

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 10 - DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM FOR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PLACEMENTS

Relevant Cabinet Member	Cllr Tuckwell - Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth
Relevant Ward(s)	All
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services

Information

The report seeks approval to extend the Council's existing Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) used for securing Temporary Accommodation (TA) for households who present to the Council as homeless. The DPS is the procurement mechanism (via an approved list of providers) that the Council uses to source suitable places for residents in need, ensuring placements can be made quickly, safely and in line with statutory homelessness duties.

Demand for temporary accommodation in Hillingdon continues result in a sustained pressure on housing services. The proposal before Cabinet to extend the DPS allows the Council to:

- Maintain a flexible and competitive marketplace of accommodation providers.
- Ensure best-value placements for residents.
- Keep a system in place that allows new providers to join, increasing choice and capacity.
- Continue to meet its legal obligations to support homeless individuals and families.

The DPS supports a range of temporary accommodation options, including:

- Self-contained flats or houses for families.
- Shared or supported accommodation for single people.
- Emergency placements when residents need an immediate safe place to stay.

These services ensure that residents have access to safe, suitable temporary housing while the Council works with them to secure longer-term accommodation.

Notwithstanding the need for such procurement arrangements, TA one of the Council's biggest financial pressures and the Council is taking active steps to manage this spend and curb demand whilst also strengthening early homelessness prevention, expanding more stable and better-value accommodation options, building new homes and improving move-on pathways into permanent housing. These measures ensure the Council can continue meeting statutory duties while delivering better value for residents. Cabinet receives a regular public quarterly report to monitor such progress.

ITEM 11 - FLEET MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR CONTRACT	
Relevant Cabinet Member	Cllr Tuckwell - Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth
Relevant Ward(s)	All
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure
Information	
<p>The Council operates a large and diverse fleet of vehicles that support essential frontline services such as waste and recycling collections, highways maintenance, passenger transport, and the upkeep of parks and green spaces. To keep these vehicles roadworthy, safe, and available when needed, the Council uses a specialist maintenance and repair service.</p> <p>This report proposes extending the current arrangements for maintaining the Council's fleet for a further year. The purpose of the extension is to ensure continuity of a reliable service that keeps vehicles on the road, supports compliance with national safety standards, and helps frontline teams deliver services efficiently to residents.</p> <p>Under the existing maintenance service, the Council benefits from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High safety and compliance standards, including excellent performance in national vehicle roadworthiness assessments. • Reduced vehicle downtime, ensuring key services such as refuse collection continue uninterrupted. • Access to specialist expertise, particularly for large and complex vehicles such as refuse trucks. • Local employment and skills development, including apprenticeships for young people entering the vehicle engineering trade. <p>Maintaining an effective and compliant fleet is essential for delivering day-to-day services across the Borough and extending the current maintenance arrangements ensures stability while supporting operational efficiency, service resilience, and value to residents.</p>	

ITEM 12 - HOME CARE, EXTRA-CARE AND REABLEMENT SERVICES CONTRACTS	
Relevant Cabinet Member	Cllr Jane Palmer – Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care
Relevant Ward(s)	All
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure
Information	
<p>The Council is responsible for providing a range of community-based care services that help adults, children and young people in Hillingdon to live safely, independently and with dignity. These include homecare, outreach support, extra-care housing support and reablement services, all of which ensure residents receive the help they need at home and in their communities.</p>	

This report proposes extending the current care contracts so that these essential services can continue without interruption while the Council undertakes a full review of how they are delivered. The aim is to design a future model of care that is more flexible, sustainable and better aligned with residents' needs.

The proposed contractual decisions support the Council's statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 and Children & Families Act 2014 and maintains stability in the local care market while a new procurement process is prepared.

ITEM 13 - FUEL CONTRACT FOR THE COUNCIL'S FLEET

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

Information

The Council relies on a large fleet of operational vehicles to deliver essential frontline services for residents. These include waste and recycling collections, street cleansing, highways operations, housing repairs, green spaces maintenance and passenger transport. To keep these front-line services running efficiently, a reliable supply of ULSD (Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel) is required at the Council's depots.

This report asks Cabinet to consider the award of a new fuel supply contract so that the Council can continue delivering key services safely, efficiently and without interruption. The report sets out the procurement approach which draws on national procurement frameworks that promote competition and operational resilience.

The report also outlines how fuel usage is monitored, how the Council seeks value for money, and how this arrangement supports a modern, efficient organisation delivering high-quality services for residents.

The report also highlights how unit fuel prices are highly sensitive to fluctuations in global oil markets regardless of Council decisions, and given current international factors, the Council will continue to be vigilant in monitoring demand and prices.

It should be noted that the Council continues to use and explore further use of electric vehicles and over the next few years this will become increasingly viable as part of its climate change action plan.