

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 13 - HIGHWAYS TERM SERVICES CONTRACT

Relevant Cabinet Members	Cllr Tuckwell - Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth
Relevant Ward(s)	All
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure

Information

The Council is proposing a short continuation of the current Highways Term Service Contractual arrangement with the incumbent provider. This is a proposed temporary procurement measure to ensure essential highway maintenance and improvement works continue across the borough without disruption, whilst giving the Council time to finalise the competitive tender process leading to a new long-term contract for these services due later this year.

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that all highway assets are maintained in a safe, serviceable condition and remain fit for purpose. To meet this responsibility, the Highways Contract delivers a comprehensive range of maintenance and improvement activities across the borough's road network.

Key elements of the service include:

- Routine and responsive maintenance, such as cyclical gully cleansing, pothole repairs, footway and carriageway maintenance, and the construction of residential vehicle crossovers.
- Delivery of the Council's capital programme for road safety enhancements, congestion alleviation, and parking management, supporting smoother traffic flow and safer streets for all users.
- Implementation of Transport for London (TfL) funded Local Implementation Plan (LiP) schemes, covering Principal Road Renewals, Local Safety Schemes, Bus Priority Schemes, Cycling Schemes, Bus Stop Accessibility improvements, Parking Management Schemes, and wider Town Centre initiatives.

Together, these services ensure that the borough's highways are well-maintained, resilient, and responsive to community needs. The contract supports the Council's broader objectives by keeping roads safe, reducing congestion, enabling sustainable travel choices, and upholding high standards for residents, businesses and all road users.

This contract has supported the Council in achieving the top 'green' rating for highways performance based on the Government's new road maintenance assessment.

ITEM 14 - STREET LIGHTING TERM SERVICES CONTRACT

Relevant Cabinet Members	Cllr Tuckwell - Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth
Relevant Ward(s)	All
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure

Information

The Council is proposing to award a new long-term contract to manage, maintain and improve street lighting and illuminated traffic signs across the borough, following a competitive tender process. By having such a contract in place, this will ensure the ongoing maintenance, testing, repair and replacement of the Borough's:

- 23,500 street lights
- 3,500 illuminated traffic signs and bollards
- 200 pedestrian crossings
- 10 pedestrian underpasses

This includes:

- Routine and reactive maintenance
- Emergency call-out response (24/7)
- Night-time scouting for faults
- Electrical and structural safety testing
- Installation of new lighting as part of improvement schemes
- A programme of upgrades using modern, energy-efficient LED lanterns

The successful contractor will also be responsible for managing complaints, faults and enquiries relating to street lighting, ensuring a joined-up service that links with the Council's own systems. The Council has a legal duty to maintain safe highways, which includes street lighting. With the contract, residents should be able to expect reliable and responsive repairs to faulty lighting, continued safety on streets and footways and reduced energy consumption through LED upgrades to lighting.

ITEM 15 - IRRECOVERABLE CORPORATE DEBT

Relevant Cabinet Members	Cllr Lavery – Cabinet Member for Finance & Transformation
Relevant Ward(s)	N/A
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure

Information

The report seeks Cabinet approval to write off certain historic business rates debts that are no longer recoverable. These cases have been thoroughly reviewed and relate to two businesses that have entered formal insolvency processes. As a result, the Council has no legal or practical avenues remaining through which these debts can be pursued.