

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 19th June, 2018 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES - 27 MARCH 2018

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 27 March 2018 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) 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;
- (2) 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;
- (3) 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; and
- (4) The Chairman advised that, as per the agenda, the Part 1 Item 12 (North Hertfordshire Museum and Hitchin Town Hall – Acquisition of 14/15 Brand Street), will take place immediately before Item 13 (Exclusion of Press and Public) and the Cabinet will then consider Item 14, the Part 2 item on the same matter. The press and public will then be invited back into the meeting to hear the Cabinet's decisions on Item 12 in Part 1 of the meeting.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Cabinet was addressed by Dr Mervyn Miller (North Herts Arts Council) in respect of funding for the Arts Council; and by Mr Robin Dartington with regard to Churchgate, Hitchin.

6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

6A ITEM REFERRED FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE: 18 JUNE 2018 – RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE AND ANNUAL REPORT ON RISK MANAGEMENT 2017/18

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the increase in the score for the "Waste – Depot/Transfer Station" sub-risk from an 8 to a 9 be approved;

- (2) That a new “Waste – Food and Garden Waste” sub-risk, with a score of 5, be approved;
- (3) That the overall score for the Waste and Street Cleaning Contract renewal” risk remain unchanged at a score of 8; and

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Annual Report on Risk and Opportunities Management 2017/18, as set out at Appendix B to the report, be approved..

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the Risk and Opportunities Management Strategy, which stipulates that an Annual Risk Management report is taken to Council.

**6B ITEM REFERRED FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE: 18 JUNE 2018
– REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2017/18**

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

**6C ITEM REFERRED FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE: 18 JUNE 2018
– CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2017/18**

RESOLVED: That consideration of this referral takes place in conjunction with agenda item number 9 (see Minute 9 below).

7 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report on Strategic Planning Matters be noted; and
- (2) That the submissions in Appendices A and B to the report be noted and endorsed.

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

8 REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2017/2018

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) That a decrease of £422,000 in the 2016/17 General Fund expenditure, as identified in Table 2 and Paragraph 8.1 of the report, to a total of £16.053million, be approved;
- (3) That the adjustments to the 2017/18 General Fund budget, as identified in Table 2 and Paragraph 8.2 of the report, of a £346,000 increase in net expenditure, be approved;
- (4) That, in respect of Table 3 in the report, which outlined the unspent Carry Forward budgets in 2017/18, it be ensured that each item in the list is challenged robustly if further carry forward is requested, with each item being accompanied by an acceptable justification as to why it should be carried forward, in the realistic expectation that the budget would be spent; and

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the net transfer to earmarked reserves of £1.070million, as identified in Table 7 of the report, be approved.

Tuesday, 19th June, 2018

REASON FOR DECISION: To monitor and request appropriate action of Services who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process; and to ensure that changes to the Council's balances are monitored and approved.

9 CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2017/18

RESOLVED:

- (1) That expenditure of £9.484million in 2017/18 on the Capital Programme (Paragraph 8.2 refers), and in particular the changes detailed in Table 3 which resulted in a net increase on the working estimate of £0.011million, be noted;
- (2) That the adjustments to the Capital Programme for 2018/19 and onwards as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in Table 2, increasing the estimated spend in 2018/19 by £1.506million (re-profiled from 2017/18), be approved;
- (3) That the position of the availability of Capital resources, as detailed in Table 4, Paragraph 8.6, and the requirement to keep the Capital Programme under review for affordability, be noted;
- (4) That the application of £1.437million of Capital receipts towards the 2017/18 Capital Programme, and the drawdown of £6.390million from set aside receipts, as referred to in Paragraph 8.6 of the report, be approved; and
- (5) That, in view of the fact that Capital funds are likely to be depleted within the next few years, it be ensured that regular scrutiny of the Capital Programme is carried out by the Cabinet.

REASON FOR DECISION: To approve revisions to the Capital Programme; and to ensure that the Capital Programme is fully funded.

10 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2017/2018

RESOLVED: That the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of March 2018 be noted.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That the actual 2017/18 prudential and treasury indicators be approved; and
- (2) That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2017/18 be noted.

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.

11 GREEN SPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Capital contribution for a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Bancroft Recreation Ground, Hitchin, be increased by £4,750;
- (2) That, by September 2018, and subject to approval of funding from the Brian Racher Trust for the maintenance and future replacement of equipment at Betjeman Road and Farrier Court Play Areas, Royston, the Council will continue to maintain these play areas at nil cost to the Council; and

Tuesday, 19th June, 2018

- (3) That, in respect of the Symonds Road and Linnet Close Play Areas, if by 27 June 2018 no sustainable proposals have been received, the equipment be removed from both sites and landscaped back to green space; with the Service Directors for Place and Resources being authorised to determine if any proposals are sustainable and could be developed into a business case.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the construction of a MUGA at Bancroft recreation Ground, in accordance with the previously agreed Master Plan for the site; and to enable the retention of green space within the budgets available to the Council.

12 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUM AND HITCHIN TOWN HALL - ACQUISITION OF 14/15 BRAND STREET, HITCHIN

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the current position in relation to the negotiations be noted, and the Cabinet's continued preference for a negotiated resolution be confirmed;
- (2) That the progress on the potential alternative options, as detailed in the report, to enable the Museum to open fully, be noted;
- (3) That Council be recommended to agree an initial, in principle, resolution to acquire the former 14/15 Brand Street, Hitchin by Compulsory Purchase, in the event that the negotiations do not enable an agreed purchase to be concluded by 31 July 2018; and
- (4) That it be noted that some elements of any settlement agreement may be required from the Cabinet sub-Committee (Council Charities).

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Council to complete the development of the North Hertfordshire Museum/Hitchin Town Hall project as intended by the Council and operate the facility for the benefit of the local community; and to protect the Council's interests and obtain best return from the Council's existing investment and to secure projected income from the facility to offset some of the operational and fixed costs.

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 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUM AND HITCHIN TOWN HALL - ACQUISITION OF 14/15 BRAND STREET, HITCHIN

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the current position in relation to the negotiations be noted; and
- (2) That the detailed commentary in the report in relation to the potential acquisition of 14/15 Brand Street, Hitchin by use of Compulsory Purchase provisions be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Council to complete the development of the North Hertfordshire Museum/Hitchin Town Hall project as intended by the Council and operate the facility for the benefit of the local community; and to protect the Council's interests and obtain best return from the Council's existing investment and to secure projected income from the facility to offset some of the operational and fixed costs.