

HILLINGDON'S CANALS

Committee name	Residents' Services Select Committee
Officer reporting	Liz Penny, Democratic Services Officer
Papers with report	Hillingdon's Canals – "Hidden Asset and Golden Opportunity" (report from the Chair of the Hillingdon Canals Partnership) List of Hillingdon Canals Partnership Community Canalside projects
Wards	Harefield, Uxbridge, Colham & Cowley, Yiewsley, West Drayton and Hayes Town

HEADLINES

To enable the Committee to gain a better understanding of the canal network in Hillingdon and what it has to offer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Residents' Services Select Committee notes the content of the Hillingdon Canal Partnership report and seeks further clarification as necessary.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Members of the Residents' Services Select Committee attended a canal site visit along a section of the Grand Union Canal on 1 November 2023. The visit provided an invaluable opportunity to engage with representatives of interested parties including the Hillingdon Narrowboats Association, the Canal & River Trust and the Hillingdon Canals Partnership. Councillors were able to view for themselves the work which has been undertaken thus far to improve the canal towpaths and to learn more about the current challenges faced in relation to antisocial behaviour, graffiti, signage, disability access and funding. Members welcomed the chance to be appraised of the potential opportunities the Canal presents, particularly in terms of its health, leisure and educational benefits.

Further to the Select Committee's site visit, the attached report provides an opportunity to discuss learnings, provide feedback and update those Members who were unavailable to attend the site visit due to prior commitments. David Brough, Chair of the Hillingdon Canals Partnership, will be in attendance to answer any Members' questions that may arise. Priscilla Simpson, Sport and Physical Activity Team Manager, who attended the site visit will also be present to update the Committee on matters relating to health and leisure activities.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

The report will prompt further discussion in relation to the opportunities offered by the Canal and how its potential could be fully realised to benefit local communities.

Financial Implications

None at this stage.

Legal Implications

None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.