

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber,  
Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City  
on Monday, 20th January, 2020 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

### 2 MINUTES - 5 DECEMBER 2019

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 5 December 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (3) The Chair 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.

### 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

### 6 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR YEAR ENDING 31/3/20

**RESOLVED:** That the External Audit Plan for Year Ending 31/3/20 be noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To communicate to Members the key issues arising from Ernst and Young's External Audit Plan for Year Ending 31/3/20.

### 7 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 2020/21

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:**

- (1) That the decrease in the 2019/20 working budget of £200k, as detailed in table 6, be approved; and
- (2) That the carry-forward of £88k of budget in to 2020/21, as detailed in table 6, be approved.

That Cabinet recommend to Council:

- (1) That the transfer from reserves to the General Fund as detailed in 8.4.3 to 8.4.4 be approved;
- (2) That the forecast savings target for future years and the approach to balancing the budget, as detailed in paragraph 8.9.4, be noted;
- (3) That the Collection Fund and how it will be funded be noted;
- (4) That the position relating to the General Fund and that due to the risks identified a minimum balance of £2.45 million is recommended, be noted;
- (5) That the savings and investments as detailed in Appendix B be approved;
- (6) That a net expenditure of £14.974m, as detailed in Appendix C, be approved; and
- (7) That a Council Tax increase of £5 for 2020/21 for a band D property, with other increases pro-rata to this, be approved.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) To ensure that all the relevant factors are taken into consideration when arriving at the proposed Council Tax precept for 2020/21; and
- (2) To ensure that Cabinet recommends a balanced budget to Full Council on 6 February 2020.

**8 INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY)**

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:**

That Cabinet recommend to Council:

- (1) The adoption of the Investment Strategy (as attached at Appendix A), including the capital programme and prudential indicators; and
- (2) The adoption of the four clauses in relation to the Code of Practice on Treasure Management (as detailed in paragraphs 8.11 to 8.16).

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) To ensure that the capital programme meets the Council's objectives and officers can plan the implementation of the approved schemes; and
- (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.

**9 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE**

**RESOLVED:** That the Financial Management Code be noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To demonstrate the extent to which the Council complies with the Code and areas where it plans to take further actions. This will support good governance and risk management.

**10 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Chair requested that, should any Members have any suggestions for agenda items for future meetings, they advise himself, officers or the Committee Clerk.