

Public Document Pack

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2022

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Please find attached supplementary papers relating to the above meeting, as follows:

Agenda No	Item
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| 8. | <u>ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES</u> (Pages 3 - 10) |
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Any items referred from other committees will be circulated as soon as they are available.

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REFERRALS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The following referral from other Committees are enclosed below.

8A. REFERRAL FROM SOUTHERN RURAL AREA COMMITTEE: 30 JUNE 2022 – CLOSURE OF KIMPTON SURGERY

8B. REFERRAL FROM CABINET: 13 SEPTEMBER 2022 – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

8C. REFERRAL FROM CABINET: 13 SEPTEMBER 2022 – SOFT PLAY INVESTMENT AT NORHT HERTS LEISURE CENTRE

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**8A. REFERRAL FROM SOUTHERN RURAL AREA COMMITTEE 30 JUNE 2022:
CLOSURE OF KIMPTON SURGERY**

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL:

(1) That the Council discusses the closure of Kimpton GP surgery and the issue of accessibility of healthcare services for residents in rural wards.

REASON FOR DECISION:

(1) To act as forum for discussion on matters of local interest and to make arrangements for the provision of information about local services and other matters to people in the area.

Audio recording – 41:28

Councillor Ralph Muncer advised that there was a public consultation and a public meeting opposing the NHS closure of the Kimpton Surgery and that many residents attended. He stated that the closure of this surgery would force residents to travel elsewhere and would have a large impact on elderly and vulnerable people, as well as those who rely on public transport. He reassured Kimpton residents and in response to a question from Councillor Sam North said that the local MP and County Councillor are heavily involved in this.

Councillor David Barnard proposed wording for a motion for consideration to Council as follows: "That this Council regrets the proposal of the NHS to close the surgery in Kimpton and urges the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to take urgent action to withdraw this proposal, and ensure that residents of Kimpton and surrounding rural communities can readily access important medical care". He was advised that specific wording would have to be reviewed.

Councillor Sam North advised that the Council appoints members to sit on organisations such as the Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee and that residents might benefit from consideration of the topic by full Council.

Councillor David Barnard proposed, Councillor Ralph Muncer seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL: That the Council discusses the closure of Kimpton GP surgery and the issue of accessibility of healthcare services for residents in rural wards.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: To act as forum for discussion on matters of local interest and to make arrangements for the provision of information about local services and other matters to people in the area.

The reports and papers associated with this item can be viewed here: [Agenda for Southern Rural Area Committee on Thursday, 30 June 2022, 7:30 pm - North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](#)

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8B REFERRAL FROM CABINET: 13 SEPTEMBER 2022 – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That Cabinet recommended to Full Council the adoption of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-28 as attached at Appendix A.

REASON FOR REFERRAL: Adoption of a MTFs and communication of its contents will assist in the process of forward planning the use of Council resources and in budget setting for 2023/2024 to 2027/2028, culminating in the setting of the Council Tax precept for 2023/24 in February 2023. This will (alongside the Council Plan) support the Council in setting a budget that is affordable and aligned to Council priorities.

Audio recording – 44 minutes 58 seconds

Councillor Ian Albert presented the report entitled 'Medium Term Financial Strategy' and provided Members with the following updates:

- The strategy itself was included at Appendix A and this, alongside the report, was focussed on the recovery from Covid impacts and inflation, alongside uncertainty over future waste costs and general funding.
- The Council generally has high levels of reserve funds and some significant budget decisions can be delayed until there is more certainty regarding future funding.
- In the meantime the Council will need to reduce costs and generate income where possible, not make decisions that increase costs and be ready to make difficult decisions.
- Other areas explored when compiling this strategy were inflation affecting contractor services, pay inflation and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- There has been a philosophy of cost recovery on fees and charges instilled in this strategy.
- There is likely to be a new funding formula for 2025/26.
- This is a cautious and prudent strategy, maybe with the potential to make small, one-off investments following appropriate and careful consideration.

Councillor Terry Tyler, as Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, noted that the Council may have to start to look in 2024/25 onwards at service changes to deliver a balanced budget, but there were positive actions, such as looking at how the Council can generate more income. He advised that FAR Members agreed to refer this to Cabinet for consideration.

Councillor Tom Plater noted that this was a good strategy and it was good to see the proposal to sell of surplus land for green housing.

Councillor Ian Albert proposed and Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That Cabinet recommended to Full Council the adoption of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-28 as attached at Appendix A.

REASON FOR REFERRAL: Adoption of a MTFs and communication of its contents will assist in the process of forward planning the use of Council resources and in budget setting for 2023/2024 to 2027/2028, culminating in the setting of the Council Tax precept for 2023/24 in February 2023. This will (alongside the Council Plan) support the Council in setting a budget that is affordable and aligned to Council priorities.

[The reports and papers associated with this item can be viewed here.](#)

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8C REFERRAL FROM CABINET: 13 SEPTEMBER 2022 – SOFT PLAY INVESTMENT AT NORTH HERTS LEISURE CENTRE

RESOLVED: That Cabinet considered and agreed the soft play investment proposal.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That Council make the addition of £150k to the Capital programme in 2022/23.
- (2) That Council move the existing capital allocation of £100k in 2023/24 for refurbishment of the dry-side changing rooms to 2022/ 23 and reallocate it to the soft play project.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) Introducing a soft play facility at North Herts Leisure Centre will enhance the range of leisure facilities on offer and provide a dedicated play space for families with toddlers and young children within the local area.
- (2) The new facility will generate additional revenue for the site, aiding the financial recovery of leisure post covid and providing an attractive additional facility for bidders when the new leisure contract is procured in 2024.

Audio recording – 115 minutes 35 seconds

Councillor Steve Jarvis presented the report entitled 'North Herts Leisure Centre Soft Play Investment' and advised Members of the following:

- Over the years several changes have been made to North Herts Leisure Centre to make it more suitable for users.
- This proposal is to repurpose two squash courts and changing rooms to be converted into a soft play area.
- There are currently four squash courts on site and these are significantly underused, with around 18% of capacity used throughout the week, with occasional peaks. Under this proposal two squash courts would remain.
- There was some previous concern about keeping the poolside changing rooms clean for dry-side users, and it is expected that cleaning will be doubled on site. There would still be one dry-side changing room.
- There has been an extensive consultation, with responses overwhelmingly in support of the proposal.
- Income is predicted of £50k in first year, and £60k in subsequent years.
- There was capital allocation for renovation of the changing rooms and this money will now be moved to this soft play scheme.
- These proposals will benefit users and allow more people to use the leisure centre.

In response to a question from Councillor Ruth Brown, Councillor Jarvis advised that the amount in total was £250,000.

Councillor Steve Jarvis proposed and Councillor Judi Billing seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That Cabinet considered and agreed the soft play investment proposal.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That Council make the addition of £150k to the Capital programme in 2022/23.
- (2) That Council move the existing capital allocation of £100k in 2023/24 for refurbishment of the dry-side changing rooms to 2022/ 23 and reallocate it to the soft play project.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) Introducing a soft play facility at North Herts Leisure Centre will enhance the range of leisure facilities on offer and provide a dedicated play space for families with toddlers and young children within the local area.
- (2) The new facility will generate additional revenue for the site, aiding the financial recovery of leisure post covid and providing an attractive additional facility for bidders when the new leisure contract is procured in 2024.

[The reports and papers associated with this item can be viewed here.](#)