

HILLINGDON people

News from your council

www.hillingdon.gov.uk

September/
October 2026



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HILLINGDON
LONDON

Secondary school admissions

Do you have a child born between
1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016?

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31 October 2026

For full details and to apply, visit
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www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions

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(except winter)

Six sack max capacity
(three sacks as standard)

£77 annual fee



www.hillingdon.gov.uk

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As the borough's largest landlord, we manage more than 13,000 homes. Our repairs service handles around 780 requests a week and completes more than 3,000 jobs each month.



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Welcome



Local government continues to face significant financial pressures, and councils across the country are having to make difficult decisions. Here in Hillingdon, our priority remains the same: making our borough an even better place to live, work and invest. We will do things differently, reshape services where needed and make every pound work harder, while continuing to deliver for our communities.

A key part of that commitment is our ambitious new Growth Plan, which sets out a long-term vision for creating jobs, attracting investment and ensuring local people benefit from Hillingdon's many strengths. During the next decade, we'll work with businesses, education providers and major employers to boost economic growth, improve skills, deliver Hillingdon homes for Hillingdon people, and invest in our town centres and public spaces. Most importantly, it's about creating opportunities and improving residents' quality of life (page 14).

But while we're ambitious for growth, we're equally determined that it must be the right growth. That's why we're standing up for Hillingdon in response to proposals from the Mayor of London and government that could see thousands of homes built on our cherished green belt while reducing the influence local communities have over planning decisions (page 16). We support new homes and economic growth, but decisions should be locally led, supported by the right infrastructure and protect the character of our borough.

Working closely with the Metropolitan Police and local partners, we're increasing enforcement action against anti-social behaviour, illegal e-bikes, dangerous car meets and abandoned vehicles. This work helps keep our streets, parks and town centres safe and sends a clear message that behaviour which harms our communities will not be tolerated (page 22).

We have much to be proud of in Hillingdon and even more to look forward to. Building on our strengths and embracing new opportunities, we can continue creating a borough that is prosperous, safe and full of opportunity for current and future generations.

Cllr Steve Tuckwell,
Leader of the Council

On the cover: James Revier with his dog at Ickenham Marsh.

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THE GIANT PANTOMIME ADVENTURE!

Jack and the Beanstalk

3 - 31 DECEMBER 2026

Images of previous cast

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SCAN ME

dk productions HILLINGDON

Our mobile library expands its itinerary

West Drayton residents can enjoy more access to library services thanks to a new stop on Hillingdon's mobile library route.

It now visits the Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre every fortnight on Wednesdays between 2.10pm and 2.50pm, bringing a range of books and library services directly to the local community.

The mobile library serves neighbourhoods across Hillingdon from Tuesday to Friday, visiting schools, nurseries, sheltered housing and day centres, ensuring library services are accessible to those who may find it difficult to visit a library building.

Cllr Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Residents Services, said: "We're delighted to announce the Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre as the 39th stop on our route, and we look forward to welcoming residents on board."

"Whether you're looking for your next great read, children's books or large print, there's something for everyone."



Cllr Bridges with West Drayton ward councillors Cllr Jan Sweeting and Cllr Sarah Hassoun

View the mobile library timetable:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/mobilelibrary



Support and information for older residents

The council's Assembly for Older People provides residents with an opportunity to discuss services and issues that matter to them.

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday 23 September, between 1.30pm and 3.30pm, in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre, Uxbridge.

It's an opportunity for attendees to hear updates, ask questions and share their views.

The last meeting in June featured an overview of the council's new Age Friendly Plan, and a presentation on the redevelopment of Hillingdon Hospital.

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Adults, Children, Health and Care, said: "Our Older People's Assembly is an important forum that gives residents the opportunity to have their say on the issues that impact them and



to hear directly about services and projects affecting older members of our community.

"I encourage anyone interested to come along, share their views and find out more about the support available locally."

Find out more:
discover.
hillingdon.gov.uk/op-assembly



Have your say on the future of care services

Residents are being invited to share their views on the future of adult social care.

Whether you use care services, care for someone else, work in the sector, or have opinions on how it should work in the future, you can have your say by taking part in the government's Big Conversation on Care.

This is part of the work being undertaken by the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, also known as the Casey Commission. It will consider how adult social care should change to meet the needs of current and future generations, and make recommendations for reform.

Feedback will be considered alongside the other evidence gathered by the commission which will help inform its recommendations to government.

Cllr O'Brien said: "The Big Conversation on Care is a chance



for everyone to have their say on how adult social care should be provided going forward. We all require services and support at some point in our lives to help us live independently, and I'd encourage as many people as possible to take part."

The consultation is open until next April.

Take part:
caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation



Council delivers a new home for Uxbridge Post Office services

Last month, two temporary Post Office counters opened in the Civic Centre in Uxbridge after the council stepped in to ensure the continuation of this vital service following the closure of its High Street branch in May.

The council has worked closely with Post Office Ltd since TG Jones announced that the previous branch would close, exploring potential options for a temporary location while a permanent home is sought.

The counters are located at the top of the stairs and ramp, near the entrance to Uxbridge Library. They are open to the public from 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays, and offer 95 per cent of the services available at any permanent post office. The Post Office will look to open a permanent branch at a new location later this year.

The move brings even more essential services onto the Civic Centre campus, maximising the use of council assets, helping



Cllr Mills and ward councillors Cllr Taneja, Cllr Russell, Cllr Murray alongside Cllr Tuckwell with temporary postmaster Farzana Bhatti

to meet residents' needs more effectively, and generating income.

Opportunities are also being explored to bring additional public services to the site. Discussions are at an advanced stage regarding the potential relocation of Hillingdon's Integrated Sexual Health Service, currently delivered by London North West Hospitals NHS Trust, from The Wakley Centre, Hayes. The move would provide residents with a more accessible location.

The council is also in talks with the Driver and Vehicle Standards

Agency (DVSA) to lease space.

The DVSA currently occupies temporary accommodation, and the proposals would provide a longer-term arrangement.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Steve Tuckwell, said: "As soon as we were informed that the Uxbridge branch was closing, we contacted the Post Office and offered the Civic Centre as a temporary location. While the Post Office is not a council service, this is a great example of the council acting to meet the needs of the community."

Backing communities with even stronger HMO licensing controls

The council's tougher approach to Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs), introduced to prevent an overconcentration of HMOs and protect the character of local neighbourhoods, is already delivering results.

More than 93 per cent of HMO applications have been refused since the introduction of an immediate Article 4 Direction in December, which now requires planning permission to be granted before a property can be converted into an HMO.

In February, the council also agreed to introduce a boroughwide additional licensing scheme for HMOs to increase its powers to scrutinise landlords,

improve housing conditions, and tackle anti-social behaviour.

Landlords of shared rental properties with fewer than five tenants from two or more different households are now required to apply for an additional HMO licence.

The deadline for existing properties to obtain a licence was last month. The council is now investigating any properties without

one and will be taking enforcement action where necessary.

Cllr Nick Denys, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Property, said: "Overcrowded, poorly designed properties that put profit before people and damage established communities will not be accepted in Hillingdon."

"The Article 4 Direction is proving to be an effective measure, ensuring HMOs are in the right locations and meet the standards local people rightly expect."



Report an HMO:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/hmo-complaints





Bringing local history to life

Residents and visitors are invited to step back in time and experience a unique day of history, heritage and family-friendly entertainment as the council commemorates the 86th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Battle of Britain 86: The 15 Nations celebrates the international effort that helped secure victory in 1940, with a day of history, heritage and family-friendly activities. Visitors can enjoy expert talks, themed bunker tours, living history displays, exhibitions, music and interactive activities exploring the contributions of the 15 nations that supported Britain's war effort.

Highlights include tours of the historic underground Operations Room, a dedication ceremony for a new interpretation board, live performances from the Friends Community Choir and family activities including crafts, theatre performances and a climbing wall.

Cllr Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Residents Services, said: "Our Battle of Britain 86 event showcases our borough's indelible ties to the conflict and highlights amazing stories of international collaboration through a unique day of heritage, culture and community at one of our most important historic sites."

Find out more and book tickets:

battleofbritainbunker.co.uk/battle-of-britain-86



Starting a lifelong love of reading early

Hundreds more families across Hillingdon are benefiting from the joy of sharing books with their babies after the council secured a 37.5 per cent increase in its allocation of Bookstart Baby packs from the children's reading charity BookTrust.

The number of packs available to families has risen from 4,000 to 5,500, ensuring more babies can benefit from the programme.

The increase follows a visit by BookTrust to Hayes Family Hub and Uxbridge Library earlier this year. During the visit, the charity saw first-hand how local services are working together to promote early literacy and family engagement.

Every baby born in Hillingdon is eligible for a Bookstart Baby pack. Designed for babies up to 12 months old, they include a book, finger puppet and tips on sharing stories with your child.

Libraries, family hubs and children's centres distribute the resources through postnatal appointments and activity sessions, helping families introduce books, stories and songs from birth.

Kimberley Anderson, from Ruislip, said: "The books are colourful, engaging and have become a lovely part of our routine."

"It's been wonderful watching Zach's interest grow – he now enjoys turning the pages, looking at the pictures and exploring the stories."

Cllr Bridges said: "By putting books into the hands of parents and carers from the start, we're helping more children build the language, communication and literacy skills that support them throughout their lives."



Discover Bookstart Baby: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/young-readers



Activities and support for our older people

The council's Age Friendly Festival returns this month, offering older residents a day of free activities, expert advice and opportunities to stay healthy and active.

It will take place at the Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre in West Drayton on Wednesday 30 September, between 10am and 2pm. There's no need to book.

Free health checks, including blood pressure checks, and a range of taster activities will be available. Visitors can also explore

information stalls offering advice on falls prevention, dementia support and mobility, with organisations including Age UK, DASH, Shopmobility, Alzheimer's Society, Admiral Nurses and Brunel University of London.

See the programme: discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/age-friendly-festival



Wedding venue loses its ceremony licence

In July, the council revoked Abshar Grand Suites' right to host marriages and civil partnership ceremonies at Hillingdon House after repeated events caused significant nuisance for nearby residents.

The council's Registration and Appeals Committee found that the venue was no longer suitable as an approved premises for ceremonies under the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005, which state that approved venues must provide a seemly and dignified setting for proceedings.

There had been increased levels of noise, late-night disturbance, congestion, unsafe parking and concerns raised about the impact of large-scale events on the surrounding residential area.

The council has also taken separate planning enforcement action regarding the unauthorised use of the Grade II listed building for large-scale events and banqueting. In October 2021,

planning officers found that the ground floor and basement had been converted into a banqueting suite without planning permission, and the council later refused a retrospective application.

An enforcement notice was issued in July 2023 requiring Abshar Grand Suites to stop using the building as a banqueting hall and for private ceremonies, weddings and parties. The Planning Inspectorate upheld the council's decision in October 2025, finding the use caused unacceptable harm to nearby residents.

Council officers are currently considering the appropriate next steps in relation to the outstanding enforcement notice, including the possibility of prosecution, and will continue to closely monitor the site.

Cllr Adam Bennett, Cabinet Member for Community, Environment and Enforcement, said: "All approved wedding venues must meet the required



standards and provide a suitable, dignified setting for couples and their guests.

"We expect every business in our borough to operate responsibly and within the law, and we will not hesitate to take action when this isn't happening, and residents' lives are affected by disruptive practices."

Report anti-social behaviour:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviour



Investing in high quality local care provision and family-sized housing

The council's Cabinet agreed proposals in July, subject to planning approval, to create two modern care homes to support adults with learning disabilities and two family-sized properties in Nelson Lane, Uxbridge.

The care facilities will help meet growing demand for specialist support, reduce reliance on costly out-of-borough placements and keep residents connected to their communities.

The two three-bed homes will be available to established Hillingdon residents at an affordable rent.

The current buildings on site are unused, outdated and past their usable life, requiring major structural repairs and the site will be completely redeveloped.

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Adults, Children, Health and Care, said: "This proposed scheme would be another positive step towards modernising and future-proofing our care provision, while improving outcomes and increasing independent living options for our vulnerable residents."



"By investing in our own provision, we're reducing reliance on external providers, driving down costs, and creating a more sustainable care system."

Cllr Nick Denys, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Property, added: "We're working hard to deliver more much-needed affordable homes by making best use of our land, with a diverse mix of housing developments under construction."

"Our pledge is simple – Hillingdon homes for Hillingdon people. These proposals offer the opportunity to provide two new family-size homes alongside providing good quality care provision that meets the future care and support needs of our residents."

Mayor's picnic brings sunshine and smiles

More than 2,000 residents enjoyed glorious sunshine as the fourth annual Mayor's Picnic in the Park brought an afternoon of live music, dance and family-friendly fun to The Closes, West Drayton.

The event, held on Saturday 11 July, was the first major event in the Mayor of Hillingdon's calendar and one of the borough's largest community celebrations.

Attendees enjoyed a vibrant line-up of performers, including the Candy Girls performing vintage classics, alongside local acts such as five bands from Hillingdon Music Service, the Queensmead School Band and Bishopshalt School Steel Pans.

Younger visitors had the opportunity to scale a climbing wall, enjoy a variety of inflatables, have their faces painted and meet

a balloon artist. They were also delighted by appearances from Queen Elsa from Disney's *Frozen* and a nine-foot-tall Optimus Prime from *Transformers*.

Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Reeta Chamdal, said: "I was delighted to welcome so many residents to this year's Picnic in the Park. It was wonderful to see families from across the borough come together to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, activities and sunshine.

"Events like this provide a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our community, showcase local talent and bring local people together. I would like to thank everyone who helped make the day such a success."

The 2026 event was kindly supported by Heathrow Airport Ltd, along with McCann Ltd and O'Hara Bros.



Sign up for your new My Account and access our services online

Following the creation of a new council website last year, the next phase in our Digital Strategy is the relaunch of our My Account.

It includes a clearer, more user-friendly layout, automatic saving of your progress when filling in forms, and gives you greater control over your personal data.

In line with data protection regulations, all new and existing users will need to create an account on the new platform to continue to make reports and requests.

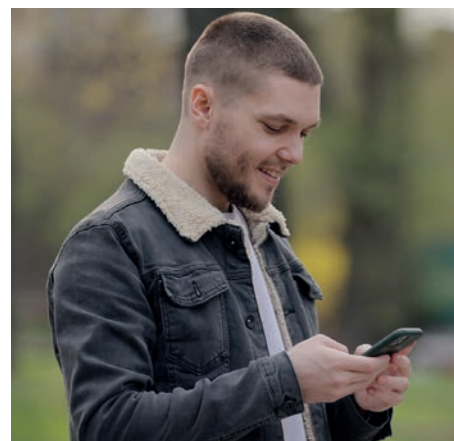
Registering is done via the council's website at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/myaccount. The process is quick and easy. Simply enter your email address and follow the instructions to verify your account and set up a password.

HillingdonFirst cardholders are also requested to re-link their membership number to the account. Please note this does

not affect your regular day-to-day usage of the card.

As it's a new system, while you won't be able to see your previous request log, you will still be able to access the old My Account for up to three months to view any previous and outstanding requests.

Your new My Account still allows you to view and check the status of reports and requests in one place,



24 hours a day, seven days a week. Council tenants will be able to view their rent account balance, pay rent, and request repairs.

Cllr Richard Mills, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Digital and Transformation, said: "In this increasingly digital world, we are continuing to offer residents the flexibility of contacting us on various devices at a time that is convenient to them.

"During the past year we've transformed our website, making it more modern and easier to use. The launch of our new My Account is the next phase offering you a personalised view of your interactions with us in one place."

Create a new account:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/myaccount



Remembering 60 years of Hillingdon through your shared stories

Residents' memories of Hillingdon spanning six decades have been brought to life in a new, free audio display, which opened at Hillingdon Museum and Archives Service in Uxbridge earlier this month.

'Hillingdon at 60' showcases first-hand recollections recorded during the council's 'Reminiscence Roadshows', held last year to mark the borough's Diamond Jubilee.

Excerpts from more than 30 of those recordings now form

a compelling snapshot of the borough's past, exploring themes of everyday life, work, community and change.

Among those featured is **Reika Wadhvani**, from Yeading, recalling the Nestlé factory in Hayes, she said: "I had to pass the factory every single morning. I would get the smell of coffee, it was wonderful."

Geraint Hayward remembered Concorde's test flight from Heathrow, he said: "We were told

to stand in the playground, and we didn't at first know why, and it was then explained to us that this new plane was going to make its first test flight."

The new audio display shares these memories with museum visitors, who can listen to them via a sound cup styled in the shape of a vintage telephone. It also features an interactive memories map for children to share their favourite parts of the borough.

Cllr Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Residents Services, said: "We're proud of our borough's unique history, and this display provides a great opportunity to hear the past recounted through the real experiences of residents who have lived here for decades."



Uxbridge High Street in the early 1990s

Learn more:
discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/hillingdon-60-exhibition



Widening support for pupils with SEND

More children and young people with SEND will be able to access therapy services sooner, as the council expands support to help schools meet pupils' needs at an earlier stage.

In July, the council's Cabinet agreed to commission therapy services from an external provider, creating 21 new roles and giving schools increased access to shared speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, educational psychologists and specialist teachers.

Launching this autumn, the Experts at Hand programme forms part of nationwide SEND reforms and will help schools identify emerging needs earlier, provide support sooner and

enhance partnership working across education, health and care.

Building on the excellence of our nationally recognised children's services, the new support will strengthen schools' ability to meet a wider range of needs, helping more children succeed in mainstream education while reducing reliance on Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) through earlier intervention and targeted support.

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Adults, Children, Health and Care, said: "We want every child in Hillingdon to have the opportunity to achieve their potential and receive the support they need to succeed.



"This is an opportunity to enhance the support we offer our children and young people with SEND by giving schools direct access to a pool of professionals and helping staff identify and respond to needs earlier."

Access SEND services:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/send



Protecting and enhancing our open spaces

The council has secured a share of £1.48 million in Greater London Authority (GLA) funding after being selected as one of only two pilot authorities in the capital to deliver an ambitious new rewilding programme.

'Rewilding Hillingdon' is a landmark 250-hectare scheme, covering Gutteridge Woods and the Yeading Brook Meadows corridor in north Hillingdon, south of the A40.

Taking a long-term, landscape-wide approach to nature recovery, the project will restore and reconnect woodland, meadow, wetland and river habitats, improve water quality and flood resilience, strengthen ecological networks, and create new opportunities for residents to experience and enjoy nature through walking and cycling routes.

The scheme builds on the council's commitment to improving biodiversity and restoring natural habitats following the successful delivery of a range of environmental projects, including river restorations at Spider Park (South Ruislip) and Elephant Park (Hillingdon) and the creation of newt waterways at Hillingdon House Farm (Uxbridge).

Cllr Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Residents Services, said: "Rewilding Hillingdon represents an exciting new chapter in our ongoing work to protect and enhance the borough's green spaces, improve biodiversity and strengthen climate resilience.

"As one of the capital's greenest boroughs, we are proud to be leading this pilot project, which



Community planting at Spider Park

will create long-term benefits for both residents and wildlife by restoring habitats and improving access to nature."

Earlier this year, the GLA also provided support from its Green Roots Fund for new river restoration projects to be delivered at Grange Park, Hayes, and Queen's Walk (east and west), South Ruislip.

Helping make the borough's streets greener

Since 2022, more than 150 new trees have been planted in streets and parks through the council's partnership with the charity initiative Trees for Streets.

The scheme allows residents, local groups and businesses to sponsor a street tree to help green their local area or dedicate a tree as a celebration in a local park or open space.

Alongside their visual appeal, street trees provide shade, help improve air quality and create habitats and foraging opportunities for wildlife.

Ruislip resident, **Anuj Pradhan** (pictured left), sponsored a tree outside his home to help reduce traffic noise as well as for its wider environmental benefits. He said: "The sponsorship process was very convenient, and it is a great way to improve the feel of the neighbourhood."

To support participation, local businesses can sponsor trees

as a way of giving back to their community while Trees for Streets also offers a crowdfunding service so residents can contribute towards multiple trees by sharing costs.

Cllr Bridges said: "Our street tree sponsorship scheme is a great way for residents to enhance the appearance of their street now and for generations to come.

"These benefits go well beyond the visual improvement of our streets. As well as enhancing the appearance of our neighbourhoods, access to trees and green spaces is strongly linked to better mental health and wellbeing."

Sponsor a tree:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/sponsor-a-tree



Rogue traders ordered to pay thousands in compensation costs

Two roofers who charged a customer more than double the amount originally agreed and left the job unfinished have been ordered to pay £26,400 compensation following an investigation by the council's trading standards team.

Billy Dunbar, 26, of Old Mill Place, Wraysbury, and John Smith, 23, of Pleasant Place, Hersham, admitted misleading commercial practices in breach of the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 after starting work at a property in Hatherleigh Road, Ruislip.

The pair, who worked as business partners trading as Pinner Roofing, were sentenced at Isleworth Crown Court on Tuesday 23 June.

Alongside the compensation, Dunbar received a four-and-a-half-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months and was handed 150 hours of unpaid work. He was also given 15 days of rehabilitation activity and ordered to pay a contribution to costs of £1,200 and a victim surcharge of £154.

Smith was given an 18-month community order, 150 hours of unpaid work, 25 days of rehabilitation activity and ordered to pay the same contribution towards costs, alongside a victim surcharge of £114.

The council's trading standards service was alerted to the case after receiving a call from NatWest Bank in February 2023 about substantial payments being made from the victim's account for roofing work.

The victim had agreed to pay £25,000 to replace the roof of his property, but was later told the work would cost considerably more. He ultimately paid £52,800 before refusing to make any further payments. Dunbar and Smith then walked off the job, leaving the roof unfinished.

The pair also failed to provide the victim with information about his right to cancel the contract, as required under consumer protection legislation.

Before sentencing, the defendants had already repaid half of the victim's losses by voluntarily paying £13,200 each in compensation.



Cllr Adam Bennett, Cabinet Member for Community, Environment and Enforcement,

said: "This must have been a distressing experience for the victim in this case. Our priority is to protect our residents from rogue traders and from being unfairly treated, and this case demonstrates that we will not hesitate to take robust action against unscrupulous businesses who seek to exploit local people."

Report an issue to Citizen's Advice:
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/contact-us



Children's services are recognised nationally

The council has been selected by the Department for Education (DfE) as one of only six local authorities nationwide designated as a Children's Improvement Team (CIT) provider, recognising its expertise in supporting improvements to children's services across the sector.

The CIT programme is part of the DfE's sector-led improvement model, where experienced local authorities provide peer challenge, support and knowledge to help improve outcomes for children and families nationally.

Hillingdon's selection reflects its proven track record in children's services, ability to provide

effective support and challenge to other local authorities, and the exceptional value brought through the Director of Children's Services Adviser-in-Chief role.

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Adults, Children, Health and Care, said: "Being chosen as a CIT provider is a significant achievement for the council and reflects national confidence in our leadership, practice and improvement expertise."

Next steps will see Hillingdon paired with a local authority this autumn, which it will go on to support for up to two years.



Staff from our children's services leadership team

Investing in safer school journeys

Earlier this year, eight local primary schools shared more than £3,500 through our annual Dragons' Den-style event to support safer, greener school travel.

Held at the Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre in Uxbridge, the initiative gives students the opportunity to develop creative solutions to real-life travel challenges. Representatives from each school's TfL Explorers pitch their ideas to a panel of 'dragons', with the most innovative projects receiving funding.

TfL Explorers are pupils elected by their peers to lead on sustainable travel and road safety initiatives within their schools.

This year's successful projects included road safety campaigns, walking and cycling initiatives, educational videos and new equipment to encourage active travel. Among the schools awarded funding was Heathrow Primary School in West Drayton, which has used the money to install new road safety-themed playground markings and a dedicated roadway learning area.

This summer, Leader of the Council, Cllr Steve Tuckwell, and Cllr Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Residents Services, visited the school to see the project in action (pictured above).

In March, seven other schools received funding following their successful pitches:

- **Sacred Heart Primary School, Ruislip** is introducing a road



safety initiative focused on encouraging safer parking and active travel.

- **Hayes Park Primary School** is developing a schoolwide 'step challenge', encouraging pupils to increase their daily activity and choose more sustainable ways to travel.
- **Dr Triplett's CE Primary School, Hayes** is creating a road safety mascot and delivering a campaign focused on child car seat and seatbelt safety.
- **Grange Park Junior School, Hayes** is introducing a range of initiatives aimed at improving road safety around the school, including a road safety awareness video.

- **Belmore Primary School, Hayes** is developing a promotional road safety video designed to encourage safer travel behaviours across the school community.
- **William Byrd Primary School, Hayes** has purchased additional pool bikes to increase cycling opportunities for pupils and encourage more children to take part in cycling activities.
- **St Helen's College, Uxbridge** is supporting active travel and road safety promotion with a promotional video and initiatives encouraging walking or cycling to school.

Funded through the council's TfL Local Implementation Plan budget, the Dragon's Den is delivered by our school travel and road safety (STaRS) team, supporting schools with travel planning, road safety education and active travel initiatives.

Learn more:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/school-travel-road-safety



Supporting families with their newborn

Welcoming a baby is one of life's special moments, but it can also bring new challenges and expenses. That's why we've launched a scheme to provide eligible families with essential items as they begin their parenting journey.

The initiative is aimed at families who may need extra support during the early stages of parenthood, including younger parents, care-experienced parents, families with limited access to financial support, and those already receiving support from family help or social care services.

Each Babybox contains 22 practical items, including short and long-sleeved bodysuits, socks, a hat, blanket, comforter toy, play mat, baby book, travel changing mat, bath towel, a toothbrush,

thermometer, disposable nappies and antiseptic cream.

The first boxes were presented to local families by Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Adults, Children, Health and Care, at a launch event at West Drayton Family Hub on Thursday 27 August.

Romy Peache from Hayes (pictured below), was one of the first recipients. She said: "It's a great idea from the council.

"The baby sleeping bag, thermometer and maternity pads will be really helpful."



Cllr O'Brien said: "Having a baby is such an exciting and special time, but we know those first few weeks can also be a big adjustment for parents, both emotionally and financially.

"We want our families to feel supported as they start this new chapter, and our Babyboxes are a simple, practical way of helping with some of those everyday needs.

"Alongside this scheme, our family hubs offer a range of support and guidance for local families, helping ensure children get the best possible start in life and parents know where to turn when they need advice or assistance."



Funded using a grant from the Department for Education, Babyboxes are available through referrals from the council, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, Hillingdon Hospital, and Home-Start Hillingdon.

A network of support

The Babybox scheme complements the wider support available to families through our family hubs, which provide free services, information and advice in a caring and nurturing environment.

Families can access antenatal and parenting support, workshops and courses, guidance on child development and early learning, infant feeding support, and help with health and wellbeing.

Specialist support is also available for children with additional needs and disabilities, with a range of partner organisations based at the hubs, including midwifery, health visiting, therapy and perinatal mental health services, helping children and families get the best start in life. Find out more at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/family-hubs.

Check eligibility:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/babybox



An ambitious plan for our growth

In July, we unveiled *Hillingdon Our Vision for Growth*, a bold new strategy setting out a long-term plan to transform the borough's economy and create a range of opportunities for residents and businesses.

Hillingdon is home to global transport links, thriving businesses, leading educational institutions and excellent green spaces, and these strengths uniquely position the area to benefit from growth.

Our new 10-year plan sets out how the council will harness these strengths to attract investment, support businesses to grow and thrive, improve workforce skills, deliver new homes and the related infrastructure to support them, and, most importantly, ensure local people benefit from that success.

The goal is simple: by 2036, Hillingdon will be a place people choose to live, work and invest in, due to its strong economy, vibrant town centres and high quality of life.

To do this, we will create a local economy that is:

- **Resilient** – supporting future-proof industries and adapting to economic change.
- **Inclusive** – ensuring all residents can access jobs, skills and housing.
- **Proud** – celebrating the borough's heritage, green spaces and local identity.

How will it be delivered?

The strategy is built around three pillars which will guide the delivery of change:



- **Innovate** – we will strengthen the local economy by supporting high-growth sectors, fostering innovation through partnerships with institutions like Brunel University of London, and creating space for businesses to start and scale.
- **Connect** – improving connectivity within the borough is central to the plan. This includes addressing north-south transport links, aligning skills with emerging industries, and ensuring residents can access local opportunities and benefit from investment linked to major organisations, such as Heathrow Airport.
- **Thrive** – we will invest in town centres and public spaces to elevate them, while delivering much-needed homes in the right places, supported by the infrastructure they need. This includes unlocking stalled housing developments, revitalising high streets, and protecting and enhancing green and blue spaces such as the Grand Union Canal.

It also identifies four key areas where targeted investment and regeneration will unlock the borough's potential, while ensuring development such as new businesses or housing is appropriate and manageable:

- **Uxbridge and Brunel Quarter** – a hub for knowledge-led enterprise and innovation.
- **Hayes, Stockley Park and the Old Vinyl Factory** – a creative and cultural centre.
- **Heathrow Economic Activity Zone** – expanding the benefits of Hillingdon's global gateway.
- **North of the A40** – enhancing quality of life and improving



access to nature by connecting green spaces.

The plan will work alongside the council's Local Plan, the main document used when deciding planning applications and guiding decisions about housing, employment, green spaces, leisure and infrastructure.

The plan is currently being updated, and the first stage of public consultation, a scoping consultation, took place in July and August.

Residents will be able to have their say on the draft plan in November. Stay up to date at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/localplanconsultation.



The plan in action

With the launch of the plan, the Leader of the Council, Cllr Steve Tuckwell, has been meeting with a range of businesses which have



Cllr Tuckwell with representatives from Coca-Cola

their headquarters in the borough. These included large global corporations, such as Coca-Cola, Prologis and SEGRO, to explore how they can support the council.

Investment into our town centres is also underway, with plans being developed to transform the Civic Centre forecourt into a more vibrant space for markets and events.

New markets are being trialled on the high street in September to attract visitors, support local businesses and bring communities together.

Find out more and read the full Growth Plan:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/growth-plan



Delivering a lasting impact

Since April 2024, we've been using £3.6 million secured from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to deliver projects which enhance communities and provide a boost to the local economy, including supporting residents into work and helping businesses grow.

While the government has decided to discontinue the funding, it has left a lasting legacy in Hillingdon.

Since April 2024, we have used the funding to support:

- **368 businesses** to grow, scale and secure new contracts
- **525 residents** to gain skills and training to secure employment
- **152 residents** into work.

The support for businesses included a Supplier Readiness Programme, giving small and medium-sized businesses the opportunity to learn how to secure contracts from larger businesses and organisations operating in the borough. The initiative also gave business owners the chance to put the skills learned into practice

through 'Meet the Buyer' events, allowing them to connect with potential customers such as Heathrow Airport, Greyline, Mace and the council.

After attending a 'Meet the Buyer' session, Blind Technique, founded and based in Eastcote, secured business with Greyline and began conversations with Rosedale College about future opportunities by connecting to their contractor portal.

Aaron Smith, Owner and Director (pictured below), said:



Cllr Tuckwell said: "Hillingdon is very much open for business. We want businesses of all sizes to succeed here, while making sure our global connections create more opportunities for our residents.

"Hillingdon has always been a borough of opportunity, and this plan is about making sure local people benefit from our success – through better jobs, stronger high streets and communities people are proud to call home.

"We have some of the biggest and most successful businesses in the world based here, alongside thousands of smaller local businesses. By working together, we can create more opportunities for our residents and make Hillingdon an even better place to live, work and do business."

"Before joining the programme, we never expected to be securing work with organisations of this scale. The support helped us take a fresh look at our marketing and website, ensuring we were presenting the right information to potential clients as we continue to grow the business.

"It also gave us the confidence to put ourselves forward for new opportunities and helped us make valuable connections that could lead to even more contracts in the future."

Ickenham Marsh



Protecting Hillingdon's green belt

The council is challenging the Mayor of London and the government over proposals to build thousands of new homes on the borough's green belt, while stripping away local powers to influence decisions on where development should take place.

The need to deliver more housing and drive economic growth is a major priority for local authorities across the UK, but a key question is where exactly this should take place.

Hillingdon recognises this need, as set out in our Growth Plan (see page 14), a locally-led vision focused on delivering Hillingdon homes for Hillingdon people by prioritising brownfield development, making appropriate use of the grey belt where justified, and protecting the borough's valued green belt wherever possible.

However, in July, the Mayor of London published the draft London Plan for consultation, which sets out his vision for housing, employment, transport and infrastructure across the capital during the next decade.

For Hillingdon, the draft plan:

- proposes a housing target of 24,030 homes for the next 10 years – equivalent to 2,403 homes a year, more than double the borough's current London Plan target
- dictates that 61 per cent of the target homes should be delivered on the borough's green spaces
- gives Hillingdon the largest green belt development targets proposed for any London borough
- fails to recognise or adequately plan for the potentially significant impact Heathrow expansion could have on communities, infrastructure and the environment.

The council has responded to the consultation, challenging

why Hillingdon has been singled out for such a disproportionate level of green belt development and emphasising that planning decisions must be evidence-led, locally informed and supported by the infrastructure communities need.

James Revier, a Ruislip Manor resident (pictured below), said: "For most residents, Ickenham Marsh is our hidden gem and a real perk of where we live. I walk my dog a couple of times a week here, alongside Ruislip Woods and the Lido.



"It's so important that we have cherished green spaces like this, and it defies logic that it would be taken away and replaced with homes. I don't understand where the infrastructure would go to support them.

"I'm all in favour of new homes, but they have to be in the right places. I know most people would rather live on a brownfield site, close to the amenities they need for everyday life, while still having a green haven like this to enjoy."

Changes to planning laws

Alongside the Mayor's plan, in August the government published the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the aim of accelerating the creation of new homes, delivering economic growth and new jobs, and simplifying planning processes.

The council warned in the March/April edition of *Hillingdon People* that the changes would undermine the voice of residents by stripping back local planning powers in favour of fast-tracked approvals by the government and Mayor of London.

The proposals include:

- the reintroduction of high mandatory housing targets (in addition to increased targets outlined in the Mayor's plan)
- default approval being introduced for housing developments within 800 metres of train and underground stations, including on green belt land
- Hillingdon being forced to accept overcrowded, high-density unsuitable development without proper local consultation.

From 31 October, a further set of reforms will come into force relating to planning committees and delegation of decisions to council planning officers. The main change will introduce a National Scheme of Delegation (NSoD) setting out which

Leader of the Council, Cllr Steve Tuckwell, said: "Sadiq Khan's draft London Plan, alongside the government's changes to planning legislation, are another example of a centralised power grab, with the government and Mayor trying to dictate Hillingdon's future from afar, with little regard for the people who actually live here.

"No-one disputes that London needs more homes. The question is where they should go.

"The answer in the Mayor's vision appears to be 'Hillingdon', expecting our borough to sacrifice more green belt than anywhere else in London while other boroughs are expected to do nowhere near as much.

"Our priority has always been Hillingdon homes for Hillingdon people. That's exactly what our own Growth Plan is designed to deliver, providing the homes local families need, in the right places, while protecting the character of our borough and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with growth.

"The Mayor is asking Hillingdon to absorb thousands more homes while failing to address the enormous uncertainty surrounding Heathrow expansion and the profound impact it could have on our borough. You cannot produce a credible plan for Hillingdon's future while ignoring what, if approved, would be the largest infrastructure project in Europe.

"Hillingdon has never shied away from delivering growth, but it must be the right growth. We will always prioritise brownfield land first, make sensible use of appropriate grey belt where justified by the evidence, and ensure development is shaped by local people, not arbitrary targets imposed on us.

"We have made the strongest possible case during this consultation, and I urge every resident to also have their say."

applications must be determined by officers and which may be referred to a planning committee.

Separately, the government has consulted on proposals to give the Mayor of London further powers to fast-track planning approvals through City Hall.

The government's aim is to speed up decision making and make the system more consistent across local authorities, ensuring planning committees focus on the most significant developments, while smaller and more routine applications are decided by officers.

Under the new rules, applications such as home extensions, small housing developments and minor commercial schemes will be decided by planning officers and will no longer routinely be considered by councillors at planning committee meetings,

even where there is significant local opposition.

Planning committees will instead focus on larger proposals, such as major housing developments, significant town centre projects and applications which affect heritage assets or community facilities.

For Hillingdon, it will result in a substantial reduction in the number of planning applications presented to the council's committee, meaning objectors or supporters will have less opportunity to present their views in person to committee members.

Comment on the Mayor's draft London Plan before Thursday 15 October:
consult.london.gov.uk/londonplan



Be a winner, recycle your dinner

National Recycle Week returns on Monday 14 September, encouraging us to produce less waste and recycle more.

The council offers a comprehensive range of ways for you to recycle and protect the environment. Across Hillingdon, more than 80,000 homes now have access to our free food waste collections. It's easy to do and we'll supply all you need to get started.

Once signed up, you'll receive a kitchen caddy, outdoor food waste bin and liners to help separate food scraps from general waste.

If you have a caddy, but aren't using it, or would like to order one, now's the perfect time to start. You'll reduce your household waste and help the environment as your leftovers are recycled into nutrient-rich compost and renewable energy for the national grid.

Please note, if food waste is found in dry mixed recycling bags, it can contaminate an entire load and cause it to be rejected, which

reduces the volume of recycling that can be successfully processed.

Pamela Hanna from Ruislip (pictured below), said: "Using the food waste collection service is such a simple way to make a difference. It only takes a moment

to separate food scraps, and knowing they're being recycled into compost and renewable energy makes it feel like a small change with a big impact."



Recycle more

- Our weekly **dry mixed recycling** collections are for everyday items like cereal boxes, drink cans, tins, paper and plastic trays and bottles.
- Pink bins found in all borough libraries accept **old or broken small electrical or electronic items**, such as laptops and mobile phones, as well as any cables, while special bins for household batteries can be found in more than 20 locations.
- For any **old or unwanted clothing** that's still in wearable condition, you can book a free textiles collection through our partnership with the charity TR Aid and have it collected from your doorstep.

- Dedicated bays for **lithium-ion batteries** – which risk causing fires if wrongly put in your waste or recycling – can be found at Harefield Civic Amenity Site and Space Way Reuse and Recycling Centre near Heathrow. A wrongly disposed lithium-ion battery caused a fire at the Harefield facility in June, which led to it having to close to residents and traders for a day while it was repaired and cleaned. Please dispose of these correctly to keep everyone safe.
- If you've been busy in the garden during the summer, our **garden waste collection service** has weekly collections

(fortnightly in winter) and a generous capacity for a £77 annual fee, making it cheaper than neighbouring boroughs.

- You can also take **a range of items** to our waste and recycling centres at Harefield Civic Amenity Site, West Drayton Waste Weekends and Space Way Reuse and Recycling Centre near Heathrow. Find out more at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/waste-recycling-centres.

Find out what you can recycle:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/recycling



Compost giveaway highlights recycling benefits

Dozens of residents got to reap the rewards of garden waste recycling when we offered free compost during a giveaway last month.

The event at Lake Farm Country Park car park, Hayes,

took place on Saturday 8 August and resulted in 10 tonnes of soil improver being distributed.

The compost was kindly donated by Envar Composting, which is based in New Years

Green Lane, Harefield, where the borough's garden waste collections are processed, with this being the end product.



Cllr Wayne Bridges, Cabinet Member for Residents Services, said: "Taking a few moments to separate your waste correctly for recycling can make a significant difference, helping to reduce the borough's environmental impact and ensuring that valuable materials are given a new lease of life.

"We want to encourage more residents to participate and are proud to offer a comprehensive range of recycling services to make this as easy as possible. In particular, we would like to see more residents using their food caddies to recycle food leftovers, helping to keep recyclable and compostable material out of general waste.

"Whether you are not currently recycling or could recycle more, National Recycle Week is the perfect opportunity to make a commitment to increasing your recycling."

Recycling events

We have recycling-themed events throughout September and beyond.

Our recycling team is hosting a Recycle Roadshow at the Cleaner Greener Festival on Saturday 19 September at St Margaret's Church in Uxbridge from 11am to 3pm.

Come along for hints and tips, advice on reducing waste, and information on signing up for food waste collections. Find out more at discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/recycling-roadshow.

Our free Pop-Up Waste Drop service visits Pinkwell Park car park in Hayes on Saturday 12 September and Deane Park car park in Ruislip on Saturday 26 September. Residents can bring up to five unwanted or bulky items. Sessions run from 10am to 4pm. Find out what you can bring at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/waste-drop.

Looking ahead, our next free Repair and Reuse Day takes place on Saturday 17 October



Get your bike, clothes and small electricals fixed at our Repair and Reuse Day

at Botwell Green Leisure Centre from 11am to 2pm. Visit stalls from our partners, such as TR Aid and Friends of the Earth or book

a session to learn how to repair old clothes or even get your bike fixed. Find out more at discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/repair-day.

Repairing and improving homes

We're investing in safer, warmer and more energy-efficient homes for council tenants, while transforming housing estates and delivering new, high quality homes for Hillingdon residents.

As the largest landlord in the borough, we are responsible for managing more than 13,000 homes. This includes ensuring every property is safe and meets required living standards.

Our repairs service receives an average of 780 work requests each week and completes more than 3,000 jobs a month. However, property surveys identified opportunities to reduce future repairs and make homes more comfortable.

To achieve this, last year, we launched an ambitious four-year investment programme to improve our homes, making them safer, warmer, more energy efficient and accessible.

This year, £45 million was allocated for upgrades, including £4 million for adaptations to help residents with disabilities live more independently, and more than £10 million for decarbonisation and tackling damp and mould.



Our progress improving homes so far in 2026/27

-  • **1,280** new kitchens
- **677** new bathrooms
- **156** front entrance and **279** communal fire doors installed
- **63** aids and adaptations cases, including accessible showers, stairlifts, dropped kerbs and ramps
- **174** domestic boilers replaced
-  • **165** homes received decarbonisation works
- **166** homes underwent external repairs and redecoration
- **656** properties fitted with replacement windows



undergoing decarbonisation improvement works.

The upgrades include new windows, doors, roofs, insulation, boilers, improved ventilation, damp sensors and heat recovery fans.

One of the Nelson Close residents, **Belinda Justice** (pictured above with Cllr Denys), said: "These improvement works have been a real positive for our home. Above all, I'm pleased they will help to tackle the damp

issues we've experienced due to the age of the property. The council and contractors have been excellent throughout, turning up on time and carrying out the work professionally and tidily.

"The new ventilation system has already made a noticeable difference, especially during the recent hot weather, making it easier to keep the bedroom cool and get a good night's sleep."

Transforming our estates

On Monday 27 July, Cllr Denys visited Seabrook Court on the Hayes Town Centre estate, alongside Declan Higgins, Chief Executive Officer at Higgins Group, the council's contractor for the Hayes estates redevelopment project (pictured right).

The building delivers 80 new homes for a mix of council

tenants and leaseholders. It features a striking brickwork finish, large windows to maximise natural sunlight and spacious balconies. Each home is equipped with modern kitchens and bathrooms and powered by state-of-the-art air source heat pumps, helping to reduce tenants' energy bills and the impact on the climate.



Hillingdon People spoke to some of the long-term residents of the estate who had moved into their new homes or were preparing to move very soon.



Joyce Blackwood said: "I've lived here for 27 years, and the community has always meant a lot to me. I get on well with my neighbours and regularly see them for a cup of tea and a chat. I'm really glad the council has been able to keep so many of us together in the new block. "I've seen the building go up from scratch and it's been worth the wait. The flats are spacious, everything is brand new, and having access to the outdoor garden space just for residents is a lovely addition."



Sandra Medeiros said: "Moving into my new home at Seabrook Court feels like the start of an exciting new chapter for my family. The process has been smooth and well managed, and it has absolutely been worth the wait. "Our previous homes had reached the end of their lifespan, and this new block feels much nicer, more modern and far more secure. We've moved into another two-bedroom flat, but the space feels much more evenly laid out."

Next steps

Completion of the block marked the end of the first phase of construction, delivering 110 homes, including 30 at Cherwell Court on the Avondale Drive estate.

The demolition of Wellings House at Avondale Drive has begun, with fire doors and other reusable assets removed and the former car park torn down, marking the start of phase two of the redevelopment.

The block will gradually be removed using a modern top-down method, with specialist machinery gradually nibbling away at the building floor by floor.

Once complete, the combined project across both estates will create 740 new homes (50 per cent affordable), a greener neighbourhood and public spaces for the community.

Get involved

If you are interested in getting involved in shaping our housing services or want to find out how you could participate, email residentempowerment@hillingdon.gov.uk or visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/help-shape-services.

To receive regular updates about tenant and leaseholder engagement sessions, our home improvements programme and the latest housing news, sign up to our housing e-newsletter at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/enews.

Cllr Denys said: "Across our housing stock, we're carrying out a range of vital improvements to tenants' homes, making homes warmer, more energy-efficient and, importantly, tackling any issues such as damp and mould which are more common in our older properties.

"At the same time, we're delivering modern, high quality Hillingdon homes for Hillingdon people across the borough. It's fantastic to see long-standing residents of our Hayes estates, who helped shape our regeneration plans from the beginning, moving and settling into their new homes. For many, the move marks an important next chapter into a property better suited to their current circumstances, whether that means having more space for a growing family or downsizing."

Working to create a safer borough

From tackling crime and anti-social behaviour to supporting vulnerable residents, our community safety team works with the Metropolitan Police and local partners to help make Hillingdon a safer place to live, work and visit.

This partnership approach is guided by the Safer Hillingdon Partnership Community Safety Strategy 2026-2029, approved by the council in February. The strategy was shaped by extensive public consultation, with more than 770 residents and businesses helping to identify the issues and priorities within their neighbourhoods.

It focuses on four key areas:

- 1. Creating safer neighbourhoods and improving perceptions of safety.**
- 2. Tackling violence against women and girls.**
- 3. Reducing violent incidents through targeted partnership work.**
- 4. Preventing harm by safeguarding vulnerable residents.**

Respondents also highlighted the importance of:

- visible policing
- action against anti-social behaviour
- improved lighting and CCTV
- stronger joint enforcement.



Clamping down on nuisance vehicles

Abandoned vehicles can quickly become an eyesore, attract anti-social behaviour and affect the appearance of neighbourhoods. Last year, we authorised the removal and storage of 128 such vehicles.

One recent example involved a suspected abandoned Audi in Long Lane, Uxbridge. After receiving reports from residents, council officers investigated and issued an Abandoned Vehicle Removal Notice. When no response was received, the owner's details were obtained from the DVLA and a further notice was served requiring the vehicle to be removed within seven days.

When the owner failed to take action, arrangements were made for the vehicle to be towed away and it was removed in August. Vehicles recovered by the council can only be reclaimed by their owners on payment of the relevant collection and storage charges.

The council has agreed to participate in a joint pilot with Ealing and Brent for the out-of-hours removal of abandoned and nuisance vehicles. The scheme



Cllr Bennett with the abandoned Audi

will operate mainly during evenings and weekends, targeting hotspots, and will be delivered at no cost to the council through a concession agreement with a vehicle recovery contractor.

Report abandoned vehicles:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/abandoned-cars-report



Taking action on e-bikes

Another recent example of the partnership in action is tackling the illegal use of e-bikes in busy town centres.

Working alongside the Metropolitan Police, council officers have carried out enforcement activity in Uxbridge town centre, West Drayton, Belmore Parade and Hayes town centre, removing illegal and unsafe bikes from the streets.

Did you know that a legal e-bike must stop providing motor assistance once it reaches 15.5 miles per hour? Bikes that exceed this limit, or have been illegally modified, may be treated as motor vehicles under the law.

These days of action have resulted in five illegal e-bikes being seized by police, including high-powered bikes capable of travelling well above the legal speed limit.

During the operations, council environmental enforcement officers and the police issued a range of Fixed Penalty Notices for offences including riding on pavements, Public Spaces



Protection Order (PSPO) breaches and littering, while businesses received warnings about managing their waste correctly.

The local activity forms part of a wider police crackdown, with more than 2,500 illegal e-bikes and e-scooters seized across London in the first seven months of this year – already more than the total seized during the whole of 2025.

Find out more about the rules for electric bikes at www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules.

Council or police – who to contact?

The council and police each have different powers and responsibilities. Knowing who to contact helps ensure issues are dealt with as quickly as possible.

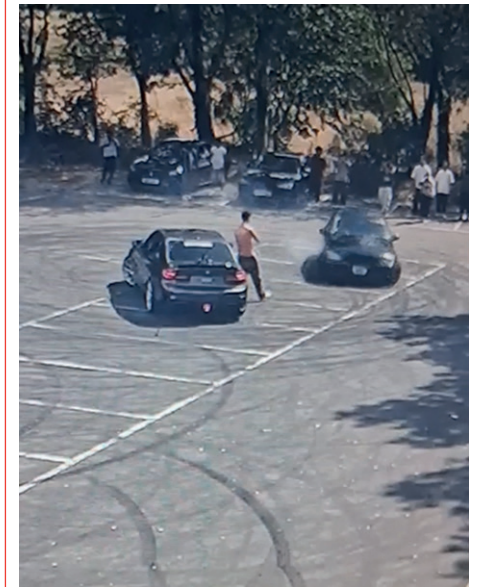
Report these issues to the council	Report these issues to the police
The council investigates environmental crime, nuisance and anti-social behaviour, including: • fly-tipping, littering and graffiti • abandoned vehicles • illegal street trading • noise and light nuisance • highway and pavement issues • problems in parks and public spaces.	The Metropolitan Police deals with crimes and incidents including: • theft, robbery and burglary • assault and violent crime • sexual offences • drug and weapon offences • hate crime and fraud • road traffic incidents • missing, lost or stolen vehicles • dangerous or threatening behaviour.
Find out more about issues investigated at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviour. To make a report, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/report.	To report a crime or incident, visit www.met.police.uk. In an emergency, or if someone is in immediate danger, call 999. For non-emergencies, call 101.

Illegal car meet halted

In July, partnership working helped bring an illegal car meet filming a music video to a halt at Cranford Park, Hayes, after reports of vehicles being driven in an anti-social and dangerous manner while park users were present.

Following an alert from park staff, council teams, including CCTV operators, anti-social behaviour officers and environmental enforcement officers, worked alongside the Metropolitan Police to respond quickly to the incident. Access to the car park was restricted while officers identified those involved and gathered evidence.

As a result, nine drivers received Fixed Penalty Notices under the borough's PSPO, which prohibits car meets and street racing.



Cllr Adam Bennett, Cabinet Member for Community, Environment and Enforcement,

said: "From tackling illegal e-bikes and dangerous car meets to removing abandoned vehicles, we're taking action on the issues residents tell us matter most.

"Working closely with the police and our partners means we can respond quickly, target problem areas and help keep Hillingdon a safe place to live, work and visit."

News from our partners

Keeping you safe: update from the Metropolitan Police Service

Having been in the role for a few months, I have found myself reflecting on both the successes and challenges of my tenure so far.

Demand on policing this financial year continues to grow, with attended incidents up 5.7 per cent compared with the same period last year. Despite this, neighbourhood crime is reducing, down 6.1 per cent, demonstrating that our renewed focus on community crime fighting is delivering tangible results. I am also delighted that positive outcomes for shoplifting offences are up 60 per cent. I know this news

will be welcomed by the borough's retail workers, business owners and the public alike.

Reflecting on Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley's recent comments, we know that homicides across London are now at their lowest level in a decade, while the Met is the best-performing force nationally for positive outcomes in rape investigations. This is work of which we should all be rightly proud.

However, delivering an effective policing service in a fast-paced global city is not without its challenges, and it would be remiss of

me not to comment on the tragic death of Kirandeep Kaur, a Sikh woman in Hayes, which caused understandable shock and concern across London's Sikh community. Incidents such as this remind us that policing is not just about responding to crime; it is about building trust and confidence before communities need us.

That is why I was pleased to welcome Deputy Commissioner Matt Jukes to the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Southall, where he was able to hear concerns directly, offer reassurance and reaffirm our

determination to pursue justice and find answers.

Looking ahead, I am committed to building upon the strong foundations we have here in Hillingdon, working with our partners to reduce crime and the fear of crime, improve public confidence and continue delivering the high quality policing service our communities deserve.

**Superintendent
Jake Albon-Massey**



Protecting yourself and others from flu this winter season

Flu isn't just a bad cold. Last year, thousands of Londoners were admitted to hospital with flu.

For people with long-term health conditions or weakened immune systems, it can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia.

With flu cases rising every winter, get protected and avoid flu slowing you down.

Who is eligible for the flu vaccine?

The vaccine is free to people most at risk, including:

- those aged 65 or over
- those aged six months to 64 years with a long-term health condition

- those who are pregnant
- children aged two to three, and school-aged children (nasal flu vaccine spray)
- carers, unpaid carers, or people living with someone with a weakened immune system.

How long does it protect you for?

Protection starts within two weeks, but fades over time. Get vaccinated every year to make sure you are protected against the latest flu strains.

Do children really need to be vaccinated?

Yes. Flu can make children seriously unwell

and cause them to miss school. While some parents prefer to rely on natural immunity, this means children could catch flu and pass it on to more vulnerable people, including grandparents, pregnant women, and those with long-term health conditions.

How can I ensure my child is protected?

The flu nasal spray is the best way to protect your child and others from a potentially serious illness. The spray contains pork gelatine, but you can request a flu injection instead, which does not contain pork.

Ask your child's school about vaccination dates or visit www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics.

How can I get the flu vaccine for myself or family members?

The NHS flu booking service opens mid-September for appointments from Thursday 1 October, if you are eligible. For more information, visit www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine or ask your GP practice.

NHS
West and North London

Serving Hillingdon with pride

A few months into her year as Mayor, Cllr Reeta Chamdal meets with *Hillingdon People* to reflect on life as the borough's first citizen, the people she's met and the causes that have inspired her.

At the council's Annual General Meeting in May, Cllr Chamdal was elected Mayor of Hillingdon.

Born and raised in Hillingdon, she has spent most of her life in the borough. After a successful career as a bank manager, she retired and now helps run the family business while continuing her longstanding commitment to community and charitable work. In 2022, she was first elected as a councillor for Hillingdon West.

Reflecting on her appointment, **Cllr Chamdal** said: "Being Mayor is a real honour and privilege, and I feel an enormous sense of pride every time I put on the chains of office.

"When I attended my first citizenship ceremony as Mayor, it suddenly dawned on me that I was representing not only the borough, but also the King. I'm an ambassador for Hillingdon, our residents and the council, and I never take that responsibility for granted."

Since becoming Mayor, Cllr Chamdal has attended a range of events, from community celebrations and festivals to charity fundraisers and awards ceremonies.

Highlights have included visits to the Hillingdon Narrowboats Association in Harefield, Hayes Canal Festival, Ickenham Festival and Ruislip Manor Summer Fun Day. She has also met residents at care homes, attended the Harlington Locomotive Society Family Fun Day and presented certificates to fire cadets at Hillingdon Fire Station at their passing-out ceremony.

One event that particularly stood out was the council's Picnic in the Park. "It was wonderful to see so many residents, volunteers and community groups come together," she said. "Meeting people, hearing their stories and seeing the borough's community spirit on display made it a truly memorable event." Read more on page 8.



The Mayor has also been inspired by the many volunteers, carers and community groups working behind the scenes to support others. "There are so many unsung heroes making a difference every day," she said. "By visiting them, I'm hoping I can help raise awareness of what they do and encourage even more people to get involved."

As part of her mayoral year, she has chosen HACS (Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support) as her charity of the year.

"I want to help create a more inclusive and understanding community," she said. "HACS does phenomenal work supporting families, carers and individuals, and I'm proud to support them."

Cllr Chamdal is accompanied in her mayoral duties by her Consort, Roy Chamdal, while her children, Lavinia, Evangeline and Dante, serve as her escorts. At May's Annual General Meeting, Cllr Colleen Sullivan was also appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor.



The Mayor learning how sound travels at the Imagination Station during this year's Summer Reading Challenge event at Manor Farm, Ruislip

Find out more and donate:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/mayorcharity





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Fostering a child is so fulfilling and rewarding

Kevin and Ragini Butler began fostering with the council in 2021 and currently care for a two-year-old girl. They spoke to *Hillingdon People* about the incredible moments that come with helping children feel safe and loved.

Since becoming foster carers, the couple, who live in West Drayton, have supported several children, including an eight-year-old boy, a 15-month-old girl and her older sister. They also provide respite care when needed.

They initially weighed up whether to foster or adopt, but chose fostering as it gave them the opportunity to help more children and provide love, stability and care at a vital time in their lives.

Kevin, 63, explained: "We were never lucky enough to have our own children. Our journey with IVF came to an end, and as we reflected on what came next, we realised we'd still love to have a child in our lives, look after children and have that experience."

Ragini, 56, added: "We thought, 'Why don't we start fostering and help children that really need support and a nurturing home?' We like having little ones in the house and find it very rewarding and it makes us happy."

The couple began caring for their current foster child when

she was 11 months old and said the first six weeks proved difficult as they helped her settle into her new environment.

Ragini explained: "She came to us and we were told she wasn't sleeping well at night. We had to get into a routine, and it was just about making sure we were there for her."

Kevin added: "Ragini does a lot of night shifts for work, so while she was sleeping during the day I would take over caring for her. Then Ragini would get up in the afternoon and give me a break. It was pretty much full-on, non-stop for six weeks."

"We started taking her to playgroups so she could meet other children and mums, and we could see a difference in her from socialising – we were getting more eye contact."

"When she puts her arms around you and gives you a hug, that's so nice. You think of all the hours we have put in – we would have done that anyway – but it just seemed a perfect fit for our family."

Our fostering offer

We provide a highly competitive and supportive fostering package, for both new and existing foster carers. This includes:

- payments up to £1,500 per week
- 25 per cent off your council tax bill
- £1,000 off utility bills
- an annual family Merlin pass
- more than 100 training courses.

Find out more

Join us for an online fostering information event on Friday 25 September, from 11.30am to 12.30pm, and find out how you could support a child.

We will guide you through the fostering recruitment process and the support available to you.

To book your place, email fosteringrecruitment@hillington.gov.uk.



Ragini added: "When you see that smile, you think you have done a really good job."

The couple praised the support package offered by the council, as well as the range of training courses available, both face-to-face and online.

Kevin explained: "The financial package gives you the support you need. They have pretty much thought of everything and, financially, you're not going to be out of pocket."

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Adults, Children, Health and Care, said:

"Our dedicated foster carers like Kevin and Ragini are making a real difference to the lives of children in our borough by providing vital support and a loving and stable home at a crucial time in their lives."

"We'd encourage more people to consider this rewarding role – our friendly fostering team can support you on every step of your journey and our generous payments and benefits package has been designed to recognise the vital role our carers play."

Foster with us:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/fostering



Discover Hillingdon

For further details and to book these events (which are either run by the council or take place at council-owned venues) plus many more, visit discover.hillingdon.gov.uk. Events marked * are FREE.



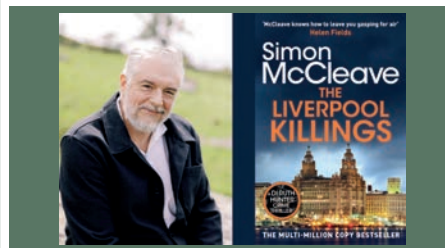
September

- 12 Manor Farm House Open Day***
Also on 13 September
Manor Farm House
- 12 Open House: Hillingdon Civic Centre Tour***
Hillingdon Museum
- 13 Dovecote Open Day***
Eastcote House Gardens
- 14 Twilight Yoga**
Also on 21 and 28 September
Battle of Britain Bunker
- 19 Uxbridge Market***
High Street
- 21 Tea Dance***
Also on 19 October and
16 November
Christ Church
- 22 Dementia-Friendly Daytime Disco**
Also on 20 October
Compass Theatre
- 23 An Evening with Janice Hallett**
Ruislip Manor Library
- 24 Buddy Holly and the Cricketeers**
Beck Theatre
- 25 Coffee and Crime with Jenny Knightsby**
Manor Farm Library
- 25 Men's Cancer Support Group***
Oak Farm Library
- 25 Women's Cancer Support Group***
Oak Farm Library

- 26 Pop-up Waste Drop***
Deane Park car park
- 26 Northwood Hills Led Walk***
Northwood Hills
Underground Station
- 27 Self-Guided Tour**
Also on 25 October
Battle of Britain Bunker
- 30 Board Games***
Botwell Green Library

October

- 02 Coffee and Crime with Simon McCleave**
Manor Farm Library
- 03 Opera Boys starring Paul Potts**
Beck Theatre



- 07 Dementia-Friendly Daytime Sing-a-long**
Also on 4 November
Winston Churchill Theatre
- 08 Musical Maestros**
Runs until 10 October
Compass Theatre
- 08 Tea Dance***
Also on 5 November and
3 December
Winston Churchill Theatre
- 10 Pop-up Waste Drop***
The Closes car park
- 10 High Tech Architecture Talk**
Stockley Park

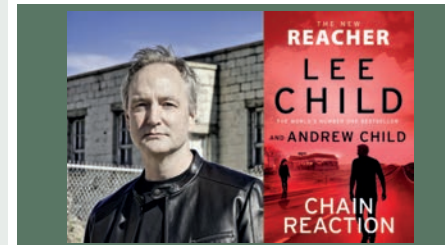


- 11 Hans Raj Hans**
Beck Theatre
- 13 An Evening with Fergus Garrett and Matthew Pottage**
Winston Churchill Theatre
- 13 Hillingdon Carers' Forum**
Civic Centre



Twilight Yoga at the Battle of Britain Bunker

- 16 Stars Perform with Masters**
Compass Theatre
- 18 National History Museum presents: Dinosaurs Live!**
Beck Theatre
- 21 Doctor Dolittle**
Runs until 24 October
Winston Churchill Theatre
- 23 Coffee and Crime with Andrew Child**
Manor Farm Library



- 24 Wonderland**
Compass Theatre
- 28 Halloween Workshop**
Runs until 30 October
Compass Theatre
- 30 Desi Dance***
Also on 27 November
Botwell Green Sports and
Leisure Centre
- 31 Frozen Sing-a-long**
Compass Theatre
- 31 Wicked: For Good Sing-a-long**
Compass Theatre

November

- 04 For Services Rendered**
Runs until 7 November
Compass Theatre
- 11 Uxbridge at War: A Walking Tour***
Battle of Britain Bunker
- 11 Out of Order**
Runs until 14 November
Compass Theatre

December

- 03 Jack and the Beanstalk**
Runs until 31 December
Compass Theatre
- 13 Rudolph's Runny Nose: The Santa Show 2026**
Runs until 24 December
Compass Theatre

Community events

Regular events

- **Yoga with Dinta**
Saturdays, 11am to midday
Cost: £12 per class.
Find out more: Email yogawithdinta@aol.co.uk or call 07870 981885.
St Lawrence Church, HA5 2SJ
- **Young at Heart Yoga with Loretta**
Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 10am to 11.30am
Cost: Six weeks for £60.
Find out more: Call or WhatsApp 07866 905128.
Oak Farm Library
- **The Proper Blokes Club**
Tuesdays, 7pm (meet outside Uxbridge Station at 6.45pm)
Cost: Free.
A weekly walk for men to connect, chat and support one another.
Find out more: Call 07780 792169 or visit theproperblokesclub.co.uk.
- **Neighbourhood Film Nights**
Every third Thursday of the month, 6.30pm
Cost: Free.
Find out more: Visit uxbridgequakers.org.uk/neighbourhood-film-nights or call Mike on 07757 775625.
Friends Meeting House, UB8 1TQ

September

- 12 Eastcote Horticultural Society Autumn Show**
2.30pm to 4pm
Cost: Free.
Find out more: Visit www.succulent-plant.com/eastcote or email eastcotehorticultural@yahoo.co.uk.
Eastcote Community Association, HA4 9SQ
- 19 Hillingdon Cleaner Greener Festival**
11am to 3pm

Cost: Free.
Find out more: Call Nicky Crowther on 07557 762512 or Phil Page on 07990 575332.
St Margaret's Church, UB8 1AB

- 23 Hillingdon Musical Society presents Disney's Frozen**
7.30pm (Saturday matinee at 2.30pm)
Runs until 26 September
Cost: £20, with £18 child tickets available on selected performances.
Find out more and book: www.ticketsource.com/hmstickets or call 07344 312980.
Winston Churchill Theatre

October

- 01 Harefield Amateur Dramatic Society presents Glorious!**
Also on 2 and 3 October
7.30pm
Cost: £13, or £11 concessions on Thursday only.
Find out more and book: Visit www.ticketsource.com/harefieldamdram, email janscurr@hotmail.com or call 01895 253346.
St Mary's Church Hall, UB9 6BX
- 11 Society of Ruislip Artists Autumn Exhibition**
Runs until 24 October
10am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sundays.
Cost: Free.
The Cow Byre Gallery, Manor Farm, HA4 7SU
- 17 Harrow Choral Society Autumn Concert**
5.30pm to 6.30pm
Cost: £13 in advance, £15 on the door, under 18s £2.
Find out more: Visit harrowchoral.org.uk, email boxoffice@harrowchoral.org.uk or call 07794 253463.
St Alban's Church, HA2 7PF

HILLINGDON ARTS ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING THE ARTS ACROSS HILLINGDON

The Hillingdon Arts Association brings together local arts groups and organisations to **promote, support** and **celebrate** the arts in our community.

SUPPORT LOCAL GROUPS
Helping arts organisations thrive and grow.

PROMOTE & CONNECT
Sharing opportunities, events and resources.

CELEBRATE CREATIVITY
Championing the diversity and talent of our local arts scene.

FIND YOUR INSPIRATION
Discover events, activities and groups to get involved in.

DISCOVER LOCAL ARTS GROUPS AND WHAT'S ON NEAR YOU



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hillingtonarts.org.uk |
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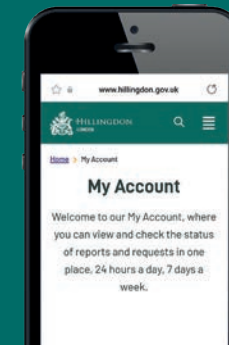
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Births, deaths and ceremonies
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Businesses and licensing
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/business

Councillors, meetings and consultations
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/council

Council tax
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax

Families' Information Service, fostering and adoption
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/families

Fraud Hotline
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/report-fraud
 0800 389 8313

Health and wellbeing
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/health

Housing Services
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/housing
 01895 556666

Hillingdon Social Care Direct (adults) (including TeleCareLine and Meals Service)
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/socialcare
 01895 556633

Leisure (including parks, leisure centres, theatres and events)
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/leisure

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www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries

Planning and Building Control
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning

School admissions
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Stronger Families Hub
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/stronger-families

Transport, roads and parking
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/transport

Health support

Hillingdon Advice Partnership
www.hillingdonadvicepartnership.org.uk
 020 8044 5676

Hillingdon Mind
 01895 271559

Samaritans
 116 123 (freephone)

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