



OFFICIAL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE PUBLISHED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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	DISPOSAL OF NARROW BOATS (PISCES & HILLINGDON STAR) TO HILLINGDON NARROW BOATS CHARITY
Reference No.	2026/1660
Date of decision	Monday 17 August 2026
Call-in expiry date	Monday 24 August 2026
Relevant Select Committee	Residents Services Select Committee
Relevant Wards	All

Decision made

Cabinet Members making the decision	Councillor Nick Denys – Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Property
Decision	Agreed That the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Property: 1) Approved the transfer at nil value of two boats (Piscas and Hillingdon Star) to the Hillingdon Narrow Boats Association which allows the charity supported by its volunteers to invest in renovation works to extend the longevity and usefulness of the two boats; and 2) Delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Residents Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Property, to make any further necessary decisions with regards to the sale and any decisions regarding insurance for the boats used by the Association.
Reason for decision	Disposal of these narrow boats is recommended for the following reasons – 1. The boats have not been in use for approximately two years and need significant investment to become compliant for use on public waterways. 2. The longer these boats are left, the more they will deteriorate meaning the costs of renovation and making compliant will only increase. 3. Selling the boats to the Association whose aims and objectives were established by the Council to provide

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	a broad cross section of residents with access to boat trips/leisure activities and learnings could be viewed as providing a greater community benefit than a potential (albeit modest) capital receipt. 4. From a valuation perspective, Harefield Marine Agents have indicated that the costs of repairing the boats would be greater than their finished value. However, for a DIY (do-it-yourself) project, they could have a nominal value although the costs of removal from the water, paying storage and sales fee costs is likely to result in a much lower net figure. Given the nominal potential receipt compared to the Association's volunteers restoring them, the social value of putting them back into community use could be considered as being much greater.
Alternative options considered and rejected	Alternative options which have been considered include - 1) Open Market Disposal – whilst this may result in a nominal receipt if the right DIY buyer could be found, it will result in the loss of community use which has been available since 1991 and would impact the longer-term sustainability of the charity. There are also on costs such as sales fees, storage and security that would erode this sum over time if a sale were to be sought. 2) Scrappage – this is likely to come at a cost to the Council and would involve their removal from the water, transport, and disposal charges. It is also, the least sustainable option considering the charity would be able to renovate both boats and extend their useful life. 3) Refurbish Directly & Sell – restoring Pisces is likely to cost in the order of £25-30,000 and Hillingdon Star is estimated at £15,000. As the cost of the works would exceed the value of the renovated boats, this option is not viable. 4) Do Nothing – this is not a viable option as the boats are unlicensed and should be removed from the public waterways if left to deteriorate. Removal costs and storage costs would further increase cost liability to the Council.
Classification	Part I – Public
Link to associated report	Here
Relevant Officer contact & Directorate	Richard Mortimer, Residents Services
Any interest declared by the Cabinet Member(s) / dispensation granted	N/A

Implementation of decision & scrutiny call-in

[Internal Use only]	
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 24 August 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: <u>Scrutiny Call-In - Power Apps</u> (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