

FOLLOW-UP: MATTERS FOR CLARIFICATION FROM THE LAST MEETING

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REASON FOR REPORT

To follow-up any clarifications and information requests agreed by the Committee undertaking their role scrutinising the decisions and reports from the last Cabinet meeting. These matters are for noting only and not for call-in. If a particular Member wishes for further clarification on the information provided below, this will be for the Committee to determine.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

That the Committee note the information provided.

CABINET – 23 JANUARY 2020

The Committee gave consideration to the reports and the decisions made by Cabinet at this meeting and sought further information or clarifications in the reports as set out below. The information is provided below by Council officers.

Committee clarification	Officer response
<p>Equalities and stronger communities report</p> <p>On the report relating to the Council's updated equalities and stronger communities policies, the Committee sought clarification on what sort of coordinated approach the Council undertakes with schools on the matter.</p>	<p>Please see full response in Appendix A.</p>
<p>Budget monitoring report</p> <p>On the budget monitoring report, Members noted the recent announcement of increased borrowing costs for debt sourced from HM Treasury's Public Works Loan Board and that the report noted that this would affect the cost of future borrowing. The Committee sought more detail on the loans affected within Hillingdon.</p>	<p>The Council's current loans with the PWLB are all fixed rate and therefore are unaffected by the recent announcement, as only new PWLB borrowing is subject to the new and higher interest rate.</p> <p>As noted in the report the Council's planned capital investment programme is generating a forecast borrowing requirement of £224,603 over the MTF period 2019/20 - 2023/24. Officers are in the process of reviewing alternative options for future borrowing in response to the increase in PWLB rates, which it is hoped can mitigate an element of the increased cost.</p>

Promoting Stronger Communities and equality in Hillingdon

Working with schools

Working with schools is an integral part of the approach undertaken by the Stronger Communities Partnership in delivering objectives in relation to community cohesion, integration and tackling hate and extremism.

Schools are expected to ensure that they undertake their legal duties for safeguarding, equality and Prevent and that they work in partnership with the Local Authority.

The council works with schools in a number of ways to ensure that we are undertaking a Borough-wide approach to these duties.

1. Partnership working

Schools' representatives are members of the Stronger Communities Partnership (the Chair is the Head teacher from one of our local primary schools).

School representatives are members of the Hillingdon Prevent Partnership.

2. Training

Schools access training for staff from the local authority relating to equality, Prevent and wider safeguarding matters.

For example 4000 plus school staff have received Prevent training since 2014.

Level 1 safeguarding training is provided to schools by the Council.

3. Safeguarding

The Council facilitates termly safeguarding leads meetings with schools.

Schools representatives attend the safeguarding children's board meetings.

The Council's Prevent lead works closely with school safeguarding leads in managing Prevent related concerns and referrals.

4. Resilience

The Council works with schools to deliver a number of different programmes and activities in order to enable young people to have awareness and build resilience.

These are some examples:

Junior citizens programme.

Led by the Fire service and supported by the Council, Brunel University London, NHS, MPS, TfL, RNLI and others. This programme delivers key safety and citizenship messages to year six pupils as part of preparing them for moving on to secondary school and becoming more independent. Over 4000 pupils take part and receive messages relating to internet safety, knife crime awareness, drug and alcohol, fire safety, travel safety, road safety, water safety.

Hillingdon Voices United project

The project, supported by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, aims to strengthen community cohesion, build resilience and improve community relations, enabling the local community to work together to raise awareness and understanding of hate crime and extremism and how to tackle these issues. We want to encourage more young people to feel confident in challenging hate and discrimination and in promoting greater understanding, respect and unity.

Participating learners have produced infomercials, poems, lesson plans, documentaries and more. This work will form part of a community learning resource to be utilised by other schools and local community organisations.

Phase one came to a successful conclusion with three schools presenting learning around challenging hate and extremism to an audience of teachers, governors, councillors, parents, faith and community organisations at Brunel University London. Pupils demonstrated learning via documentary, PowerPoint and poetry in 2018.

Phase two involved further schools, college, university, adult learning providers and Hillingdon Women's Centre engaging, producing poetry, short stories, infomercials (i.e. video), posters, lesson plans and more, challenging hate and discrimination, celebrating diversity and community.

Pre and post project questionnaires demonstrated over 90% of participants reporting an increase in confidence in reporting hate crime.

This project has been funded for a further two years.