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NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

TUESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 2021

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

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

Agenda No	Item
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| 10. | <u>STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS</u> (Pages 3 - 6) |
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REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – REGULATORY

To identify the latest position on key planning issues affecting the District.

Please find attached and addendum to the Strategic Planning report and an additional Appendix C.

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CABINET
16 March 2021

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS - ADDENDUM

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING & TRANSPORT

COUNCIL PRIORITY: RESPOND TO CHALLENGES TO THE ENVIRONMENT / ENABLE AN ENTERPRISING AND CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY / SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF GOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOMES

A letter from the Rt. Hon. Christopher Pincher MP to Rt. Hon. Sir Oliver Heald QC MP is attached to this addendum to be published as Appendix C to the Strategic Planning Matters Report to Cabinet for 16 March 2021.

This necessitates the following changes to the published report with additional text shown **bold**:

Recommendation 2.2 to be updated as follows:

- 2.2. That the correspondence in Appendices A **to C** is noted and **that Appendices A and B are** endorsed by Cabinet.

Paragraph 8.13 to be updated as follows:

- 8.13. This recognises that significant improvement upon the HDT measure will only be achieved on resolution of the current Local Plan examination. However, it reinforces the need to ensure measures in the current Action Plan are being delivered upon. As set out above, the proposed next steps in relation to both the examination and implementation of the Local Plan are subject to separate reports to this meeting. **A response to this letter by the Housing Minister, the Rt. Hon Christopher Pincher MP has been received from the Rt. Hon Sir Oliver Heald QC MP and is attached as Appendix C to this report.**

New Paragraph 16.3 to be added as follows

- 16.3 Appendix C – Letter from Rt. Hon. Christopher Pincher MP to Rt. Hon. Sir Oliver Heald QC MP**

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Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP
Minister of State for Housing

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
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Our Ref:10281357

3 March 2021

Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald QC MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Sir Oliver,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 January, on behalf of Cllr Paul Clark of North Hertfordshire District Council about the local plan and the Housing Delivery Test. I regret that due to the Secretary of State's quasi-judicial role in the planning system, I am unable to comment on the details of a specific Local Plan or planning application. Nevertheless, broadly speaking after the hearings are concluded, the next stage will be main modifications, unless the Inspector has any further matters to raise. There is a possibility that the Inspector may require further hearings following this consultation, but this occurs rarely.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Stephen McPartland MP, Bim Afolami MP, Cllr Paul Clark and his District colleagues as well as officers at North Hertfordshire District Council for the actions taken so far to ensure that the communities in the authority area get the homes they need. I note the efforts you are making to increase housing delivery and thank you for progressing with the preparation of the Local Plan to get to this late stage in the examination process.

Until such time as an up to date Local Plan can be adopted by the authority, I urge you to continue with other means of supporting the delivery of the homes the community needs. In the 2020 Housing Delivery Test measurement, North Hertfordshire delivered 36% against the local housing need requirement. The Planning Practice Guidance (paragraphs 048-054 in the 'Housing Supply and Delivery' chapter) identifies various means by which Local Authorities can increase delivery, through their Housing Delivery Test Action Plans. The Housing Delivery Test Action Plan, February 2020 – February 2021 published by North Hertfordshire District Council identifies various means by which the authority can increase delivery, such as making recommendations on a review of the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule and facilitating economic recovery following COVID-19. Where there are uncontentious development proposals coming forward ahead of the adoption of the Local Plan, paragraph 48 of the National Planning Policy Framework provides that local planning authorities may give weight to relevant policies in emerging plans according to certain criteria. If applicable, it may be valuable to consider any relevant proposals in light of this.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope Cllr Clark finds this information helpful.

RT HON CHRISTOPHER PINCHER MP

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