

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City on Thursday, 7th February, 2019 at 7.30 pm

1 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

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

The information in the Part II report was taken into account when reaching the decisions as recorded in Part I.

The item was considered prior to the part I item (Minute No. 90 refers).

Having debated the matter the meeting resumed in public session.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clare Billing, Bill Davidson, Gary Grindal, Cathryn Henry, Ben Lewis, Jim McNally, Gerald Morris and Terry Tyler.

3 MINUTES - 17 JANUARY 2019

The Chairman informed Members that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 January 2019, marked "to follow" had not been prepared in sufficient time to be presented to the meeting due to pressures on resource issues. Therefore the Minutes would be presented to the next ordinary meeting of Council.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Declarations of Interest

The Chairman reminded Members 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 Members 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, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.

(2) Paperless Meetings

As previously advised from 1 January 2019 Members will no longer receive papers from Committee Services, unless you advise them otherwise.

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

In preparation for using tablets at future meetings, prior to any meeting, Members should ensure that the agenda was downloaded onto the tablet. This would also ensure that if there was any updates required that this was completed prior to the tablet needing to be used at a particular meeting.

Any issues with the tablets prior to a meeting please contact IT in advance. However, IT support would be available in the IT training room from 6pm prior to Council, Cabinet and Planning and Finance Audit and Risk Meetings.

The final vote of the budget would be a recorded vote. Each Member would be called to vote individually. When called please declare whether your vote was For, Against or in Abstention of the recommendation and then press the respective button on the base unit. Before the vote please ensure the base unit is flashing.

(3) **Refreshments**

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

(4) **Comfort break**

If the meeting went on beyond 9pm the Chairman would call a 5 minute comfort break. Please remain in the room prior to this to ensure you can vote.

(5) **Order of Agenda Items**

The Chairman advised that Agenda Items 13 and 14 would be considered in conjunction with Agenda Item 10 – Voluntary Redundancies with the remaining business as per agenda.

(6) **Rules of Debate**

In accordance with the Constitution Members were asked to ensure that no speech exceeded five minutes without the consent of the Chairman.

(7) **Welwyn Hatfield**

The Chairman welcomed Graham Seal from Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council who was providing support at the meeting.

(8) **Civic Dinner and Awards Ceremony**

For those attending, the Chairman looked forward to Members company. One other note for your diaries was the event being hosted during the evening on 6 April 2019. Details of the event would be circulated once confirmed.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council was addressed by Morag Norgan, Chairman Hitchin Initiative regarding the Regeneration of Churchgate.

7 REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE – UPDATE AND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Full Council notes the outcome of the bid to the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and that the proposed regeneration with Shearer Property Group previously endorsed by Full Council will therefore not proceed.
- (2) That Full Council approve the principle of purchasing the leasehold interest for the Churchgate Shopping Centre, subject to further consideration of the economic case for doing so.
- (3) That Full Council agrees that any regeneration of Churchgate and the surrounding area must be a viable investment that maintains a return to the Council.
- (4) That officers are instructed to continue to consider a range of potential solutions in order to allow the flexibility needed to identify possible viable investments, subject to further Council decision in due course on the acceptability of any such solutions.
- (5) That Full Council agrees the previously approved transfer of up to £130k from the Special Reserve be used to progress the further work required by resolutions 2.2 and 2.4.
- (6) That the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Resources, in consultation with:-
 - (1) the Leader of the Council, Executive Member for Finance and IT and Opposition Group Leaders;
 - (2) Hertfordshire County Council;
 - (3) Hertfordshire LEP; and
 - (4) Appropriate local community and business groups

Progress the proposals for phase 1 bids for the Future High Streets Fund and the outcome be reported back to Full Council for decision.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: 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 lessons learned from those previous unsuccessful attempts to regenerate the Churchgate Centre and surrounding area show that having control over the whole site (including the Churchgate Centre by owning the long leasehold interest) and being flexible as to potential solutions would increase the chances of success.

8 ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 29 JANUARY 2019 - REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20

Resumed meeting at 8.56pm

The recommendations, as amended, were then put to the meeting and it was a recorded vote being required in accordance with 4.8.16(e) of The Constitution.

RESOLVED:

(0 voting AGAINST, 24 voting FOR and 17 ABSTENTIONS)

Voting FOR: David Barnard, John Bishop, Julian Cunningham, Steve Deakin-Davies, Sarah Dingley, Faye Frost, Jean Green, Nicola Harris, Simon Harwood, Terry Hone, Tony Hunter, David Levett, Bernard Lovewell, Paul Marment, Ian Moody, Michael Muir, Lynda Needham, Janine Paterson, Michael Rice, Valentine Shanley, Harry Spencer-Smith, Claire Strong, Richard Thake, Michael Weeks

ABSTENTIONS: Ian Albert, Daniel Allen, Kate Aspinwall, Judi Billing, Ruth Brown, Val Bryant, Paul Clark, Sam Collins, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Mike Hughson, Steve Jarvis, Ian Mantle, Lisa Nash, Sue Nawala, Helen Oliver, Deepak Sangha, Martin Stears-Handscomb

- (1) That Council notes the changes detailed in this addendum report when approving a proposed net budget of £15.2m for 2019/20.
- (2) That Council approve the resultant increase in the level of Council Tax for the North Hertfordshire District Council element of 2.99%.
- (3) That Council notes, with two parish precept notifications currently outstanding, the Parish and Town Council precept requests received totalling £1,160,095.
- (4) That Council notes that, with two parish precept notifications currently outstanding, the total District Council Tax Requirement is £12,551,161 and approves this figure for inclusion in the Council Tax Resolution.
- (5) That Council agrees an Investment Proposal to add an additional sum of £25,000 in 2019-20 to provide for additional Economic Development staffing equivalent to one full time post and that the tables in Appendix A be amended accordingly. This reflects the existing plans to fund half of a joint post from the Strategic Priorities Fund in 2019-20 and to look at it further for future years.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: To ensure that all relevant factors are taken into consideration when arriving at the proposed Council Tax precept for 2019/20.

9 ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 29 JANUARY 2019 - INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY)

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council adopts the Investment Strategy (as attached at Appendix A), including the capital programme and prudential indicators.
- (2) That Council adopts the four clauses in relation to the Code of Practice on Treasury Management (as detailed in paragraphs 8.17 to 8.23).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) To ensure that the capital programme meets the Council's objectives and officers can plan the implementation of the approved schemes.
- (2) To ensure the Council's compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management, the Local Government Act 2003, statutory guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the CIPFA Prudential Code. As well as determining and managing the Councils risk appetite in respect of investments.

10 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council endorse the 2019/20 Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix 1 of the submitted report.
- (2) That Council agrees to delegate authority for revisions made in year to the Pay Policy Statement, to the Corporate Human Resources Manager, in consultation with the Leader. Revisions which might arise in the year include changes in structure, changes to employment benefits, subsequent pay awards agreed nationally and new legislative requirements.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: To comply with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, Statutory Guidance issued under s40 and the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.

The meeting was adjourned @10:30pm for a comfort break.

11 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

(32 voting FOR, 1 AGAINST and 1 ABSTENTION)

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.

12 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

The meeting resumed at 10.40pm

RESOLVED:

That Council approves: Voluntary Redundancy 1 and Voluntary Redundancy 2, the details of which were presented in the Part II Report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) To meet the financial challenges to the Council in light of reducing Government support.
- (2) To facilitate the phase 2 restructure and assist with meeting the Council's corporate financial budgetary requirements in the longer term.

13 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There was no other notice of motions considered.

14 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11(b), three questions were submitted by Members within the required timescale as prescribed in the Council's Constitution.

- (A) Chairman's Photographs, Civic Crest and other civic regalia
- (B) Food Waste Collection Costs
- (C) Waste and Recycling Rounds