

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 15 - UPDATE AND LEASING OF THE EARLY YEARS NURSERIES

Relevant Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Corporate Services & Property
Relevant Ward(s)	Pinkwell; South Ruislip and Uxbridge
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure

Information

This Cabinet report will consider property leasing arrangements for the early years nurseries at Nestles Avenues, South Ruislip and Uxbridge. This follows Cabinet's decision in 2023 to consider alternative provision at the three sites following consultation.

The proposals support the Council's commitment to ensure sufficient childcare for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment, in line with the national expansion of Early Years Entitlements effective from April 2024.

ITEM 16 - IRRECOVERABLE CORPORATE DEBT

Relevant Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Finance & Transformation
Relevant Ward(s)	Pinkwell; South Ruislip and Uxbridge
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure

Information

This report to Cabinet will consider the write-off of irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rates debt. These are debts that have been deemed irrecoverable due to various reasons such as insolvency, statute-barred status, or being uneconomical to pursue further. The write-off will allow the Council to maintain accurate records and focus on debts with a higher chance of recovery and contribute to sound financial management.

ITEM 17 - INCREASING CAPACITY OF NURSING BEDS IN THE BOROUGH

Relevant Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Corporate Services & Property; Health & Social Care
Relevant Ward(s)	-
Relevant Select Committee	Health & Social Care

Information

Cabinet will consider a report looking at an approach to tackle the increased demand for nursing and dementia care places in the Borough, managing the increasing cost of placements and to help ensure that residents have access to quality care locally.

ITEM 18 - REACTIVE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT & REPAIRS SERVICE CONTRACT

Relevant Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Corporate Services & Property
Relevant Ward(s)	N/A
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure

Information

Cabinet will consider a report to appoint a dedicated contractor to handle urgent reactive repairs and planned window and door replacements in Hillingdon's social housing portfolio, following a competitive tender exercise. This will support Hillingdon tenants by improved housing conditions through timely repairs, which will also provide energy-efficient upgrades, whilst also maintaining compliance with regulatory standards.

ITEM 19 - RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS PROGRAMME

Relevant Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Corporate Services & Property; Planning, Housing & Growth
Relevant Ward(s)	N/A
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure

Information

The purpose of this report is to consider a procurement exercise to provide external support for the Council's plan to acquire homes for social rented housing. This initiative is aimed at increasing the supply of Hillingdon-owned social housing and reducing homelessness, and thereby the cost of temporary accommodation.