

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City
on Wednesday, 18th July, 2018 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Barnard, Judi Billing, Gary Grindal, Simon Harwood, Ben Lewis, Janine Paterson, Deepak Sangha, Val Shanley and Terry Tyler.

2 MINUTES - 17 MAY 2018

RESOLVED: That, subject to Councillor Helen Oliver's name being corrected in the list of those present and the penultimate sentence of Minute 2 being amended to read "Councillor John Bishop then read and signed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Chairman (Councillor Alan Millard) placed the chain of office upon him.", the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 May 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) Long Service Awards

The Chairman paid tribute to Mark Scanes and Christina Corr, each of whom had each worked for the Council for 25 years or more.

(2) 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.

RESOLVED: That the Council places on record its sincere thanks to Mark Scanes and Christina Corr for their long and valuable service to local government in North Hertfordshire.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council was addressed by Mrs Kay Tart, Co-Founder of Hitchin Parents Against School Cuts.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Tart for her presentation.

6 ITEM REFERRED FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE: 18 JUNE 2018 - FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee 2017/18 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

7 ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 19 JUNE 2018 - RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE AND ANNUAL REPORT ON RISK MANAGEMENT 2017/18

RESOLVED: 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.

8 ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 19 JUNE 2018 - REVENUE BUDGET OVERTURN 2017/18

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

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that changes to the Council's balances are monitored and approved.

9 ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 19 JUNE 2018 - ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2017/18

RESOLVED:

- (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.

10 COUNCIL CONSTITUTION (CONFIRMATION OF AMENDMENTS) & FURTHER MINOR PROPOSED CHANGES

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the amendments made under delegated decision (with the agreement of the Leader) that came into effect on 1 June 2018 (as per Appendix A) be noted;
- (2) That the further minor amendments at paragraph 8.3 of the report be agreed.

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

11 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Members submitted questions on the following:

- (A) Waste Contract
- (B) Rail Services
- (C) Air Quality

The following questions were unsuccessful in the ballot, and will be dealt with by way of a written response from the Executive Members to all Members of the Council:

14/15 Brand Street, Hitchin
Parking Enforcement

12 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(A) **Plastic Free Letchworth**

RESOLVED:

That this Council supports the principle of an initiative entitled "Plastic Free Letchworth", which is committed to plastic free alternatives, to be extended to include any other Towns or areas in North Herts without the matter needing to be the subject of a separate resolution, should any other areas wish to subscribe to such an initiative.

In agreeing such a motion, it is noted that such an initiative would have no specific cost implications for the Council.

Further, it approves the nomination of a Member to the Letchworth Strategic Group, once this has been established (subject to the normal governance checks with the body prior to this being confirmed).

(B) **Single Use Plastics**

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Executive be instructed to produce an action plan to:

- a) Minimise the Council's use of plastics and to eliminate the use of single use plastics and replace with sustainable alternatives by 2022.
- b) Request all of the council's suppliers and contractors to remove single use plastics from their products and packaging as soon as possible.
- c) Work with local businesses and retailers to
 1. eliminate the use of single use plastic within the local authority area
 2. reduce the use of plastic in packaging and work towards the removal of plastic from packaging
 3. encourage them to require their suppliers to remove plastic from their products and from packaging.

The Council will also work with other public bodies and large employers to inform people of the environmental damage caused by plastics and promoting the reasons for using the alternatives.

(C) **Rail Users**

Prior to the item being discussed Councillor Helen Oliver declared that she would be chairing the Rail Users Group meeting on 19 July 2018. Having sought advice, this was not such as to prevent her from taking part in the debate and vote as she was not a member of that group.

RESOLVED:

That this Council recognises the continued problems residents are facing travelling on the rail network through the District. It is unacceptable that passengers have suffered two months of disruption. It welcomes the work of the local Rail Users Groups to highlight the issues and will continue to work with them to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

This Council agrees to continue to lobby all local MPs, the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Govia Thameslink Railway to ensure rapid progress towards an acceptable level of service.

(D) Garden Waste

RESOLVED:

That Council notes that those residents who have paid for the garden waste collection service did not initially receive the service for which they paid.

That Council commits to consideration of appropriate redress to reflect this.

(E) Education Funding

Prior to the item being discussed Councillor Kate Aspinwall declared an interest in that she worked for Herts for Learning who were directly affected by this issue.

Prior to the item being discussed Councillor Val Bryant declared an interest in that she was a teacher at Knights Templar School, Baldock, who were directly affected by this issue.

The Service Manager – Legal and Community advised that on the information provided at the meeting as this was a potential disclosable pecuniary interest, Councillor Kate Aspinwall and Councillor Val Bryant should leave the room for the duration of the debate and vote.

Councillors Aspinwall and Bryant left the room.

RESOLVED:

That this Council note the serious concerns raised by the Hitchin parents' group and recent correspondence from North Herts Head Teachers as to the profound effects of school funding cuts on staffing levels as well as basic resources.

It welcomes and supports the initiative of these parents and agrees to raise these concerns with the Department of Education.