

# Staff Consultation Forum Meeting

3 August 2016



## Minutes

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**Present:** John Robinson (Chair), Maggie Williams, Anne McDonald, Amanda Dell, Dee Levett, Catherine Cole, George Sobota, Debbie Ealand, Christina Corr, Sharon Nahal (notes)

**Circulation:** Those Present, David Scholes, Kerry Shorrocks, Claire Morgan

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### 1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The Minutes were agreed.

### 2. NHDC Update

JR advised that at the last Cabinet meeting, Members agreed to proceed with a joint waste and recycling service and contract with East Herts Council. With both Councils facing increasing financial pressures on budgets in future years, we need to consider different ways of working and explore what improvements and efficiencies could be achieved, whilst doing our bit to protect the environment.

There would be a joint client team in place when the new contract starts and staff are aware. It was agreed that Vaughan Watson, Head of Leisure & Environmental Services, be invited to a future meeting of SCF to provide an overview of the project.

Action: SN

DE asked whether there was any update on the restructure that DS referred to in previous statement. JR advised that information on this would be forthcoming from DS in due course and that he had previously referred to a 6 month timescale.

The Council's Local Plan's draft strategic policies and site allocations were endorsed by Council at its meeting in July. This will not follow a statutory process which will take up to 14 months.

Finally, JR referred to the recent statement issued to staff and the media in that the 14/15 Brand Street footprint had been acquired by HTH Finance Ltd. Work was now underway to look at options as to how the Council is able to open the Museum within its existing footprint. It was agreed to invite Steve Crowley, Projects & Contract Manager to a future meeting of SCF to provide an overview of the project.

Action: SN

### 3. Office Accommodation Update

Staff briefings are currently taking place and it is envisaged that work on the offices will commence in November 2016.

#### **4. Employee Queries**

AS raised a query on staff being charged 29p when they dial in the Council's phone system when working from home. AS advised that the Customer Service Team had been contacted but no response had been received. JR requested that AD request that the individual who didn't receive a response write to him so that he could follow this up.

Action: AD

AD requested clarification on broadband payments and queried whether payments could be claimed for in advance. MW advised that this could be done but, should the employee leave the Council's employ before that time then the money would be recovered.

#### **5. Chair for Next Meeting**

Christina Corr to chair next meeting.