

COMMUNITY PAYBACK SCHEME

Committee name	Residents' Services Select Committee
Officer reporting	Joanne Howells, Service Manager, Street Scene Enforcement Team
Papers with report	Appendix 1- Examples of Community Payback Work Undertaken in Hillingdon
Ward	All

HEADLINES

This report outlines the Probation Services operated Community Payback scheme and explains how it operates within Hillingdon Borough and how Council services utilise this scheme for local benefit. It also provides some examples of work carried out in the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee notes the information in the report and provides any feedback to officers.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Community Payback is a scheme introduced to provide punishment or reparation for convicted offenders to 'pay back' the community for their crimes. It is unpaid work and is one of the options available to courts when determining sentencing for offences. Individuals sentenced to do unpaid work undertake work on projects which benefit their local communities and can be sentenced to between 40 hours and 300 hours which should be completed within 12 months from sentencing.
2. The scheme is managed and delivered by the Probation Service and is a visible punishment which can tangibly improve local areas that have been harmed by crime. Community Payback also provides opportunities for individuals to learn new skills and increase their employability. Offenders are supervised to conduct demanding, physical work within the community.

Examples of the types of work undertaken include:

- Graffiti removal
- Street clean-ups
- Ground clearance
- Recycling projects
- Building maintenance
- Improvements to park and community facilities

- Environmental preservation programmes
 - Landscaping and gardening projects
 - Painting and decorating in community centres and meeting places
3. Individuals are eligible to complete Education, Training and Employment (ETE) programmes as part of their unpaid work requirement, with up to 30% of their hours potentially available to complete the rehabilitative activities. For some offenders Unpaid Work can provide an opportunity to develop life and vocational skills that reduce the risk of reoffending.
4. Community engagement is strongly encouraged with Community Payback, and anyone can propose a project in their area via the nominations process on the [Gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk/nominate-community-payback-project). www.gov.uk/nominate-community-payback-project. The work must:
- Benefit the local community
 - Not take paid work away from others
 - Not make a profit for anyone
5. The main priority is the protection of the public, so individuals are assessed before assignment to a project of work. The assessment looks at an individual's history, crimes committed and the risk they pose to the public. When carrying out Community Payback work, individuals are transported to and from the project, work in small teams and are supervised by fully trained officers.
6. The Community Payback Scheme is currently utilised within Hillingdon, when suitable projects are identified by the Street Scene Enforcement Team, usually through residents and members reports via the online reporting system. A tasking form is submitted to the Probation Service for assessment on viability and appropriateness. The Probation Service provides a health and safety overview, provides the offenders to undertake the work, completes a risk assessment and manages the work projects. Hillingdon Council assists with waste removal, and provision of some equipment when required.
7. This scheme has been used since April 2024 for litter clearance, to remove waste and overgrown vegetation at the following locations:
- Cowley Road, Uxbridge
 - Balmoral Drive, Hayes
 - Hillingdon Road, Uxbridge
 - Yeading Court, Hayes
 - Tollgate Drive, Hayes
 - Hillingdon Road
 - Uxbridge Road
 - Wood End Green Road
 - Rutters Close, West Drayton
 - Vineries Close, Sipson
 - Mondial Way, West Drayton
 - Boltons Way, West Drayton
 - Station Road, West Drayton

- Harlington High Street, Harlington
8. The scheme also assisted with the removal of waste at the rear of Harefield civic amenity site which took several weeks to complete. Under the scheme follow up visits to sites which have been subject to earlier clearance may be carried out for maintenance.
 9. Private and unregistered alleyways can be considered for community payback projects, but this is subject to the use of appropriate legislation to ensure work on this land can be lawfully carried out, notification to interested parties and a risk assessment from the Probation Service.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

Community Payback projects can help

- Reduce crime and fear of crime.
- Be identified by local communities as a priority.
- Be visible to local communities.
- Improve quality of life for the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.