

## COMMITTEE REVIEW - MAKING THE COUNCIL MORE AUTISM-FRIENDLY

<b>Committee name</b>	Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Steve Clarke, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Papers with report</b>	Draft Review Report – Making the Council more autism-friendly
<b>Ward</b>	All

### HEADLINES

The Committee has been undertaking a review into making the Council more autism-friendly. Following conclusions for the review's recommendations to Cabinet, a draft report has been prepared by officers for the Committee's consideration.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee:**

- 1) Agrees the final report in principle and recommendations and endorses its submission to Cabinet for due consideration;**
- 2) Delegates any minor drafting changes required prior to the report's submission to the Cabinet to the Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Lead as required.**

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The agreed Terms of Reference for the review are set out below:

#### Terms of Reference

1. To understand the different types of autism and how residents' lives can be impacted by autism, including the direct views of local residents with autism;
2. To understand national legislation and guidance about autism and consider how the Council is currently complying with this;
3. To assess the work already taken across front-line services and other all-age council services areas, to be aware of and support autistic people when they access our services;
4. To review autism friendly actions and initiatives across the voluntary, private and public sector to improve customer experience when accessing services;
5. To consider feasible, practical ways the Council could, going forward, make its front-line services more autism friendly;

6. To influence or propose any emerging Council plans, guidance or policies with respect to autism;
7. Subject to the Committee's findings, to make any conclusions, propose actions, service and policy recommendations to the decision-making Cabinet.

### **Review update**

At the meeting on 23 October 2019, Members agreed that the Committee's next major review topic would be 'Making the Council more autism-friendly'. Following this agreement, Members conducted a detailed review into the chosen topic.

This information has now been set out within a draft final report, alongside the recommendations that were discussed at the meeting on 19 January 2021. This draft final report will be circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting on 25 March 2021, and it is requested that the Committee consider the draft final report for endorsement to Cabinet.

Should any minor drafting changes to the report be suggested by the Committee at the meeting or otherwise prior to submission to Cabinet, the Committee is asked to delegate authority for this. This would be to enable minor textual changes only and not to the main body of the report or its recommendations.

### **Implications on related Council policies**

The role of the Policy Overview Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

### **How this report benefits Hillingdon residents**

Policy Overview Committees directly engage residents and external partners in the work they do. These recommendations are aimed at improving the accessibility of Council services to Hillingdon residents with autism.

### **Financial Implications**

The Committee's review recommendations are not expected to lead to any significant financial implications and are primarily aimed at supporting best practice within existing resources. However, a full financial review of the recommendations will be undertaken as part of the standard reporting process to Cabinet.

### **Legal Implications**

The Committee's review sets out the statutory background and emerging legislation in relation to Autism.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Autism Review Scoping Report

Previous Committee papers on the review published on the Council's website