



OFFICIAL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE

PUBLISHED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

HILLINGDON
LONDON

Notice is hereby given that the following decision(s) have been made today by Cabinet Members at the London Borough of Hillingdon:

Title of decision	CONTRACT FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SINGLE USE VAPING PRODUCTS
Reference No.	1566
Date of decision	Monday 5 January 2026
Call-in expiry date	Monday 12 January 2026
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee.
Relevant Wards	All

Decision made

Cabinet Members making the decision	Councillor Jonathan Bianco, Deputy Leader of the Council, on behalf of the Leader, in consultation with Councillor Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Community & Environment
Decision	Agreed The Deputy Leader of the Council, on behalf of the Leader, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community & Environment: 1) Accepted the additional grant funding allocation of £700,000 from National Trading Standards to continue the ongoing work at Heathrow Airport to seize and destroy illicit vapes, to also be reported to Cabinet; and 2) Agreed to the Direct Award to WasteCare Ltd for the provision of illegal vapes disposal on behalf of the London Borough of Hillingdon for the period 20 September 2025 to 20 September 2026 and at the cost of £150,000 for that period with all other arrangements remaining as per the existing contractual arrangements.
Reason for decision	The Council has a statutory duty to ensure consumer goods intended for the UK market are safe and comply with relevant legislation. Trading Standards Officers conduct regular checks on imported goods at Heathrow Airport. Since January 2024, the Council has participated in Operation Joseph , a national initiative targeting the importation and supply of unsafe single-use vape products. These products often fail to meet UK regulations, with issues

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	<p>such as excessive nicotine levels, banned ingredients, oversized tanks, and hazardous substances like lead, nickel, and chromium.</p> <p>The Government has committed additional funding to support enforcement agencies, including Trading Standards, Border Force, and HMRC, to tackle illicit trade and enforce laws such as the ban on disposable vapes. New legislation will also restrict vape flavours, introduce plain packaging, and change retail displays to reduce youth appeal.</p> <p>Trading Standards Officers seize and dispose of non-compliant products at the border in line with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive. The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) oversees recycling standards and has identified approved facilities for safe disposal. WasteCare Ltd is the Council's current supplier of this service and offers good value for money.</p> <p>Since the start of the operation, significant quantities of illicit vapes have been detained at Heathrow Airport. The Council plans to extend its disposal contract to ensure continuity of this work, subject to future funding decisions. Further updates will be provided as the project progresses.</p>
Alternative options considered and rejected	Other Approved Authorised Treatment Facilities ATFs may be available. OPSS is satisfied that the suppliers on their list offer good value for money and have the necessary expertise to dispose of detained goods.
Classification	Part II – Members Only and Not for Publication
Link to associated report	That this report be declared as exempt from publication as it involves the disclosure of information in accordance with Section 100(A) and paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), in that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.
Relevant Officer contact & Directorate	Dan Kennedy, Corporate Director, Residents' Services
Any interest declared by the Cabinet Member(s) / dispensation granted	N/A

Implementation of decision & scrutiny call-in

[Internal Use only]

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When can this decision be implemented by officers?	Officers can implement Cabinet Member decision in this notice only from the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period which is: 5pm on Monday 12 January 2026 However, this is subject to the decision not being called in by Councillors on the relevant Select Committee. Upon receipt of a valid call-in request, Democratic Services will immediately advise the relevant officer(s) and the decision must then be put on hold.
Councillor scrutiny call-in of this decision	Councillors on the relevant Select Committee shown in this notice may request to call-in this decision. The request must be before the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period above. Councillors should use the Scrutiny Call-in App (link below) on their devices to initiate any call-in request. Further advice can be sought from Democratic Services if required: Scrutiny Call-In - Power Apps (secure)
Further information	These decisions, where applicable, have been taken under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. This is the formal notice by the Council of the above executive decision, including links to the reports where applicable. If you would like more information on this decision, please contact Democratic Services on 01895 250636 or email: democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk . Circulation of this decision notice is to a variety of people including Members of the Council, Corporate Directors, Officers, Group Secretariats and the Public. Copies are also placed on the Council's website.

**Democratic Services
London Borough of Hillingdon
Civic Centre
High Street
Uxbridge
UB8 1UW**