

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City on Tuesday, 11th December, 2018 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Deakin - Davies.

Having giving due notice Councillor Sue Ngwala advised that she would be substituting for Councillor Kate Aspinwall.

Councillor Dennis – Harburg had advised that she would arrive late for the meeting.

### 2 MINUTES - 24 JULY 2018

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 24 June 2018 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

### 3 MINUTES - 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 September 2018 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

### 4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

### 5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman asked Members and Speakers to speak into the microphones;
- (2) The Chairman reminded those present that, in line with Council policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (3) The Chairman drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and 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 'Councillors speaking right' must declare this at the same time as the interest.

### 6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

### 7 URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS

No urgent or general exception items were received.

### 8 CALLED-IN ITEMS

Since the last meeting, no decisions had been called-in by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**9 ANNUAL REVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK (2017-18)**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee:

- i. Received and commented on the annual report of progress made against the Council's fulfilment of the statutory duty to maintain an effective safeguarding function with regard to children.
- ii. Received and commented on the annual report of progress made against the Council's fulfilment of the statutory duty to maintain an effective safeguarding function with regard to adults at risk.
- iii. Agreed that sufficient and robust processes are in place at NHDC for application and review of safeguarding processes, and that an annual review and presentation to this committee should continue.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The resolution is the best course of action that can be accommodated within the approved budget and officer resources, that will fulfil our statutory and lawful obligations but also ensure that a regular, corporate review exists.

**10 INFORMATION NOTE: HALF YEAR UPDATE ON COMMENTS, COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS (3CS)**

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee note the half yearly update report on Comments, Compliments and Complaints (3CS).

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the half year update regarding Comments, Compliments and Complaints (3Cs).

**11 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 2019 - 2023**

**RESOLVED:**

The Committee recommended:

- i. That Cabinet adopts the North Hertfordshire District Council Communications Strategy 2019-2023, as attached as Appendix A; and
- ii. Agrees the delegation for creating the Action Plan and the annual review of the Action Plan contained in the Communications Strategy, to the Communications Manager in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To allow the Council's Communications Team to carry out a programme of relevant communications activities, in line with an agreed strategic approach, ensuring residents and other stakeholders are well informed about the work of the Council and about relevant activities in the District.

**12 PRESENTATION BY THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - COMMERCIAL**

The Service Director – Commercial delivered a Power point presentation on his service area.

**13 2018/19 QUARTER 2 PI Data**

Due to the length of the meeting the item was deferred. Any questions, that were not urgent or exceptional, or comments required, Members were requested to email Hilary Dineen, Acting Committee and Member Services Manager or Rachel Cooper, Controls, Risk & Performance Manager direct.

**14 2ND QUARTER MONITORING REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR 2018-19**

Due to the length of the meeting the Item was deferred. Any questions, that were not urgent or exceptional, or comments the Committee were requested to email Hilary Dineen, Acting Committee and Member Services Manager or Rachel Cooper, Controls, Risk & Performance Manager direct.

**15 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Answers were provided.

Councillor Sam Collins wished it to be recorded that:

*The response did not fully clarify the actual action at St. Albans. A motion was passed for £50,000 fighting fund and other local authorities would be approached to contribute. Hitchin highlighted as another bad train station, and that the Councils needed to discuss what to do next on Great Northern Line. North Herts needs to have awareness of this.*

**16 RESOLUTIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

This item was not discussed by the Committee.

**17 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2018/19**

This item was not discussed by the Committee.