



Democratic Services

Location: Phase II
Ext: 0185
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CMD No: 2026/1717

To: COUNCILLOR STEVE TUCKWELL
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR EDDIE LAVERY
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE

COUNCILLOR WAYNE BRIDGES
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS SERVICES

c.c. All Members of the Residents Services Select Committee
c.c. Dan Kennedy – Corporate Director of Residents Services
c.c. Dragana Knezevic – Residents Services

Date: 22 June 2026

Non-Key Decision request

Form D

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (JUNE 2026)

DEPARTMENT: Residents Services

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Environmental & Recreational Initiatives: Yeading Brook Enhancement Project

Dear Cabinet Members,

Attached is a report requesting that a decision be made by you as an individual Cabinet Member. Democratic Services confirm that this is not a key decision, as such, the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 notice period does not apply.

You should take a decision **on or after Tuesday 30 June 2026** in order to meet Constitutional requirements about publication of decisions that are to be made. You may wish to discuss the report with the Corporate Director before it is made. Please indicate your decision on the duplicate memo supplied and return it to me when you have made your decision. I will then arrange for the formal notice of decision to be published.

Liz Penny
Democratic Services Officer

Title of Report: Environmental & Recreational Initiatives: Yeading Brook Enhancement Project

Decision made:

Reasons for your decision: (e.g. as stated in report)

Alternatives considered and rejected: (e.g. as stated in report)

Signed Date.....

Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Finance / Cabinet Member for Residents Services

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (JUNE 2026)

DEPARTMENT: Residents Services

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Environmental & Recreational Initiatives: Yeading Brook Enhancement Project

Cabinet Member(s) & Portfolio

Councillor Steve Tuckwell - Leader of the Council
Councillor Eddie Lavery – Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor Wayne Bridges - Cabinet Member for Residents Services

Responsible Officer

Dragana Knezevic, Residents Services Directorate

Papers with report

Appendix A with capital release requests for approval

HEADLINES

Summary

To seek release of £255k funds towards the Yeading Brook Enhancement Project

Putting our Residents First

This report supports the Council Strategy.

Financial Cost

This report seeks the release of £255k for Yeading Brook enhancement project, £255k funded by GLA's Green Roots Funds

Select Committee

Residents' Services Select Committee

Relevant Ward(s)

South Ruislip, Belmore

RECOMMENDATION

That the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Cabinet Members, approve the capital release request of £255K for Yeading Brook project, funded by Green Roots Fund (Appendix A).

Reasons for recommendation

After a very successful river restoration project in 2024/25, London Borough of Hillingdon and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) continue working to develop three new river enhancement projects in Yeading Brook. The brook has unnaturally steep banks with little habitat diversity. These three river enhancement projects will reprofile/recontour riverbanks to create key habitats and improve the diversity of the environment and its species. Yeading Brook water levels respond very quickly to rainfall due to its urban catchment. This project will contribute to reducing the peak levels and, in turn, reduce the flood risk to local residents. Proposed improvement works will increase the ability of the river to adapt and cope with the likely impact of increased intense storms resulting from climate change. The project will provide more space for water and slow the flow of water to the Yeading Brook, further helping to protect people, species and habitats by making them less vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

This project will create a tranquil spot for observing nature, such as dragonflies, butterflies and birds and amphibians attracted to these new and enhanced habitats.

Development of the site will attract more volunteers who want to help shape and transform their local landscape and work with others as a community on a regular basis. This will provide not only social wellbeing benefits but also improve nature connectedness of participants and promote pro-nature conservation behaviours.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet Members may agree to fund the scheme and/or suggest alternative projects to which funds could be allocated within the terms of the relevant legal agreements.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This report is seeking the allocation of funding for Yeading Brook Enhancement Project.

The works will be undertaken by:

- Design - Specialist Contractor
- Construction - Specialist Contractor
- Project Consultation - Zoological Society of London (ZSL), charity devoted to the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats

The table below provides a breakdown of the costs:

Cost Plan

Item	Lead	Cost
Construction	Specialist Contractors	£205,000
Monitoring and Management	Partners and Specialist Contractor	£32,800
Management Fees	Greenspaces, LBH	£10,000
Plants	Suppliers	£6,500
Tree and Scrub works	Hillingdon's tree contractor	£700
Total		£255,000

Financial Implications

(Yeading Brook Enhancement Project Budget £255k, Previously Released Nil, Capital Release Requested £255k) – Appendix A

In June 2026, a recommendation is being presented to Cabinet to accept £255k grant funding from the Green Roots fund. No match funding is requested.

The report seeks the release of £255k for the Yeading Brook enhancement project, to be funded from the Green Roots Fund. The release request includes quotations from the green spaces term contractor, consultants and internal fees at 4%.

The project will be reported as part of the Environmental and Recreation Initiatives Programme once capital release is approved.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities

The Council and its partners are committed to making the Borough a cleaner, greener and safer environment. Feel PROUD aims to make residents aware of how they can join forces with the Council and have their say on improving the area they live in and boosting their pride in being a Hillingdon resident.

Improving existing habitats in this narrow Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) section and restoring Yeading Brook will increase the wildlife value of the site and benefit the whole corridor. The project will create a more varied and positive use of the land, increasing the site's overall biodiversity and ecological resilience, whilst retaining a peaceful place for people to relax and enjoy.

This project is consistent with Hillingdon's Strategic Climate Change Action Plan:

“Responding to the climate emergency is not just about reducing or removing carbon emissions. It is about recognising a much wider threat across all aspects of our environment. We are responsible for large sections of open areas and waterways that are an extremely important for wildlife and, amenity for residents. We can find better ways to use green and open space to support flora and fauna, manage flooding, integrate trees and planting schemes into urban environments and re-establish wildlife corridors.”

C7 Carbon offsetting

C7.4 Understand and increase current carbon sequestration through increased planting and changes to green space management.

C7.5 Increase the number of trees, particularly in urban areas to complement objectives to improve air quality and promote urban wildlife.

C7.6 To exploit opportunities to increase carbon sequestration to maximise opportunities for biodiversity and flood risk management.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate finance concurs with the financial implications set out above, noting that this project is fully funded from external grant of £255k that has recently been awarded by the Green Roots Fund, with no impact on Council resources, and that the grant acceptance is pending Cabinet approval in the next budget monitoring report.

Legal

Legal Services confirms that the Council is responsible for carrying out this function pursuant to section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875, section 10 of the Open Spaces Act 1906, and section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Thus, there are no legal impediments to the requested capital release being authorised, although any contract that is entered into must comply with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders. This includes the contracts with the specialist contractors for design and construction, ZSL for project consultation, suppliers for plants, and the Council's tree contractor.

Infrastructure / Asset Management

There are no Infrastructure / Asset Management implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

CAPITAL RELEASE APPENDIX A

Yeading Brook Enhancement Project 2026/27 (CR 1)

Location (Ward)	Project / Expenditure Title	Information	Funds Release Sought £000's	Approve	Hold	More Information Required
South Ruislip	Yeading Brook Enhancement Project	Yeading Brook Enhancement Project	255			
Total seeking release			255			
Previously released			0			
Budget			255			
Remaining budget			0			