

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Spirella Ballroom,
Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 10th April, 2018 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bishop (Vice-Chairman), Elizabeth Dennis, Ben Lewis, Deepak Sangha and Terry Tyler.

2 MINUTES - 8 FEBRUARY 2018

RESOLVED: That, subject to the date at the head of the minutes being corrected to read "8 February 2018", the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 February 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) Councillors not standing for re-election

The Chairman thanked all councillors not standing for re-election at the forthcoming District Council Elections, namely Councillors Jane Gray, Lorna Kercher, Sandra Lunn, Frank Radcliffe, Ray Shakespeare-Smith and Adrian Smith.

The Chairman wished all existing councillors standing for re-election good luck in those Elections.

Various Members made tributes to each of the above-named councillors, and thanked them for their help and support over the years.

(2) Councillor Lorna Kercher

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Frank Radcliffe (Leader of the Labour Group) paid particular tribute to Councillor Lorna Kercher, who was attending her final Council meeting after 30 years' service. He stated that Councillor Kercher had done a sterling job over that time and, as well as her Council work, had been involved with the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and numerous voluntary sector groups, including the Howard Garden Social and Day Care Centre. He thanked her for all the help and support she had given him during his time on the Council and wished her all the best for the future.

Tributes to Councillors Kercher were also made by Councillors Cunningham, Needham, Stears-Handscorn and Clark.

Councillor Kercher thanked Members for their kind words. She had thoroughly enjoyed her time with the Council, and had particularly fond memories of her year as Chairman of the Council in 1998. She had particularly enjoyed work she had carried out on behalf of her constituents and her voluntary sector work. She thanked Members of all parties, and officers of the Council for their advice and support during her time in office. She commented that it had been a pleasure to have worked with her Labour colleagues, and wished everyone the best of luck for the future.

(3) 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 Mr Brian Foreman (Arts Council for North Hertfordshire).

The Chairman thanked Mr Foreman for his presentation.

6 COUNCIL CONSTITUTION - ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution, as set out in Appendix A to the report, and as amended, be approved; and
- (2) That the Acting Corporate Legal Manager and Monitoring Officer, in agreement with the Leader, be delegated authority to make such amendments as are necessary to the Constitution to give effect to the Senior Management Restructure post implementation and once finalised to report these to the subsequent Council meeting.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations and continues to improve its working practices.

7 EXTENSION OF BUILDING COMPLIANCE CONTRACT: USE OF URGENCY IN RELATION TO CALL-IN

RESOLVED: That it be noted that, due to urgency, the Delegated decision in respect of the extension of the Building Compliance Contract was not subject to call-in.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the requirements of the Constitution and to enable the contract extension to be agreed before the 31 March 2018 deadline.

8 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Members submitted questions on the following:

- (A) Hitchin Town Hall
- (B) Appointments to Outside Organisations
- (C) North Herts Transport Strategy

9 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(A) Modern Slavery

"That, in view of evidence that modern slavery is hidden even in affluent areas like North Hertfordshire, this Council notes the legal duties imposed upon it in the Modern Slavery Act 2015, notes the training delivered by Hertfordshire Constabulary to the Council's safeguarding group and agrees that the Council must seek to raise awareness of the signs of modern slavery and human trafficking in all its work and within the District. To achieve this the Council agrees to support the principles of the Modern Slavery Charter."

Following debate and upon being put to the vote, the amended motion was carried unanimously.

(B) Members' Allowances Scheme

RESOLVED: That this Council recognises that the Allowance Scheme for 2018/19, approved by the Council on 18th January 2018, was improperly made.

The adopted scheme for 2017/18 shall therefore remain in place without amendment for the 2018/19 year.

The Council further instructs that the Chief Executive does not convene the IRP until any scheduled review of the allowances for 2019/20.

Council instructs that the sum of approx. £6,800 saved by retaining the 2017/18 allowance scheme be allocated to the 5 Area Committees pro-rata to their existing allocation.