

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

**Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 30th July, 2019 at 7.30 pm**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sean Prendergast (Deputy Executive Member), Carol Stanier (Deputy Executive Member) and Kay Tart (Deputy Executive Member).

2 MINUTES - 11 JUNE 2019

It was moved by Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb, seconded by Councillor Paul Clark and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 June 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

3 MINUTES - 27 JUNE 2019

It was moved by Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb, seconded by Councillor Paul Clark and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 27 June 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting:

(2) The Chairman advised that, in accordance 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;

(4) The Chairman informed Members that there would be an additional Cabinet meeting on 31 October 2019.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Tony Hunter and County Councillor Fiona Hill, who would be speaking immediately prior to Item 13 - Playgrounds.

7 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

a - Item Referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 16 July 2019 - Council Plan and Objectives

This referral was considered with Item 9 –Council Plan and Council Objectives 2020 – 2025.

b - Item Referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 16 July 2019 - Waste Collection from Multi Occupancy Properties.

This referral was considered with Item 14 – Waste Collection from Multi Occupancy Properties.

c - Item Referred from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee: 29 July 2019 - Risk Management Update

RESOLVED: That the risk entitled Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on Council Properties be adopted as a Corporate Risk.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Annual Report on Risk and Opportunities be considered and noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) The responsibility for ensuring the management of risks is that of Cabinet;
- (2) This Committee has responsibility to monitor the effective development and operation of risk and opportunities management.

d - Item Referred from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee: 29 July 2019 – First Quarter Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/20

This referral was considered with Item 11 – First Quarter Revenue Monitoring 2019/20.

e - Item Referred from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee: 29 July 2019 – First Quarter Investment Strategy (Capital and Treasury) Review 2019/20

This referral was considered with Item 12 - First Quarter Investment Strategy (Capital and Treasury) Review 2019/20

f - Item Referred from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee: 29 July 2019 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2025

This referral was considered with Item 10 - medium term financial strategy 2020 – 2025.

8 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED;

- (1) That the report on strategic planning matters be noted;
- (2) That the submission(s) in Appendices A, C and D be noted and endorsed;
- (3) That the submissions in Appendices B, E and F be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To keep Cabinet informed of recent developments on strategic planning matters and progress on the North Hertfordshire Local Plan.

9 COUNCIL PLAN 2020 - 2025 and COUNCIL OBJECTIVES 2020-2025

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the draft Council Plan - ‘ North Hertfordshire District Council: Working with our Communities, It’s Your Council’ 2020 – 2025;

- (2) That the following Council Objectives be noted:
- Be a more welcoming and inclusive council;
 - Building thriving and resilient communities;
 - Responding to challenges to the environment;
 - Enabling an enterprising and co-operative economy;
 - Supporting the delivery of good quality and affordable housing.
- (3) That the intention to finalise a draft for Full Council approval, following consideration with the leadership team, Member Workshop and further Cabinet meeting be noted;
- (4) That the comments made by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 16 July 2019 (contained in the referral to Cabinet) be taken into consideration during the process of drawing up and adopting the Council Plan and Council Objectives.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The Council plan is a key element of the corporate business planning process, as a high level strategic document it sets out the Council's priorities for the next year. As an overarching policy framework document it guides and influences the use of Council resources; providing a focus for activities, plans and services of the Council provide.

10 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020 - 2025

RESOLVED: That the Service Director – Resources be requested to update the MTFS to show that it did not take account of any potential impacts of Brexit;

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-25 as attached at Appendix A be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: Adoption of a MTFS and communication of its contents will assist in the process of forward planning the use of Council resources and in budget setting for 2020/2021 to 2024/2025, culminating in the setting of the Council Tax precept for 2020/21 in February 2020.

11 FIRST QUARTER REVENUE MONITORING 2019/20

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report entitled First Quarter Revenue Monitoring 2019/20 be noted:
- (2) That the changes to the 2019/20 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a £239k decrease in net expenditure be approved:
- (3) That the changes to the 2020/21 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a £130k decrease in net expenditure and that these will be incorporated in the draft revenue budget for 2020/21 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: Members are able to monitor, make adjustments within the overall budgetary framework and request appropriate action of Services who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process.

12 FIRST QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2019/20

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the forecast expenditure of £7.822million in 2019/20 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.2 refers be noted.

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- (2) That the adjustments to the capital programme for 2019/20 onwards as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2, increasing the estimated spend in 2020/21 by £1.408million be approved;
- (3) That the position of the availability of capital resources, as detailed in table 3 paragraph 8.6 and the requirement to keep the capital programme under review for affordability be noted;
- (4) That the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of May 2019 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) Cabinet is required to approve adjustments to the capital programme and ensure the capital programme is fully funded.

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.

13 PLAYGROUNDS

County Councillor Fiona Hill thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address Cabinet regarding the report entitled Playgrounds.

Councillor Tony Hunter thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address Cabinet regarding the report entitled Playgrounds.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That delaying the removal of play equipment at Betjeman Road and Farrier Court both in Royston until the 31st March 2020 be approved;
- (2) That the additional expenditure of £4,400 for 2019/20 be agreed.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That a revenue budget of £4,400 for the financial year 2020/21 (as part of the budget setting process) to further delay removal of play equipment at the two play areas in Royston until 31st March 2021 to provide sufficient time to re-evaluate the current Green Space Management Strategy (GSMS) with regard to playground provision in the District and align this with a review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To delay the removal of the remaining two play areas identified for decommissioning, to allow sufficient time to evaluate the current GSMS (which may include re-evaluation of demand) with regard to playground provision in the District and review the MTFS.

14 WASTE COLLECTION FROM MULTI OCCUPANCY PROPERTIES (MOP)

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a variation to the waste contract with Urbaser, to retain the existing weekly collection service for residual waste from MOP in accordance with appendix A be approved;
- (2) That an increase in the revenue budget for 2019/20 of £68k to fund these additional costs be approved;

- (3) That the £164k increase in expenditure budget required annually to retain weekly collections from MOPs will be incorporated in the draft revenue budget for 2020/21 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To prevent resident dissatisfaction, Contamination of waste streams, side waste and costly enforcement action against landlords and managing agents for non compliance that would likely occur in the event fortnightly collection of residual waste at MOP was implemented in accordance with the waste contract obligations.

15 THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE JOHN BARKER PLACE AREA OF HITCHIN

RESOLVED:

- (1) That officers be authorised to assess the suitability of the existing DA and review if an alternative agreement is required for settle's new scheme.
- (2) That, should a new DA be required, officers should negotiate its terms with settle and return to the Cabinet for it to be considered and decided.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The economic operating environment for registered providers has changed significantly and many items contained in the existing DA appear to be redundant. The Council's financial situation has also changed since 2013.

16 ADOPTION OF A SCRAP METAL DEALERS LICENSING POLICY

RESOLVED: That the Scrap Metal Dealers Licensing Policy as attached at Appendix A be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the Council has a clear and transparent policy for the determination of applications and the enforcement of licences.