

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Foundation House,
Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 25th July, 2017 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES - 13 JUNE 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 13 June 2017 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no notification of other business.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman paid tribute to Norma Atlay (Strategic Director of Finance, Performance and Governance), who was attending her final Cabinet meeting before her retirement. She stated that Norma would be sorely missed as her financial guidance to Cabinet over the years had always been first class. She thanked Norma for the service she had provided to Cabinet, and wished her all the best for a well deserved retirement.
- (2) The Chairman announced that Members of the public and the press may use their devices to film/photograph, or do a sound recording of the meeting, but she asked them to not use flash and to disable any beeps or other sound notifications that emitted from their devices. In addition, the Chairman had arranged for the sound at this particular meeting to be recorded;
- (3) 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;
- (4) The Chairman asked that, for the benefit of any members of the public present at the meeting, Officers announce their name and their designation to the meeting when invited to speak.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- (i) Emma Bown (Hitchin resident): petition against the proposed closure of Rosehill Play Area in Hitchin
- (ii) Jackie McDonald (The Future of Hitchin Town Hall and Museum Social Media Group): Hitchin Town Hall and Museum

6 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED: That the report on Strategic Planning Matters be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To keep the Cabinet informed of recent developments on strategic planning matters and progress on the North Hertfordshire Local Plan.

7 CORPORATE PLAN 2018 TO 2023

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Corporate Plan 2018-2023 be amended to include the changed sub-heading regarding disadvantaged people and to include some detail regarding differences between parished and non-parished areas of the District;
- (2) That the Executive Member for Policy, Transport and Green issues be authorised to agree any minor typographical or re-drafting amendments to the document prior to its submission to Council; and

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Corporate Plan 2018 to 2023, as attached at Appendix A to the report, and as amended, 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.

8 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018-2023

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-2013, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To assist in the process of forward planning the use of Council resources and in budget setting for 2018/19 to 2022/23, culminating in the setting of the Council Tax precept for 2018/19 in February 2018.

9 REVIEW OF EXISTING NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE PLANNING GUIDANCE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the revocation of the planning guidance set out at Table A in Paragraph 8.8 of the report be approved; and
- (2) That the review be approved including, where appropriate, the consolidation of existing or new planning guidance documents set out in Table B in Paragraph 8.11 of the report.

REASON FOR DECISION: To demonstrate that the Council has a clear and up to date approach to its planning guidance.

10 DESIGNATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AREA FOR BALDOCK, BYGRAVE AND CLOTHALL

RESOLVED: That, having regard to the representations made, the designation of the Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall Neighbourhood Planning Area, as detailed in Paragraphs 8.1 to 8.8 and shown in Appendix C to the report, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To allow a neighbourhood plan to be prepared for Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall.

11 CAPITAL PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE CARDIO AND RESISTANCE FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR THE COUNCIL'S HITCHIN AND ROYSTON LEISURE FACILITIES

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the proposal that cardio and resistance fitness equipment be purchased for the Council's Hitchin and Royston leisure facilities at a cost of £520,000 be endorsed, and that this project be added to the Council's Capital Programme for 2017/18 onwards.

REASON FOR DECISION: To help with the achievement of the Council's Attractive and Thriving corporate objective, through increased health and wellbeing, and to ensure customer satisfaction is maintained with the Council's leisure facilities.

12 NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES LOCAL DISCRETIONARY FUND

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the high level implications of the proposed National Non-Domestic Rates Local Discretionary Fund be noted; and
- (2) That approval of the final detail of the scheme be delegated to the Strategic Director of Finance, Policy and Governance, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with proposals announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the 2017 Spring Budget; and to provide additional financial assistance to businesses hardest hit by the 2017 revaluation of Non-Domestic property.

13 ITEM REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 18 JULY 2017 - CORPORATE PLAN 2018 TO 2023

RESOLVED: That consideration of this referral takes place in conjunction with agenda item number 8 (see Minute 20 below).