

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Spirella Ballroom,  
Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City  
on Thursday, 8th February, 2018 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bill Davidson, Elizabeth Dennis, Faye S. Frost, Jane Gray, Gary Grindal, Nicola Harris, Janine Paterson and Valentine Shanley.

### 2 MINUTES - 18 JANUARY 2018

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 January 2018 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) Holocaust Memorial Day

The Chairman announced that Holocaust Memorial Day had taken place on 27 January 2018. This day was to remember the millions of people murdered or whose lives had been changed beyond recognition due to the Holocaust, Nazi persecution, and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The Chairman asked everyone stand to observe a Minute's silence in respect of Holocaust Memorial Day.

#### (2) Retirement of David Miley (Democratic Services Manager)

The Chairman advised that this would have been the final Council meeting attended by David Miley (Democratic Services Manager) prior to his retirement at the end of March 2018. Unfortunately, David was unwell. David had worked for NHDC for over 15 years. The Chairman was sure that Members would join him in thanking David for his invaluable support and advice throughout that time, and in wishing him an enjoyable retirement and best wishes for the future.

#### (3) Variation of Order of Business

The Chairman announced that he was varying the order of business so that, following the exclusion of the press and public, Item 14 (the Part 2 item on Churchgate) would take place immediately after Item 5 (Public Participation). The press and public would then be invited back into the room for the remainder of the meeting.

#### (4) 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.

## 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council was addressed by the following members of the public regarding the regeneration of Churchgate Shopping Centre, Hitchin.

- (a) Mr Robin Dartington (Hitchin Resident)
- (b) Mr Brian Foreman (Churchgate Retailers Association)
- (c) Mr Alan Doggett (Hitchin Market)

## 6 REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE

[Note: this item was considered after Minute 80]

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the principle of a joint venture regeneration of the Churchgate Centre, with the Council as funder of the regeneration, be supported;
- (2) That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, the Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Finance and IT, be authorised to progress negotiations with Shearer Property Group on the terms of a potential joint venture regeneration of the Churchgate Centre, subject to Full Council's final approval of the terms of any proposal; and
- (3) That the proposal to allow the contract for the management of Hitchin Market to expire and for the market to be managed in-house, subject to Cabinet's approval, be noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To progress the potential regeneration of the Churchgate Shopping Centre in Hitchin.

## 7 ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 23 JANUARY 2018 - DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the expected Central Government funding levels be noted;
- (2) That the estimated position on the Collection Fund and how this will be funded be noted;
- (3) That a 2.99% increase in Council Tax for 2018/19 be approved;
- (4) That the position relating to the General Fund reserve be noted and, that due to the risks identified, a minimum balance of £2.15 million is recommended;
- (5) That the reduction in the 2017/18 working budget of £682,000 be approved, and the expected impact in 2018/19 of a £82,000 reduction in budget be noted;
- (6) That the requests for the carry-forward of budgets that total £198,000 from 2017/18 to 2018/19 be noted, subject to further review of the carry forward relating to Area Committee Budgets at the end of the 2017/18 Financial Year;

- (7) That the inclusion of the efficiencies and investment proposals, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, in the General Fund budget estimates for 2018/19 be approved, subject to the following amendments:
- Efficiency E9 (Cessation of Area Committee Grants) – amendment to show a 30% reduction in grants available to Area Committee;
  - Efficiency E16 (Apprenticeship Scheme) – to be removed from the list of efficiency savings;
  - Efficiency E20 (Waste Contract Lot 2 Award) – removal from the list for 2018/19 as it was expected that the savings attributable to this item would be zero;
- (8) That the amendments to previously agreed efficiencies, as detailed in Paragraph 8.5.3 and Table 8 of the report, be approved;
- (9) That the proposal that any revenue savings arising from the capitalisation of waste vehicle costs are transferred to a specific reserve be noted;
- (10) That the savings targets for future years be noted;
- (11) That the estimated 2018/19 net expenditure of £14.6Million, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, as amended, be approved;
- (12) That the Parish and Town Council precepts of £1,095,531 be noted; and
- (13) That total District Council Tax Requirement is £12,071,060 be noted and that this figure be approved for inclusion in the Council Tax Resolution.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure that all relevant factors are taken into consideration when arriving at the proposed Council Tax precept for 2018/19; and to ensure that a balanced budget is agreed.

**8 ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 23 JANUARY 2018 - CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 ONWARDS**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the inclusion in the proposed Capital Programme of all the new Capital Investment proposals listed in Appendix C to the report, totalling £3.274Million overall (£1.931Million profiled in 2018/19) be approved; and
- (2) That the provisional Capital Programme for 2018/19 to 2021/22 of £17.075Million, as detailed in Appendices A and B to the report, be adopted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure that the Capital Programme meets the Council's objectives and that officers can plan the implementation of the approved schemes.

**9 ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 23 JANUARY 2018 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19**

**RESOLVED:** That the 2018/19 Treasury Strategy Statement, as attached at Appendix C to the report, be adopted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure the Council's continued compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Local Government Act 2003 and that the Council manages its exposure to interest and capital risk.

**10 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018/19**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Pay Policy Statement 2018/19, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be endorsed; and
- (2) That the Corporate Human Resources Manager, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated authority to agree subsequent revisions to the Pay Policy Statement, such as subsequent pay awards agreed nationally and new legislative requirements, as outlined in Paragraph 3.8 of the Policy Statement at Appendix 1.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To comply with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, statutory guidance issued under Section 40 and the Local Government Transparency Codes 2014 and 2015.

**11 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

Members submitted questions in the following:

North Hertfordshire Local Plan Examination

**12 NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

There were no notices of motion.

**13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

**14 REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE**

[Note: this item was considered before Minute 72]

**RESOLVED:** That the information contained within the report be noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** progress the potential regeneration of the Churchgate Shopping Centre in Hitchin.