficiencies.</p>	<p>In order to be most beneficial this audit should be undertaken once the data gathering task is complete so that prioritisation can be determined correctly. Laser have indicated that they can assist with reviewing the water portfolio to identify incorrect tariffs, potentially leakage, incorrect VAT application etc. Completion of this task will ensure that the Council's water portfolio is in good shape in preparation for tendering for Water Deregulation.</p>
<p>5. Notwithstanding the provision of detailed billing data from Affinity Water, that the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services requests officers to investigate the viability of gradually upgrading to smart metering across the Council's estate as a means through which to monitor real-time water usage and report findings back to the relevant Cabinet Members in due course.</p>	<p>It would be advantageous for the Council to adopt AMR (Automatic Meter Reading) meters at the commencement of Water Deregulation in April 2017. The reason for this is that the cost of AMR and data access will fall as Water companies use this as one of the 'added value' services to attract customers. At this point there should also be standardisation of meter technology.</p>

<p>6. As part of the budget planning process, that the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services requests officers to investigate the use of a borehole at the Rural Activities Garden Centre as a spend-to-save project and report findings back to relevant Cabinet Members in due course.</p>	<p>Subsequent to the drafting of the recommendations by the committee it was determined that it would not be expedient to implement a borehole at this site at this point in time. This decision was informed by an agreement with Affinity Water that they improve the mains water pressure available at the site which was a cheaper and more efficient option than a borehole. The recommendation was therefore not accepted by Cabinet, and so has not progressed any further.</p>
<p>7. That the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation & Recycling considers the inclusion of the following areas in the Local Plan Part 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Stronger and clearer policies on sustainable drainage in the Borough including the use of at-source collection; b) Water conservation policies relating to a wider range of planning developments than just major developments. 	<p>The Councils Flood and water management Officer has actively updated the Local Plan Part 2 Policies. There is clearer and stronger emphasis on sustainable drainage and at source collection. The policies now have a number of references to 'all new development' (with exclusions being conversions rather than major developments).</p>
<p>8. That the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation & Recycling considers that officers investigate the viability of amending, as an interim measure, policy EM1 point 11 to remove the word “major” thereby making it applicable to a wider range of planning developments in the Borough.</p>	<p>A number of practical issues merged with altering the policy stance in the already adopted Part 1 Local Plan. The emphasis has therefore been placed on making sure the views of RESPOC are reflected in the detailed Part 2 Policies. It should also be noted that the Flood and Water Management Officer has successfully requested details of the whole water cycle impact on non major developments where she has thought it desirable to receive such information as part of planning submissions since the RESPOC review in any case.</p>