

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING:	2nd DECEMBER
TITLE OF REPORT:	USE OF COUNCIL ASSETS FOR VACCINATION PROGRAMME
Report of:	Joint Chief Executive
Cabinet Portfolio:	Deputy Leader and Finance & Corporate Services
Key Decision	No
Confidentiality	Non Exempt

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the additional use of Council assets to help in the battle against Covid 19 and specifically to support the extended vaccination programme up to March 2022

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet delegate to the Joint Chief Executives the powers to make decisions associated with the Councils Assets (including buildings and car parks) to facilitate the delivery of the Government's expanded vaccination programme up to the 31st March 2022

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has, since December 2020 been providing the NHS space for vaccination facilities at the Harlington Centre, including the provision of parking for staff, volunteers and those attending for vaccinations.
- 3.2 In response to the continued levels of Covid-19 and the uncertainty regarding the recently identified Omicron variant of concern, the Prime Minister announced this week, a significant acceleration of the vaccination programme.

4 MAIN ISSUES

- 4.1 Further to the Prime Ministers announcement, we were approached yesterday by the NHS to ask if we can expand the provision of space for the purposes of vaccination, up to the end of March 2022.
- 4.2 At present, we are awaiting further details from the NHS as to the size of space requirements, what type of space is required and the criteria of suitability.

4.3 The Council has a range of spaces that might be suitable e.g. the Apex Centre or vacant space within our offices, as well as the potential to make use of the car parks around the civic centre

4.4 The requirements are not yet clear, but the need to move collaboratively 'at pace' to deliver the acceleration of the vaccinations programme for our communities is clear.

In the absence of clarity of requirements, the recommendation is to delegate authority to the Joint Chief Executives to manage this request as deftly as possible, to find a positive outcome

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5.1 Alternatives options rejected include

- Advising the NHS that we cannot help
- Advising the NHS that the only space available is the space already provided to them

6 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or The Hart Vision 2040

The pandemic was not envisaged when the Corporate Plan or Hart Vision 2040 were created, however it speaks to our community leadership role and the protection of our residents

Service Plan

Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan?	No
Is the proposal being funded from current budgets?	No
Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal?	No

6.2 Legal and Constitutional Issues

This report requests the delegation of authority for decision making, in accordance with the Constitution, to the Joint Chief Executives.

This will in effect provide the Joint Chief Executives similar powers as utilised when the lease for the Harlington was first created for vaccinations in December 2020, albeit the powers will be restricted entirely to the use of the Councils assets, and will be both time limited and specific for one purpose only.

Any agreements which we enter into with the NHS will, as done previously, be reviewed in advance by our Legal Team.

6.3 Financial and Resource Implications

Many of the assets referred to (the Apex and vacant space in the Council offices) are not currently revenue generating spaces. Gurkha Square car park is already in use for purposes of the vaccination centre, as is Victoria Road car park (for volunteers and staff). It is not anticipated that this proposal will lead to a significant impact on income, but Cabinet will be kept apprised should this impact on future car parking income forecasts through our regular financial updates

6.4 Risk Management

The NHS may ultimately decide to choose another venue if it more closely aligns to their requirements, however noting that the potential risk to income will be closely monitored, the use by the NHS of our assets should not increase risk to the Council.

Our car parking sites are understandably well maintained and insured (as the public already have access to them) and our offices are similarly well maintained and insured, for the safety of our staff and visitors.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 The delivery of the vaccination programme itself will be subject to an equalities assessment to ensure that it is truly accessible to all. However the decision of the Council to make such space available does not require the completion of an equalities assessment

8 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The acceleration of the vaccination programme in effect brings forward (rather than increases in totality) the programme. As such any journeys undertaken to enable the vaccination programme would be undertaken, just over a longer timescale, had the Prime Minister not decided to move the booster programme forward.

By the provision of local venues, it benefits the environment in reducing the requirement for our residents to travel long distances to get the much needed booster vaccination.

9 ACTION

- 9.1 Subject to agreement by Cabinet, the Joint Chief Executives will seek to clarify the requirements of the NHS and offer those facilities that closest match their needs.

Contact Details: Patricia Hughes patricia.hughes@hart.gov.uk