

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 20th November, 2018 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) Members of the public and the press may use their devices to film/photograph, or do a sound recording of the meeting, but please raise your hand to let me know you are doing this so that I can inform all present. Please do not use flash and disable any beeps or other sound notifications that may emit from your device. In addition, in accordance with Council Policy, the sound at this meeting is being recorded.
- (2) A reminder that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest need 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) For the benefit of any members of the public present at the meeting, please would Officers announce their name and their designation to the meeting when invited to speak either by myself or an Executive Member.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following presentations were made by members of the public:

Garden Waste Service

Mr Colin Dunham had registered to speak regarding the garden waste collection service, however was unable to attend the meeting.

Regeneration of Churchgate Shopping Centre

Steven Haynes, Churchgate Resurgence PB.

Brian Foreman, representing Tenants of Churchgate

5 5A - ITEM REFERRED FROM HITCHIN COMMITTEE: 13 NOVEMBER 2018 - REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE

RESOLVED: That consideration of this referral takes place in conjunction with agenda item number 7 (Minute 58 refers).

6 5B - ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE: 20 NOVEMBER 2018 - NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUM & HITCHIN TOWN HALL: ACQUISITION OF 14/15 BRAND STREET

RESOLVED: That consideration of this referral takes place in conjunction with agenda item number 8 (Minute 59 refers).

7 WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (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;
- (2) That, 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.

8 REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Cabinet notes the recommendation that the Chairman of Hitchin Committee should be a member of any Churchgate Project Board and notes that Paragraph 1.2.6 of the Council's Constitution authorises the lead officer to choose the membership of the project board, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That the proposals progress to the final work required prior to Full Council's final approval of the terms of any proposal;
- (2) 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.

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.

9 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUM & HITCHIN TOWN HALL: ACQUISITION OF 14/15 BRAND STREET

Prior to the item being discussed Councillor Bernard Lovewell declared a declarable interest in that he was a Member of the Cabinet Sub-Committee (Council Charities) and, in accordance with legal advice given previously, would leave the Chamber for the duration of the item.

Prior to the item being discussed Councillor Julian Cunningham declared a declarable interest in that he was a Member of the Cabinet Sub-Committee (Council Charities) and, in accordance with legal advice given previously, would leave the Chamber for the duration of the item.

Prior to the item being discussed Councillor Michael Weeks declared a declarable interest in that he was a Member of the Cabinet Sub-Committee (Council Charities) and, in accordance with legal advice given previously, would leave the Chamber for the duration of the item.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the purchase of 14/15 Brand Street for £550,000 be approved;
- (2) That the Council should enter into the Settlement Agreement at Appendix A;
- (3) That the timeline for the full opening of the North Hertfordshire Museum be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) To enable the Council to complete the development of the North Hertfordshire Museum/Hitchin Town Hall project as intended by Council and operate the facility for the benefit of the local community;
- (2) To protect the Council's interests and obtain best return from the Council's existing investment and to secure projected income from the facility to offset some of the operational and fixed costs.

10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Cunningham and

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.

11 REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE

RESOLVED: That the content of the Part 2 Council report be noted.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: 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.

12 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUM & HITCHIN TOWN HALL: ACQUISITION OF 14/15 BRAND STREET

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RESOLVED: That the content of the part 2 Council report be noted:

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) To enable the Council to complete the development of the North Hertfordshire Museum/Hitchin Town Hall project as intended by Council and operate the facility for the benefit of the local community;
- (2) To protect the Council's interests and obtain best return from the Council's existing investment and to secure projected income from the facility to offset some of the operational and fixed costs.