

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 26th March, 2019 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Barnard.

2 MINUTES - 29 JANUARY 2019

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 29 January 2019 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 advised that members of the public and the press may use their devices to film/photograph, or do a sound recording of the meeting, She asked that they do not use flash and disable any beeps or other sound notifications that may emit from their devices. In addition, this meeting was being audio 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. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest.
- (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 either by herself or an Executive Member.
- (4) The Chairman welcomed Richard Blakey, Finance Director of Finance and Resources, Settle, who was attending the meeting to answer questions regarding items 14 and 17.
- (5) The Chairman advised those with printed agendas that the agenda list had not printed correctly, although the online version was correct. An updated printed agenda list had been provided.
- (6) The Chairman announced that she was amending the order of the agenda as follows:

Item 14 regarding the Change to the Stock Transfer Agreement with settle would be considered first, followed by Item 15 regarding the land adjoining 10 Hill View Rushden

The meeting would then go into Part 2 to hear Items 17 and 18

Immediately following that the meeting would return to Part 1 to make the decisions regarding these reports.

Items 6 to 13 would then be considered.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no presentations by members of the public.

6 CHANGE TO THE STOCK TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH SETTLE (NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HOMES)

Following presentation of the Item and debate, the Part 2 Item was considered. The meeting then returned to Part 1 in order to make the decision.

RESOLVED: That a variation to the mortgagee in possession provisions in the stock transfer agreement as proposed by settle (North Hertfordshire Homes) be agreed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To amend the stock transfer agreement to allow settle to raise funding to increase the housing that it can build, with the expectation that a proportion of this would be in North Hertfordshire.

7 LAND ADJOINING 10 HILL VIEW, RUSHDEN, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG9 0SL

Following presentation of the Item and debate, the Part 2 Item was considered. The meeting then returned to Part 1 in order to make the decision.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposed sale of the District Council's land adjoining 10 Hill View, Rushden be approved on the terms set out in the Part 2 report.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Service Director: Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT to finalise the disposal and agree any variations to the terms provided that the disposal remains at the best consideration reasonably obtainable.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To provide a financial receipt to help fund the Council's Capital Programme;
- (2) The land has previously been declared as surplus to the Council's requirements.

8 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.

9 CHANGE TO THE STOCK TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH SETTLE (NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HOMES)

This Part 2 Item was considered following presentation and debate regarding the Part 1 Item on the same subject, but prior to the Part 1 vote.

RESOLVED: That the content of the report entitled Change to the Stock Transfer Agreement with Settle (North Hertfordshire Homes) be noted.

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REASON FOR DECISION: To amend the stock transfer agreement to allow settle to raise funding to increase the housing that it can build, with the expectation that a proportion of this would be in North Hertfordshire.

10 LAND ADJOINING 10 HILL VIEW, RUSHDEN, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG9 0SL

This Part 2 Item was considered following presentation and debate regarding the Part 1 Item on the same subject, but prior to the Part 1 vote.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report entitled Land Adjoining 10 Hill View, Rushden, Hertfordshire, SG9 0SL be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION:

(1) To provide a financial receipt to help fund the Council's Capital Programme.

(2) The land has previously been declared as surplus to the Council's requirements.

11 ITEM REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 19 MARCH 2019 - NEW YEAR PERFORMANCE INDICATORS TO BE MONITORED

RESOLVED: That this referral be considered with Item 10 - Performance Management Measures for 19/20.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Cabinet to consider the referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

12 ITEM REFERRED FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE: 21 MARCH 2019 - THIRD QUARTER REVENUE MONITORING 2018/19

RESOLVED: That this referral be considered with Item 11 - Third Quarter Revenue Monitoring 2018/19.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Cabinet to consider the referral from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

13 ITEM REFERRED FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE: 21 MARCH 2019 - THIRD QUARTER CAPITAL MONITORING 2018/19

RESOLVED: That this referral be considered with Item 12 - Third Quarter Capital Monitoring 2018/19.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Cabinet to consider the referral from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

14 ITEM REFERRED FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE: 21 MARCH 2019 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT THIRD QUARTER

RESOLVED: That this referral be considered with Item 13 – Treasury Management Third Quarter.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Cabinet to consider the referral from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

**15 ITEM REFERRED FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE: 21 MARCH 2019
2019 - RISK AND OPPORTUNITIES MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

RESOLVED: That the changes to the Corporate risks for the Quarter be approved namely:

- North Hertfordshire Museum and Hitchin Town Hall Project to be reduced from a 9 to a 3 on the risk matrix.
- New Brexit Corporate risk to be introduced with a score of 9 on the risk matrix.

REASON FOR DECISION: The responsibility for ensuring the management of the risks is that of Cabinet.

16 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report on strategic planning matters be noted.
- (2) That the submission in Appendix A be noted and endorsed.

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

17 HOUSING GRANTS POLICY

RESOLVED: That the Housing Grants Policy 2019-2024 set out in Appendix A be adopted..

REASON FOR DECISION: The Council's existing Private Sector Housing Policy is outdated and no longer relevant to national or local circumstances. A new Housing Grants Policy is proposed which properly reflects the objectives set out in the Council's Housing Strategy.

18 ADOPTION OF A NEW HOUSING STRATEGY

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the adoption of the Council's Housing Strategy (2019-2024) attached at Appendix 1 be approved:
- (2) That the Service Director - Regulatory, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health, be authorised to make minor changes to the Strategy;
- (3) That power be delegated to the Service Director - Regulatory, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health, to agree an annual action plan which will set out the specific actions to be undertaken to implement the Strategy;
- (4) That the Service Director – Regulatory, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health, be authorised to deploy Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) homelessness funding of £173k (for 2019/20) to meet homelessness priorities identified in the Strategy;
- (5) That, in the event the MHCLG provides homelessness funding beyond the financial year 2019/20, the Service Director – Regulatory, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health, be authorised to decide on the specific allocation of the funds in order to meet homelessness priorities, for the duration of the Strategy.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Council to undertake its strategic housing responsibilities over the next five years in a planned, transparent and inclusive manner. The Council is legally required to produce an up-to-date Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and a Tenancy Strategy.

19 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 19/20

RESOLVED:

- (1) That, subject to resolutions 2,3 and 4 below, the PIs and any associated targets that will be monitored throughout 2019/20 by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee be approved;
- (2) That in respect of NI 191 and NI 192, the Service Director – Place be requested to review the proposed target, taking into account the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that any target set is challenging;
- (3) That , in respect of LI035a, REG1 and REG2, the Homelessness Policy to be operational for 12 months after which, consideration to be given to setting targets as soon as meaningful data is available;
- (4) That, in respect of BV9:
 - (i) the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny be noted;
 - (ii) the Service Director – Customers be requested to undertake a thorough review of this Performance Measure during the course of the year to ensure it remains appropriate.

REASON FOR DECISION: An approved range of indicators provides the Cabinet with assurance that service delivery in a number of key services will be monitored throughout 2019/20.

20 THIRD QUARTER REVENUE MONITORING 2018/19

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the substantive and addendum reports entitled Third Quarter Revenue Monitoring 2018/19 be noted;
- (2) That the changes to the 2018/19 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2 of the substantive report, a £211k decrease in net expenditure be approved;
- (3) That the changes to the 2019/20 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 of the substantive report and paragraph 8.3 of the addendum report, a £25k increase in net expenditure be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: Members are able to monitor, make adjustments within the overall budgetary framework and request appropriate action of Services who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process.

21 THIRD QUARTER CAPITAL MONITORING 2018/19

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the forecast expenditure of **£6.736million** in 2018/19 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.2 refers, and approves the adjustments detailed in table 3 which result in a net decrease on the working estimate of **£0.022million** be noted:

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- (2) That the adjustments to the capital programme for 2018/19 onwards as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2, increasing the estimated spend in future years 2019/20 by **£0.466million** be approved;
- (3) That the position of the availability of capital resources, as detailed in table 4, and the requirement to keep the capital programme under review for affordability be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION:

- (1) Cabinet is required to approve revisions to the capital programme.
- (2) Cabinet is required to ensure that the capital programme is fully funded.

22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT THIRD QUARTER 2018/19

RESOLVED: That the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of December 2018 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.