

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 - HEATHROW RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LEASES	
Relevant Cabinet Member	Cllr Jonathan Bianco Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Property
Relevant Ward(s)	Heathrow Villages / All Wards
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee
Information	
<p>The report seeks approval to enter into commercial leases in the Heathrow area to secure a number of family-sized units of self-contained accommodation for use as temporary housing for homeless households.</p> <p>The number of households presenting to the Council as homeless has risen sharply in the last 24 months, leading to a sharp increase in the use of high-cost, spot-purchased temporary accommodation. The proposal aims to provide lower-cost, higher-quality temporary housing options compared to spot-purchased, nightly charged accommodation.</p> <p>The proposals aim to prevent homelessness by increasing the supply of suitable, affordable housing for eligible homeless residents, thereby reducing the overall cost of homelessness services to the General Fund. As such, the recommendations in the report align with the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and support the temporary accommodation reduction strategy recently approved by Cabinet.</p> <p>The report also considers alternative options and risks, noting that doing nothing could lead to a sharp increase in levels of homelessness. The approval of such leases is a Cabinet decision.</p>	

ITEM 13 - SMOKING CESSATION AND DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT SERVICES

Relevant Cabinet Member	Cllr Jane Palmer, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care
Relevant Ward(s)	N/A
Relevant Select Committee	Health and Social Care Select Committee

Information

This report proposes to continue the variation to the current public health grant-funded contract that delivers smoking cessation and substance misuse services.

It outlines two grants from the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) to fund these services that have been received by the Council:

1. Local Stop Smoking Services Grant: This is the second year of a five-year funding plan, with an allocation of £311,123 for Hillingdon for 2025/268. The grant aims to expand smoking cessation services, targeting vulnerable adult groups and preventing children from starting to smoke and vape.
2. Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG): This is the first additional year following an initial three years of funding for adult substance misuse, treatment, and recovery services. The total DATRIG allocation for Hillingdon is £1,664,772, with a minimum of £585,543 to be spent on drug and alcohol support for rough sleepers.

The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the continuation of these grants and the variation of the contract between the Council and the Central and North West London NHS Trust for the enhanced delivery of these services to residents of the Borough.

The report outlines the importance of these services in improving public health outcomes, reducing health disparities, and providing essential support to vulnerable populations in the Borough.

The report also highlights the financial implications, noting that the continuation of funding for these services each year will depend on national allocations and will not be supplemented Council resources.

ITEM 14 - CONTINGENT LABOUR CONTRACT VARIATION

Relevant Cabinet Member	Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Property
Relevant Ward(s)	N/A
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources and Infrastructure

Information

The report seeks Cabinet approval to vary the current primary contract the Council has for its Temporary Agency Workers. This contract enables the Council to supplement its directly employed workforce with professional, technical, administrative, and social care agency workers across all Hillingdon directories, ensuring the maintenance of front-line services for Hillingdon residents.

The report highlights the importance of such arrangements in supporting the Council's workforce strategy, which includes covering absences, sickness, and unfilled vacancies. This ensures the continuity of Council services without impacting Hillingdon's residents.