

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City on Thursday, 22nd November, 2018 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Judi Billing, Jim McNally, and Richard Thake.

Councillors Nicola Harris and Catherine Henry advised that they would arrive late for the meeting.

2 MINUTES - 6 SEPTEMBER 2018 (EXTRAORDINARY MEETING)

RESOLVED: That, Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 6 September 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 MINUTES - 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

RESOLVED: That, Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 September 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No additional business was presented for consideration by the Council.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) 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.

Members were reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and were required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, who wished to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', should declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then leave the room before the debate and vote.

(2) Paperless Meetings

The Chairman reminded Members that the Council was working towards paperless meetings and that it was important that all Members, that had not already done so, contact IT to ensure that they had access to agendas and Minutes via a tablet.

He informed Members that a familiarisation session, designed to help Members get the most out of Mod.gov, would take place on: 12 December 2018 7pm – 8.00pm

Any Member wishing to go paperless now for every meeting, were to advise Committee Services and they would cease sending papers in dispatch.

From 1 January 2019 Members would no longer receive papers from Committee Services, unless advised otherwise.

From the beginning of the next Civic Year all meetings would be paperless.

(3) Refreshments

All Councillors were invited to refreshments after the meeting in Committee Rooms 2/3.

(4) Comfort break

If the meeting went beyond 9pm a 5 minute comfort break would be convened. Members were to remain in the room prior to this to ensure they were able to vote.

(5) Order of Agenda Items

The Chairman advised that he would take Items 6-8 as per the agenda.

The meeting would then go into Part 2 to consider Item 13.

Following which the meeting would return to Part 1 to consider the rest of the agenda items.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council received presentations from the following:

- Ms Rosie Waters - Citizens Advice North Herts
- Mrs Vicky Wyer - Regeneration of Churchgate

Prior to the item Regeneration of Churchgate being presented Councillor John Bishop (Chairman) declared a declarable interest in that he knew Vicky Wyer, one of the people making a presentation to Council. He stated that this was not so significant as to prevent him listening to the presentation.

- Mr Brian Foreman – Regeneration of Churchgate

7 7A - ITEM REFERRED FROM LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE: 5 NOVEMBER 2018 - GAMBLING ACT 2005: STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES 2019 - 2022

RESOLVED: That, subject to the removal of Paragraph E1.6, the Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Licensing Principles 2019 - 2022 be adopted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) Licensing authorities are required to publish a policy every three years by virtue of section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 (“the Act”);
- (2) A new policy must be published by 3 January 2019 to comply with this statutory requirement;
- (3) The Policy builds on the effectiveness of the existing policy with minor amendments to reflect changes in legislation, statutory guidance, consultation responses and further clarification on the requirement for local area risk assessments.

8 7b - ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 20 NOVEMBER 2018 - REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE

The Chairman announced that this matter would be considered in conjunction with Agenda Item 8. Regeneration of Churchgate Shopping Centre (Minutes 58 and 59 refers).

9 **7c - ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 20 NOVEMBER 2018 - WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE**

In accordance with 100B (4)(B) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with the urgent procedure rules as contained within the Council's Constitution it was announced that the item would be considered having been omitted from those published with the other referrals.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That in recognition of the service received since the start of the new waste contract, which has not been of the standard we expect, the Council agrees an extension of the current 12 month payment period for green waste collection, for a further period of 3 months. The loss of income based on current (52%) uptake is approximately £290k; and
- (2) In addition, to provide a free roll of compostable liners for the kitchen food waste caddies. The estimated cost of the liners is circa £30k.

REASON FOR DECISION: To acknowledge service disruption in our waste collection service and demonstrate to residents that the Council is taking the issue and the inconvenience caused extremely seriously. Predominantly, garden waste collection and food waste collection have been disrupted.

10 **REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE**

RESOLVED:

1. That the principle of a regeneration of the Churchgate Centre and Hitchin Market with the Council as funder and owner of the regenerated scheme be supported, noting that the deliverability of the proposals is dependant upon securing funding from the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership;
2. That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, the Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Finance and IT be authorised, to progress the negotiation of legal agreements with Shearer Property Group for the regeneration of the Churchgate Centre and to progress pre-purchase due diligence, subject to Full Council's final approval of the terms of any proposal.
3. That the transfer of up to £130k from the Special Reserve to progress the further work required prior to a final decision be approved;
4. That the Consultation Strategy, which will form part of any development management agreement with a developer, clearly sets out how the community will continue to be engaged with and how they will have opportunities to see and influence the final proposals.
5. That Full Council welcomes the proposals put forward by Churchgate Resurgence PB and notes that many of the ideas and arguments put forward are common aspirations shared by Hitchin residents and Councillors alike over many years. Recognising the Council's responsibility to progress the proposals for Churchgate in conformance with Local Government rules, it will nevertheless, wherever possible engage with the Hitchin community groups including Churchgate Resurgence PB in future design and development.

REASON FOR DECISION: The Council has been seeking to regenerate the Churchgate Centre for a number of years and a number of different proposals have been considered during that time, with none of those proposals progressing to a successful conclusion. The

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proposal currently being considered finds a solution to a number of the problems faced by previous proposals and would appear to be achievable in the short term. The proposals would also see significant investment in Hitchin Market and the public realm. The Council's potential investment in this regeneration opportunity is also expected to provide a reasonable financial return. The initial proposals received significant public support when they were consulted on in March/April 2018.

11 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019/20

A recorded vote having been requested by Councillor Julian Cunningham on the amendment, that the Special Responsibility Allowance for Executive Members remain at £7,000, was carried as follows:.

For:

Councillors Ian Albert, Daniel Allen, Kate Aspinwall, Clare Billing, Ruth Brown, Val Bryant, Paul Clark, Sam Collins, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Gary Grindal, Mike Hughson, Steve Jarvis, Ian Mantle, Paul Marment, Lisa Nash, Sue Ngwala, Helen Oliver, Deepak Sangha, Martin Stears-Handscorn, Terry Tyler.

TOTAL 20

Against:

Councillors David Barnard, John Bishop, Julian Cunningham, Bill Davidson, Steve Deakin-Davies, Sarah Dingley, Faye Frost, Terry Hone, David Levett, Bernard Lovewell, Ian Moody, Michael Muir, Lynda Needham, Janine Paterson, Mike Rice, Val Shanley, Harry Spencer-Smith, Claire Strong, Michael Weeks

TOTAL 19

Abstain:

Councillors Jean Green, Nicola Harris, Simon Harwood, Tony Hunter.

TOTAL 4

Upon the vote it was

RESOLVED:

- (1) That, subject to the Special Responsibility Allowance for Executive Members remaining at £7,000, the Scheme for financial year 2019/20 as set out in Appendix B be agreed;
- (2) That the payment of an Honorarium of £500 to each member of the Panel, for any year that a Panel reviews and prepares a report on Members' Allowances be agreed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the Council meets statutory requirements. Improve the possibility of having a Panel to review Members' allowances.

12 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11(b) of the Council's Constitution three questions were submitted by Members regarding the following:

- (A) Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs)
- (B) Breaches of Planning Consent
- (C) Royston Parking Review.

13 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were no Notices of Motions.

14 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

15 REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE

As this part of the meeting was discussed in Part 2 there was no audio recording taken.

This item was considered prior to the Part 1 Item (Minute 57 refers)

RESOLVED: That Full Council notes that, in light of the risks associated with the proposals, including the reliance on funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership, officers will urgently consider in more detail the alternative options in the event that the current proposals are unable to proceed; such alternative options to be reported to Full Council early 2019 if required.

REASON FOR DECISION: The Council has been seeking to regenerate the Churchgate Centre for a number of years and a number of different proposals have been considered during that time, with none of those proposals progressing to a successful conclusion. The proposal currently being considered finds a solution to a number of the problems faced by previous proposals and would appear to be achievable in the short term. The proposals would also see significant investment in Hitchin Market and the public realm. The Council's potential investment in this regeneration opportunity is also expected to provide a reasonable financial return. The initial proposals received significant public support when they were consulted on in March/April 2018.

At the conclusion of the item the meeting moved back into open session and press and public were re-admitted, where the audio recording of the meeting recommenced.