



OFFICIAL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE PUBLISHED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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

Title of decision	JOINT PILOT SCHEME WITH THE LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING AND BRENT FOR THE REMOVAL OF ABANDONED AND NUISANCE VEHICLES
Reference No.	2026/1740
Date of decision	Monday 27 July 2026
Call-in expiry date	Monday 03 August 2026
Relevant Select Committee	Residents Services Select Committee
Relevant Wards	All Wards

Decision made

Cabinet Members making the decision	Councillor Adam Bennett – Cabinet Member for Community, Environment & Enforcement
Decision	Agreed That the Cabinet Member for Community, Environment & Enforcement: 1) Approved participation in a joint 6 to 12-month pilot scheme with the London Boroughs of Ealing and Brent for the out-of-hours removal of abandoned and nuisance vehicles; 2) Agreed that the scheme be delivered under a concession-style arrangement at nil cost to the Council; 3) Authorised officers to enter into the necessary legal agreements and operational protocols to implement the pilot; and 4) Noted that a further report may be brought forward to Cabinet at the end of the pilot period to determine next steps.
Reason for decision	This report seeks approval to participate in a pilot scheme for up to 12 months with the London Boroughs of Ealing and Brent to improve the removal of abandoned and nuisance vehicles, particularly during out-of-hours periods, using an alternative enforcement model at no financial cost to the Council.

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	The pilot scheme which will be delivered through a concession agreement with an external vehicle recovery contractor. Under this arrangement, no payments are made by the Council; instead, the contractor's income is derived from statutory vehicle release fees and end-of-life vehicle scrappage value, where applicable. The pilot responds to an increase in complaints relating to abandoned, untaxed, unroadworthy and nuisance vehicles left on public highways, footways and in controlled or restricted locations. These vehicles often have no traceable registered keeper, limiting the effectiveness of conventional enforcement approaches. The proposal aligns with neighbouring borough practice, builds resilience through cross-borough collaboration, and offers a cost-neutral method of addressing a long-standing environmental and community safety issue. Across London boroughs there has been an increase in nuisance and abandoned vehicles associated with illegal vehicle trading, "fly-parking" linked to garages and MOT centres, and vehicles with missing number plates, obscured VINs, expired tax or MOT, or no registered keeper. These vehicles frequently: • obstruct footways and dropped kerbs; • block parking bays, loading bays and double yellow lines; • present public safety risks; and • generate significant resident and ward councillor complaints. Existing daytime-only towing arrangements are often ineffective, as vehicles are rapidly moved by operators once enforcement activity is identified. Experience in Ealing has demonstrated that out-of-hours, sustained removal activity is significantly more effective in disrupting this behaviour. Ealing Council approved a pilot in September 2025 to appoint an additional towing contractor operating outside normal working hours, at nil cost to the authority. Brent Council has subsequently requested that this arrangement be extended on a joint basis, enabling a shared, cross-boundary approach. It is proposed that the Council joins Ealing and Brent in a joint 12-month pilot scheme for out-of-hours abandoned and nuisance vehicle removals. The pilot will:
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	• operate primarily during evenings, nights and weekends; • target agreed hotspot locations based on officer intelligence and complaint data; • supplement, not replace, existing in-hours enforcement arrangements; and • be delivered through a concession agreement with a suitably qualified vehicle recovery operator. Vehicles meeting the abandonment criteria will be removed immediately under existing statutory powers, without prior notice where legally permissible. The pilot will be reviewed at the end of the initial term, with options to: • extend the pilot for a short period; • undertake a formal procurement exercise; or • discontinue the arrangement if enforcement outcomes no longer justify its continuation
Alternative options considered and rejected	Option 1 – No action Would result in the Council continuing to rely on the existing daytime vehicle removal service which is known to have limitations, leading to less effective enforcement than could otherwise be the case. Option 2 – Fund additional towing capacity Contracting for a further or additional service at a cost would create financial pressure with no approved budget provision. Option 3 - Join the Ealing and Brent pilot Provides a cost-neutral, legally robust and operationally effective solution. This option can be piloted, at no cost to the council, in order to determine whether there are sufficient benefits to adopt this approach in the long-term. This option is recommended.
Classification	Part I – Public
Link to associated report	Here
Relevant Officer contact & Directorate	Joanne Howells, ASB Team, Community Safety & Enforcement, Residents Services
Any interest declared by the Cabinet Member(s) / dispensation granted	N/A

Implementation of decision & scrutiny call-in

[Internal Use only]	
When can this decision be	Officers can implement Cabinet Member decision in this notice only from the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period which is:

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This notice is a public document also available to view on the Council's website www.hillingdon.gov.uk

implemented by officers?	5pm on Monday 03 August 2026 However, this is subject to the decision not being called in by Councillors on the relevant Select Committee. Upon receipt of a valid call-in request, Democratic Services will immediately advise the relevant officer(s) and the decision must then be put on hold.
Councillor scrutiny call-in of this decision	Councillors on the relevant Select Committee shown in this notice may request to call-in this decision. The request must be before the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period above. Councillors should use the Scrutiny Call-in App (link below) on their devices to initiate any call-in request. Further advice can be sought from Democratic Services if required: <u>Scrutiny Call-In - Power Apps</u> (secure)
Further information	These decisions, where applicable, have been taken under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. This is the formal notice by the Council of the above executive decision, including links to the reports where applicable. If you would like more information on this decision, please contact Democratic Services on 01895 250636 or email: <u>democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk</u>. Circulation of this decision notice is to a variety of people including Members of the Council, Corporate Directors, Officers, Group Secretariats and the Public. Copies are also placed on the Council's website. Democratic Services London Borough of Hillingdon Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge UB8 1UW