

PUBLIC PREVIEW:

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED LATER IN PRIVATE

Cabinet Member(s)	As appropriate
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	As appropriate
Officer Contact(s)	Mark Braddock – Democratic Services
Papers with report	None

HEADLINES

Summary	<p>A report to Cabinet to provide maximum transparency to residents on the private matters to be considered later in Part 2 of the Cabinet meeting and agenda.</p> <p>This will enable Cabinet Members to openly discuss such matters generally in public, and via the Council’s live broadcast of the meeting, without prejudicing their later consideration in private.</p>
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	<p>This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: An efficient, well-run, digital-enabled council working with partners to deliver services to improve the lives of all our residents</p> <p>This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Digital-Enabled, Modern, Well-Run Council</p>
Financial Cost	As set out in the report.
Relevant Select Committee	As set out in this report under each item – however, this item is not for scrutiny call-in as it is information only.
Ward(s)	As set out in the report

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet note the reports to be considered later in private and Part 2 of the Cabinet agenda and comment on them as appropriate for public information purposes.

Reasons for recommendation

Why are certain reports considered in private?

As a transparent, democratic organisation, the Council's Cabinet will consider matters in public on Part 1 of this Cabinet agenda. However, there will inevitably be some reports that will need to be considered in private. These would generally relate to contracts, property transactions or commercially sensitive information, for example, tender bids from commercial organisations, which if made public, could prejudice the Council's ability secure value-for-money for resident taxpayers.

This information is also called 'exempt' information and is considered in Part 2 of any Cabinet agenda by applying the relevant section of the Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), in that the report contains certain information and that the public interest in withholding that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

How can the public find out more about the private reports?

To ensure maximum transparency when the Cabinet considers such private reports:

- 1) They are first given advance notice on the Cabinet's Forward Plan in summary form setting out the reason why they will be considered in private. The [Forward Plan](#) is a public document setting out all the expected decisions the Cabinet will make over the coming year, except those that are urgent, and is available on the Council's website to view;
- 2) This report provides a fuller public preview of the matters to be discussed in Part 2 of this Cabinet meeting and gives an opportunity for Cabinet Members to highlight issues of significance within and for public information purposes, without prejudicing their later fuller consideration in private. It also sets out the recommendations in general terms that are being proposed for a decision on.
- 3) Consideration of this report will also be broadcast live on the Council's YouTube channel: Hillingdon London, and available for viewing afterwards, for wider democratic engagement.
- 4) After these private reports are considered in Part 2 of this Cabinet meeting, Cabinet's full decisions on them will then be published on the Council's website the day after the Cabinet meeting, along with the decisions on the other matters already considered in public.

Alternative options considered

Cabinet could resolve to release any private report into the public domain in extraordinary or highly exceptional cases, where it considers the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding it. However, to ensure greater transparency on all private matters considered, this public preview item is advised as the most suitable way forward.

Legal comments

Such private matters are considered in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) Access to Information provisions and also The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. This report enables such matters to be discussed in public as far as is possible under the relevant legislation.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

ITEM 12 - AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE DELIVERY OF REVENUES AND BENEFITS SERVICES

Relevant Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Finance
Relevant Ward(s)	N/A
Relevant Select Committee	Finance and Corporate Services

Information

Following a competitive procurement process, Cabinet will consider a report on the contract for the delivery of the Council's revenues and benefits services to residents and businesses.

This includes the administration, collection and recovery of Council Tax and Business Rates in excess of £500m per year, alongside the administration and payment of Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit to more than 25,000 households. The service has also played a leading role in delivering a broad range of additional exceptional support to households and businesses relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Council regularly ranks high across London councils with its collection rates and processing times and the contract for this services is intended to ensure residents and local businesses are effectively supported in matters relating to local taxation and welfare benefits.

ITEM 13 - AWARD OF CONTACT FOR GIS LICENCES, SOFTWARE SUPPORT, MAINTENANCE AND PROJECT ENHANCEMENT

Relevant Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Corporate Services
Relevant Ward(s)	All
Relevant Select Committee	Finance and Corporate Services

Information

Cabinet will consider a report on a contract for the Council's Geographical Information Systems which are used across service areas. The Council collects and manages large amounts of data tied to maps and spatial locations. The ability to analyse this data quickly is essential to support crucial decisions that are driven by geographical locations.

This includes ensuring that mapping technologies are available to residents, such as to allow them to report various issues as listed above giving the location via a map pinpoint, on their mobile devices or computers. The Council already provide other information via a public-facing server to residents, such as details of Car Parks & charges, our Green Flag areas, CCTV Camera locations, Planning Applications out to Consultation, Public Rights of Way, and even Winter Gritting Routes.

The GIS system also allows staff to produce detailed analysis on behalf of residents, such as mapping the responses received to the ULEZ Zone Expansion in 2023, ongoing work to determine, detail and mitigate against areas of potential flooding. Presenting information this way makes Council information more accessible to residents.