

CABINET REPORT 07 JULY 2022: COUNCIL STRATEGY 2022-2026

Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Ian Edwards
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Leader of the Council
Officer Contact(s)	Dan Kennedy, Central Services
Papers with report	Appendix 1 – Draft Hillingdon Council Strategy 2022-2026

HEADLINES

Summary	<p>Hillingdon Council is committed to putting its residents first. Through strong leadership, sound financial management and transforming how it works, the Council will ensure it provides high-quality services residents expect in the most efficient way.</p> <p>The four-year council strategy presented in this report provides a clear vision and a comprehensive framework of commitments to residents which continue to enhance the Borough, continuously improve council services, represent value for money and meet residents' needs.</p> <p>Cabinet is asked to consider and approve the draft four-year council strategy for consultation and to agree to receive the findings of the consultation and any recommended changes in the Autumn, prior to approving the strategy for adoption by full Council.</p>
Putting our Residents First	This report presents a four-year strategy for the Council with clear commitments to put our residents first.
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report, with ongoing development of the Council's medium Term Financial Forecast and Budget Strategy being aligned to the Council Strategy.
Relevant Select Committee	All Select Committees
Wards	All.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet:

1. Approves Hillingdon's draft Council Strategy 2022-26 in Appendix 1 for consultation and;
2. Agrees to receive the final Council Strategy 2022-2026 in October 2022, informed by the findings from the proposed consultation process, in order to recommend the Strategy to full Council for adoption.

Reasons for recommendation

Hillingdon's draft Council strategy sets out a clear vision for the Borough and the Council, for the next four years and forms a key element of the policy framework. Approval is sought from Cabinet to approve the strategy for consultation, to ensure that residents and partners have the opportunity to consider and comment on the commitments. The consultation stage is prior to Cabinet approving to recommend Council adopt the strategy in the Autumn.

Alternative options considered / risk management

No alternative options were considered. The draft strategy sets out the vision and priorities for the council over the next four years and consideration of resident and partner feedback arising from the consultation will ensure the council continues to put residents first.

Democratic compliance

The Council Strategy is a policy framework document as set out in Chapter 4 of the Council's Constitution. Consideration of this Strategy is, therefore, to be undertaken in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules and these require the Cabinet to set out a timetable for the Strategy's adoption, to include a minimum 6-week consultation period and consideration by the relevant select committees. The following timetable is proposed:

1. Consultation draft to Cabinet – 7 July 2022
2. Minimum 6-week public consultation period and select committees (July / August 2022)
 - a. Finance & Corporate Services Select Committee – 13 July 2022
 - b. Health & Social Care Select Committee – 19 July 2022
 - c. Children, Families & Education Select Committee – 20 July 2022
 - d. Residents' Services Select Committee – 21 July 2022
 - e. Property, Highways & Transport Select Committee – 28 July 2022
3. Cabinet consideration of final draft, consultation and select committee responses – 13 October 2022
4. Council adoption of Council Strategy – 17 November 2022

Select Committee comments

None at this stage. As a policy framework document, comments from Select Committees will be presented to Cabinet following the conclusion of the consultation process.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Hillingdon Council continues to put residents first in everything it does. This includes our excellent waste and recycling services, investing in footpaths and roads, providing high quality leisure facilities and award-winning green spaces, building new affordable homes, enhancing schools, supporting local high streets, tackling the effects of climate change, protecting residents from harm and supporting residents to live independent and healthy lives, the Council is committed to making a difference.
2. The Council's approach of strong leadership, sound financial management and transforming how it works will continue to ensure high-quality services and facilities residents expect are provided in the most efficient way.
3. The draft Council Strategy 2022-2026 builds on the successes of the Council to date and sets a clear vision, the ambition for residents and the council, and commitments to residents over the next four years to continue to respond positively to changing demands and requirements.

Our Ambition for Residents

Hillingdon is a safe, inclusive, green, more digital borough with a strong economy.

Our Ambition for the Council

We will strive to be an efficient, well-run, digital-enabled council working with partners to deliver services to improve the lives of our residents.

Commitments to Residents

1. Safe and Strong Communities

Hillingdon is a safe place with resilient, strong communities with access to good quality, affordable housing.

2. Thriving, Healthy Households

Children, young people, their families and vulnerable adults and older people live healthy, active and independent lives.

3. A Green and Sustainable Borough

Hillingdon will be a sustainable, carbon-neutral borough, protecting Hillingdon's heritage, built environment and valued green spaces. Residents will live in pleasant neighbourhoods with access to sustainable waste management and transport.

4. A Thriving Economy

We are actively working with local businesses and partners to create a borough where businesses grow within a strong economy and local people can improve their skills and enjoy good quality jobs.

5. A Digital-Enabled, Modern, Well-Run Council

We are a well-run, sustainable council with sound financial management, achieving positive outcomes for residents.

4. The draft strategy (appendix 1) provides a broad, overarching framework for effective business planning and strong performance management within the Council to drive the transformation of services to continue to meet the changing needs and expectations of residents.
5. The Council wants to hear from residents, community groups, partners and businesses about the details set out within the draft strategy. Cabinet is, therefore, asked to agree that the draft plan is subject to a consultation process to engage meaningfully with residents, the community and businesses to inform the final strategy, to be presented to Cabinet in October 2022.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommended consultation and subsequent consideration by Cabinet of the draft strategy. As outlined above the strategy will provide the overarching framework within which the Council will deliver for residents, with development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Forecast and Budget Strategy to be undertaken in pursuit of these ambitions and commitments.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

The four-year council strategy presented in this report provides the vision and a comprehensive framework of commitments to residents which seek to continue to enhance the Borough and continuously improve council services to be modern, represent value for money and meet residents' needs.

The proposed consultation stage for the strategy will seek views from residents, partner organisations and businesses to ensure comments are considered prior to finalising the strategy.

Consultation carried out or required

The report recommends Cabinet approves a consultation stage with residents, partner organisations and businesses to seek views on the proposed four-year strategy to inform the final strategy to be presented to Cabinet in October 2022. The consultation will involve a structured survey available to all residents, promotion through a variety of channels, pro-active contact with partners and engagement with residents' associations. The consultation stage will invite comments from all Select Committees.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and draft Council Strategy, noting that the ambitions set out for both Residents and the Council will inform ongoing development of the Medium-Term Financial Forecast and Budget Strategy. As noted above, there are no direct financial implications arising from the development of and consultation on the draft Council Strategy.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report at the current time. More detailed legal advice will be given to Cabinet in October 2022, following the outcome of the consultation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Appendix 1 – Draft Council Strategy 2022-2026

Hillingdon Council

Our Borough

Hillingdon is a prosperous, modern, diverse and connected London Borough. It is the westernmost borough in Greater London with a population of just over 309,000. Hillingdon has outstanding facilities and opportunities that position the borough to be a great place to live, work, study and do business.

- Hillingdon is the second largest of London's 32 boroughs, covering an area of 42 square miles (11,571 hectares) and located just 14 miles from central London.
- A diverse and vibrant population, with 92 spoken languages in the Borough.
- Home to Heathrow Airport, historically the region's biggest employment site supporting the economy, jobs and local services.
- An excellent strategic location for business, with good transport connections including the London Underground Metropolitan, Piccadilly and Central lines, the Elizabeth Line, the national rail network and air, as well as major UK motorways (M4, M25 and M40).
- A Borough with more than 16,000 businesses. As well as a vibrant local business sector, Hillingdon has one of the highest concentrations of major international and European headquarters outside of the City of London and the West End.
- A green borough where town meets country - with 800 acres of woodland, country parks, fields and farms, several rivers and the Grand Union Canal. The borough maintains more than 200 green spaces, totalling around 1,800 acres (730 hectares).
- A place for learning - home to more than 100 schools, Uxbridge College, Brunel University and a campus for Buckinghamshire New University.
- Three hospitals – The Hillingdon Hospital, Mount Vernon and the Harefield Hospital.
- Cultural and art offers – local theatres, visitor attractions and heritage trails.

Our Vision

Putting Our Residents First

Our Ambition for Residents

Hillingdon is a safe, inclusive, green, more digital borough with a strong economy. We want all our residents to:

- Live active and healthy lives.
- Enjoy access to green spaces, leisure activities, culture and arts.
- Live in a sustainable borough that is carbon neutral.
- Be / feel safe from harm
- Live in good quality, affordable homes in connected communities.
- Stay living independently for as long as they are able.
- Achieve well in education, with opportunities for learning at all ages.
- Have opportunities to earn an income that supports their families.

Our Ambition for the Council

We will strive to be an efficient, well-run, digital-enabled council working with partners to deliver services to improve the lives of our residents.

Our Commitments to Residents

1. Safe and Strong Communities

Hillingdon is a safe place with resilient, strong communities with access to good quality, affordable housing. We will;

- Work to keep residents safe from harm.
- Actively work in partnership with the Police, other partners and communities to prevent and tackle crime, including anti-social behaviour and drug-related crime.
- Support residents to play an active role in resilient and respectful communities.
- Take enforcement action to protect residents and the environment.
- Enable more new homes to be available, in the appropriate places.
- Increase the number of affordable homes available each year.
- Prevent and tackle homelessness, including rough sleeping.

2. Thriving, Healthy Households

Children, young people, their families and vulnerable adults and older people live healthy, active and independent lives. We will;

- Work with partners, including schools, to deliver a range of innovative programmes that help improve the health of our residents and tackle differences in health outcomes.
- Support the most vulnerable residents in our communities to live independently.
- Develop housing options for vulnerable adults and older people that promotes active independent living.
- Develop innovative ways for residents to access early advice and support when they need it, to help prevent needs escalating.
- Work with the NHS and other partners to continue to develop joined-up services to meet the health, care and support needs of residents in the community, including the development of a new Hillingdon Hospital.
- Work with partners to ensure better access to healthcare in the community
- Explore ways to work innovatively with the voluntary sector to help improve health and wellbeing outcomes for residents.
- Ensure every Hillingdon child has access to a school place, including children with additional needs.
- Improve educational outcomes with partners and work to reduce the achievement gaps for children, including those with vulnerabilities and special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Have access to 'Good' and 'Outstanding' local education settings
- Increasing supported employment and apprenticeships for vulnerable people.
- Develop opportunities to support children with social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing at an early stage.
- Improving digital access for all
- Develop programmes that enrich the lives of young people and support them to move successfully into adulthood and be ready for work.

3. A Green and Sustainable Borough

Hillingdon will be a sustainable, carbon-neutral borough, protecting Hillingdon's heritage, built environment and valued green spaces. Residents will live in pleasant neighbourhoods with access to sustainable waste management and transport. We will;

- Work towards being a carbon-neutral organisation by delivering Hillingdon's Climate Action Plan with partners, including planting more trees and enabling investment in new sustainable infrastructure. Create opportunities to increase biodiversity across the Borough.
- Protect the heritage, built environment, green belt, parks and open spaces.
- Promote sustainable transportation, including walking, cycling, the use of public transport and electric vehicles.
- Help residents and businesses to reduce waste and increase recycling.
- Help to improve the energy efficiency of homes.

4. A Thriving Economy

We are actively working with local businesses and partners to create a borough where businesses grow within a strong economy and local people can improve their skills and enjoy good quality jobs. We will;

- Work with partners and local businesses to promote investment and business growth, including attracting new companies to the Borough.
- Procure services that supports local businesses and adds social value.
- Work in partnership with local employers and other stakeholders to provide opportunities for residents to learn new skills, to find local jobs and progress into better-quality jobs.
- Strengthen the digital infrastructure in the Borough.
- Create opportunities for investment in sustainable local infrastructure to support economic growth.
- Work with partners to help tackle low pay.
- Support thriving multi-purpose, viable town centres, including creating a new master plan for Uxbridge.
- Target support to help residents out of financial hardship.

5. A Digital-Enabled, Modern, Well-Run Council

We are a well-run, sustainable council with sound financial management, achieving positive outcomes for residents. We will;

- Be a strong leader of joined-up public services for Hillingdon residents.
- Promote resident engagement in connected communities.
- Embrace technology to be efficient and make it easier for residents to use council services.
- Make the best use of our land and buildings.
- Ensure value for money in the procurement and delivery of services.
- Continue to review and develop services to achieve the best possible outcomes for residents and communities.
- Develop a diverse, committed and skilled workforce in the Borough.