

Public Document Pack

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

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

Agenda No Item

2. **MINUTES - 18 JULY 2018** (Pages 1 - 2)

To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on the 18 July 2018.

6. **ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 31 JULY 2018 - CORPORATE PLAN 2019 TO 2024 AND CORPORATE OBJECTIVES FOR 2019 TO 2024**
(Pages 3 - 6)

REPORT OF THE SENIOR POLICY OFFICER AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

7. **ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 31 JULY 2018 - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019 TO 2024** (Pages 7 - 8)

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

11. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS** (Pages 9 - 10)

To consider any questions submitted by Members of the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 (b).

12. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS** (Pages 11 - 12)

To consider any motions, due notice of which have been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A to Minute 30 of the Council meeting held on 18 July 2018

The following questions were unsuccessful in the ballot, and were dealt with by way of a written response from the Executive Members to all Members of the Council. The responses are provided below:

14/15 BRAND STREET, HITCHIN

Councillor Paul Clark to Councillor Tony Hunter (Executive Member for Community Engagement and Rural Affairs):

“How Long will the CPO process take to secure 14/15 Brand Street?”

Councillor Hunter responded:

“This was part of Cabinet’s Part 2 considerations and Full Council will be appraised of the issue when and if the matter comes before it for a decision on whether to proceed with a CPO.”

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Councillor Ruth Brown to Councillor David Levett (Executive Member for Planning, Enterprise and Transport):

“Has Parking Enforcement Officer capacity been reduced in the last 12 months?”

Councillor Levett responded:

“The Enforcement Officer capacity has not been reduced in the last 12 months. The normal establishment is 12 Enforcement Officers, however due to the nature of the work there tends to be a fairly high turnover of staff so there are usually posts vacant and we attempt to recruit as soon as we can to fill these positions.”

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNCIL
6 SEPTEMBER 2018**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 31 JULY 2018 –
CORPORATE PLAN 2019 TO 2024 AND CORPORATE OBJECTIVES
FOR 2019-2024**

The extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 31 July 2018

22. CORPORATE PLAN 2019 TO 2024 AND CORPORATE OBJECTIVES FOR 2019-2024

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Senior Policy Officer and Leader of the Council in respect of the Corporate Plan 2019 to 2024. The following appendix was submitted with the report:

Appendix A – Corporate Plan 2019-2024.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the following referral from that Committee, made at its meeting held on 24 July 2018, in respect of the Corporate Plan 2019 to 2024 and Corporate Objectives 2019 to 2024 (Minute 20 refers):

“RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers that the current Corporate Plan Document is a record of past achievements rather than a plan for the future, and that it should be revised to clearly set out plans to achieve Council’s objectives.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee urges Cabinet to revise this Plan at the earliest opportunity.”

The Leader of the Council advised that the Corporate Plan acknowledged the Council’s financial constraints and the need to provide services at their current level and ensure that they remained relevant to the community and drew attention to the following:

- Paragraph 5.2 of the report detailed those who had been consulted regarding the Plan;
- Paragraph 8.2 of the report highlighted that ongoing financial constraints made it increasingly likely that the emphasis for Council spend would be on the day to day service delivery; and
- Paragraph 8.3 of the report detailed that the Plan needed to reflect changes in matters such as legislation, capacity and financial constraints.

The Leader of the Council advised that, whilst statutory requirements had increased, funding would continue to be under pressure.

There was a need to plan for the aging population and to consider the patterns and location of areas of deprivation, which had changed over the last 5 years and it was necessary to ensure that services and how they are delivered, responded accordingly.

The limited resources of the Council and its partner agencies needed to be directed to the areas of greater need.

The objectives remained broadly the same, although objectives 1 and 2 had been slightly amended to now read:

Objective 1 – Attractive and Thriving

To work with our partners to provide an attractive and safe environment for our residents where diversity is welcomed and disadvantaged people are supported.

Objective 2 – Prosper and Protect

To promote sustainable growth both within and where it affects our district to ensure economic and social opportunities exist for our communities whilst remaining mindful of our cultural and physical heritage.

Objective 3 – Responsive and Efficient

To ensure that the Council delivers cost effective and necessary services to our residents that are responsive to developing need and financial constraints.

In respect of the Corporate Plan itself, the Leader of the Council drew attention to some of the additions to the Plan including:

- In light of the impact of neighbouring authorities on this district the existing and future green space provision would be reviewed;
- Representations would be made by the Council regarding neighbouring authorities plans, policies and aspirations;
- Review of the Council's Car Parking Strategy to ensure that it supports the Council's objectives. A workshop regarding this would take place soon;
- Working with relevant stakeholders to find sustainable solutions for the changing town centres.

With regard to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Leader of the Council advised that plans were already in place to start the review of the Corporate plan for the next financial year.

In considering other issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, she advised that:

- Air quality issues were extremely concerning, however there was an Air Quality Policy in place;
- Target workshops had been organised in the past, but these had now been stopped as Members did not attend them;

- An equalities Policy was in place which should address concerns regarding equality and diversity throughout North Herts;
- The Corporate Service Plan, with Service Action Plans attached, that detailed how objectives and targets would be achieved, was in place and this had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- The report included that the Council needed to take account of the impact of neighbouring Authorities, this addressed concerns regarding the comment regarding acknowledgment of changing risks to employment opportunities in surrounding areas such as Stevenage;
- In respect of the budget, there were many unknowns therefore it was difficult to assess how the budget would be affected.

Following debate on the Corporate Plan it was proposed by Councillor Needham and seconded by Councillor Cunningham that Objective 2 be amended to read:

To promote sustainable growth both within and wherever it affects our district to ensure economic and social opportunities exist for our communities whilst remaining mindful of our cultural and physical heritage.

Following a vote it was:

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That the Corporate Objectives for 2019 to 2024 as detailed below be agreed;
 1. To work with our partners to provide an attractive and safe environment for our residents, where diversity is welcomed and disadvantaged people are supported;
 2. To promote sustainable growth both within and where it affects our district to ensure economic and social opportunities exist for our communities, whilst remaining mindful of our cultural and physical heritage;
 3. To ensure that the Council delivers cost effective and necessary services to our residents that are responsive to developing need and financial constraints.
- (2) That the Corporate Plan 2019 to 2024, as attached at Appendix A, be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To have in place a suitable, high level strategic policy document for the Council, to inform its corporate business planning process.

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNCIL
6 SEPTEMBER 2018**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 31 JULY 2018 – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019 - 2024

The extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 31 July 2018

26. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019 TO 2024

The Executive Member for Finance and IT presented the report of the Service Director – Resources in respect of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019 to 2024.

The Executive Member for Finance and IT advised that the Medium Term Financial Strategy was an integral part of the budget cycle.

The future was more uncertain than it had been in the past and there were significant concerns regarding the nature of funding in the future and it was extremely unlikely that this Council would be a net beneficiary of funding decisions.

The Fair Funding Review and Business Rate retention would likely not benefit NHDC and the potential changes to the New Homes Bonus would add to the financial difficulties.

This meant that the Council would be reliant on commercialisation projects, Council Tax and any Business Rates that could be retained.

Large parts of the budget were allocated to business as usual.

Paragraph 2.12 set out the working assumptions for the next four years.

Primarily due to the savings from the waste contract, the position was significantly different from that presented last year, but it was still the case that revenue reserves needed to be retained at reasonably high levels in order to protect the Council.

It was assumed that the Council would make savings of £700,000 over the next four years and it was hoped that a substantial amount of this would come from commercialisation projects. It would be difficult for the Council to identify savings, unless the way in which services were delivered was changed therefore officers should be challenged to identify efficiencies.

Annex 1 of the report set out the budget assumptions and policies and it was the general view that this was the right way forward.

Following the vote it was:

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-24 as attached at Appendix A be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISION: 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 2019/2020 to 2023/2024, culminating in the setting of the Council Tax precept for 2019/20 in February 2019.

**COUNCIL
6 SEPTEMBER 2018**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11(b), one question was submitted by Members by the deadline date for questions set out in the Council's Constitution.

(A) Charges for the use of Council Land

Councillor Judi Billing to Councillor David Barnard (Executive Member for Leisure and Green Issues):

"Given the Council's need to maximise income opportunities, make hard commercial decisions and demonstrate a competent degree of entrepreneurialism in order to provide basic public services, please will the Portfolio Holder for Leisure explain to Council when the budget decisions of February 2016/7 and February 2017/8 to charge for the use of council land by commercial organisations are expected to be fully implemented?"

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNCIL
6 SEPTEMBER 2018**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following motions have been submitted, due notice of which has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

(A) Waste Contract

To be moved by Councillor Steve Jarvis and seconded by Councillor Lisa Nash:

“Council notes the performance of the waste and recycling service continues to be unsatisfactory, with many failures to empty residents’ bins for extended periods. It also notes the difficulty that many residents have experienced when attempting to report such failures.

It believes that these problems have now persisted for an unacceptable length of time and therefore instructs the Executive Member for Waste Management, recycling and Environment and the Leader of the Council to:

- a) Meet with senior management of Urbaser to secure an early resolution of these problems;
- b) Prepare a contingency plan to secure alternative arrangements for the collection of waste and recycling if Urbaser continue to be unable to provide a satisfactory service.”

(B) Fire and Rescue Service

To be moved by Councillor Paul Clark and seconded by Councillor Sam Collins:

“This Council believes that the Fire and Rescue Service should remain under the control and democratic accountability of Hertfordshire County Council, rather than being taken over by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Council therefore fully supports the view taken by Hertfordshire County Council in this regard, and its Leader’s submission to the Home Office.

Furthermore this Council requests the Leader of this Council to write to the Home Office in a similar vein.

Council also notes the proposal to close Hitchin police station and objects to that proposal.”

This page is intentionally left blank