

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Spirella Ballroom,  
Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City  
on Thursday, 23rd November, 2017 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bishop (Vice-Chairman), Jean Green, Nicola Harris, Simon Harwood, Lorna Kercher, Ben Lewis, Paul Marment, Janine Paterson, Valentine Shanley and Mrs C.P.A. Strong.

### 2 MINUTES - 31 AUGUST 2017

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 31 August 2017 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No additional business was presented for consideration by the Council.

### 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### (1) Declarations of Interest

The Chairman reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

#### (2) Volunteer Achievement Awards

The Chairman announced that, for 2017/18, he had introduced Volunteer Achievement Awards. At the moment, he was short of nominations for the "Young Star" category (for volunteers aged 24 and under). If any Members knew of any young people eligible for this category, the Chairman urged them to put their names forward to him or the Community Development Team.

### 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 6 REPORT OF DELEGATED DECISION - MINOR CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE ROLE

**RESOLVED:** That the Delegated Decision made on 31 October 2017, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, with regard to minor changes to the Constitution in respect of the role of Deputy Chief Executive, be agreed.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure that good governance and proper administration arrangements are in place.

**7 ITEM REFERRED FROM STANDARDS COMMITTEE: 10 OCTOBER 2017 - CODE OF CONDUCT AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS REVIEW**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the amendments to the NHDC Code of Conduct (shown as tracked changes to Appendix B of the report) be approved with effect from 4 May 2018, and include the following further amendment to Paragraph 2.2(e):

Addition of the words “in respect of a criminal offence”, so that it reads “in respect of any criminal offence of which you have been convicted or for which you have accepted an out of court disposal in respect of a criminal offence during your term of office”;

- (2) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to incorporate the new Councillor Speaking Right; and
- (3) That the amended Councillor’s Register of Interest form (attached at Appendix C to the report) be adopted and be completed by Councillors from 4 May 2018, and include the following further amendment to Section 9:

Addition of the words “non-voting”, so that the Section reads:

“Outside bodies

Any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management which:

- (i) you are appointed or nominated to by the authority; or
- (ii) exercises functions of a public nature; or
- (iii) is directed to charitable purposes; or
- (iv) includes as one of its principal purposes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union).

Detail: Date of appointment and position (ie. Director, Trustee, member/representative/ non-voting observer.”

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure good governance within the Council.

**8 CAPITAL PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE FOOD WASTE CADDIES**

[Note: Prior to the consideration of this item, Councillors Terry Hone, Fiona Hill and Michael Muir made declarable interests, in view of their various roles at Hertfordshire County Council, the Authority responsible for strategic waste matters. They chose to remain in the meeting, but not to participate in the debate or vote upon the item.]

**RESOLVED:** That £132,000 be added to the Council’s Capital Programme for the purchase of food waste caddies.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To providing each household with a plastic caddy, being the most cost effective way of providing this service.

**9 BUSINESS RATES PILOT AND POOLING APPLICATION: USE OF URGENCY IN RELATION TO CALL-IN**

**RESOLVED:** That it be noted that, due to urgency, the Delegated Decision in respect of the Business Rates Pilot and Pooling Application was not subject to call-in.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To comply with the deadline for applications set by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

## 10 APPOINTMENT OF ACTING MONITORING OFFICER

[Note: Prior to the consideration of this report, Anthony Roche (Deputy Chief Executive) and Jeanette Thompson (Acting Corporate Legal Manager) withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the item.]

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Council exercises its right to appoint an Acting Monitoring Officer without requiring a recommendation of the Employment Committee; and
- (2) That, with immediate effect, the Acting Corporate Legal Manager be designated as Acting Monitoring Officer until the appointment of a permanent Monitoring Officer in due course.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure that the Council complies with statutory requirements.

## 11 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Members submitted questions on the following:

- (A) District Wide Survey
- (B) Staffing at North Hertfordshire Museum and Community Facility

[Note: Prior to consideration of this matter, Councillor David Levett declared that his wife was the Secretary of the local branch of UNISON. However, as there was no debate or vote on the matter, he chose to remain in the meeting for the duration of the item.]

## 12 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

### **(A) Public Sector Pay**

[Notes:

- (1) The mover and seconder of the motion (Councillors Frank Radcliffe and Ian Albert) both declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in the matter, as they were both employed by the Civil Service. They stated that they would introduce the motion, prior to withdrawing from the meeting for debate and vote, in accordance with a Dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer in advance of the commencement of the meeting;
- (2) Councillor David Levett declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, as his wife worked for NHDC and was the Secretary of the local branch of UNISON. He withdrew from the meeting for the whole of the item;
- (3) Councillor Michael Weeks made a Declarable Interest, as his son worked for NHDC. He withdrew from the meeting after the motion had been introduced by the mover and seconder; and
- (4) Councillor Paul Clark declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, as he was employed by the Highways Agency. He withdrew from the meeting after the motion had been introduced by the mover and seconder.]

**RESOLVED:** That North Herts District Council recognises and values the work of its employees and those across the breadth of the public sector.

It acknowledges that the Government's imposition over many years of a public sector pay cap of 1% has resulted in wages in the public sector falling considerably behind the yearly UK rate of inflation. This has meant a real terms pay cut for our employees. It has also led to difficulties in recruitment and made public sector employees feel undervalued.

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The Council will work with our MPs, regional and national representative bodies to urge the Government to scrap the public sector pay cap and fully fund an award in line with the cost of living.

**(B) Homelessness**

Following debate, and being put to the vote, the motion was lost.