

**Democratic Services****Location:** Phase II**Ext:** 0636**DDI:** 01895 250636**CMD No:** 1592

**To: COUNCILLOR EDDIE LAVERY  
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE &  
TRANSFORMATION**

**COUNCILLOR WAYNE BRIDGES  
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY &  
ENVIRONMENT**

c.c. All Members of the Residents Services Select Committee  
c.c. Dragana Knezevic – Residents Services Directorate  
c.c. Ward Councillors for South Ruislip

**Date:** 09 December 2025

**Non-Key Decision request****Form D****CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (December 2025)****DEPARTMENT: Resident Services****SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Environmental & Recreational****Initiatives: Queens Walk Open Space River 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 Wednesday 17 December 2025** 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.

Naveed Ali  
Democratic Services

**Title of Report:** CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (December 2025)

**DEPARTMENT:** Resident Services

**SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME:** Environmental & Recreational Initiatives: Queens Walk Open Space River 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 .....

Cabinet Member for Finance & Transformation

Cabinet Member for Community & Environment

# **CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (December 2025)**

**DEPARTMENT: Resident Services**

**SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Environmental & Recreational**

**Initiatives: Queens Walk Open Space River Enhancement Project**

**Cabinet Member(s) & Portfolio**

Councillor Eddie Lavery – Cabinet Member for Finance & Transformation  
Councillor Wayne Bridges – Cabinet Member for Community & Environment

**Responsible Officer**

Dragana Knezevic, Residents Services Directorate

**Papers with report**

Appendix A, with capital release requests for approval

## **HEADLINES**

**Summary**

To seek release of £100K funds towards the Queens Walk River enhancement project

**Putting our Residents First**

This report supports the Council Strategy.

**Financial Cost**

This report seeks the release of £100K for Queens Walk River enhancement project, £100K funded by Crane Valley Fund Grant and we will be seeking for additional funding from GLA's Green Roots Funds in January 2026

**Select Committee**

Residents' Services Select Committee

**Relevant Ward(s)**

South Ruislip

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Cabinet Member for Finance & Transformation, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community & Environment, approve the capital release request of £100K for Queens Walk Open Space River enhancement project, funded by Crane Valley Fund Grant (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 continue working to develop a river enhancement project to improve the section of the Yeading Brook West that flows through Queens Walk, River Walk.

Yeading Brook has unnaturally steep banks with little habitat diversity. The river enhancement project 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 Queens Walk Open Space River 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**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Construction	Specialist Contractor	£35,000.00
Spoil removal off site	Specialist Contractor	£35,000.00
Management Fees	Greenspaces, LBH	£10,000.00
Project Consultation	ZSL	£7,000.00
Tree Works	Hillingdon's tree contractor	£13,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£100,000.00</b>

## Financial Implications

### (Queens Walk River Enhancement Project Budget £100k, Previously Released Nil, Capital Release Requested £100k) – Appendix A

In January 2026, a recommendation is being presented to Cabinet to accept £100k grant funding from the Crane Valley fund. No match funding is requested.

The report seeks the release of £100k for the Queens Walk River enhancement project, to be funded from the Crane Valley Grant. The release request includes quotations from the green spaces term contractors, consultants and internal fees at 11%.

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 funded from external grant of £100k that has recently been awarded from the Crane Valley fund grant, with no impact on Council resources, and that 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 the design and construction works, the contract with ZSL for project consultation, and the contract with the Council's tree contractor for the tree works.

## Infrastructure / Asset Management

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

# BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

# CAPITAL RELEASE APPENDIX A

## Queens Walk Open Space River Enhancement Project

Location (Ward)	Project / Expenditure Title	Information	Funds Release Sought £000's	Approve	Hold	More Information Required
South Ruislip	Queens Walk River Enhancement Project	Queens Walk River Enhancement Project	100			
<b>Total seeking release</b>			<b>100</b>			
<b>Previously released</b>			<b>0</b>			
<b>Budget</b>			<b>100</b>			
<b>Remaining budget</b>			<b>0</b>			