

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City on Wednesday, 23rd October, 2019 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Terry Hone and Helen Oliver.

Having given due notice Councillor Morgan Derbyshire advised that he would be substituting for Councillor Terry Hone.

Apologies were also received from Mr John Robinson who was registered to speak, but was unable to attend.

The Chairman was informed that a Member of the Hitchin Town Hall Review Panel, Councillor Ian Moody would be attending the meeting, however, he would be arriving late.

2 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting, the Independent Chairman and Members of the Hitchin Town Hall Review Panel and those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (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 clarified the running order of how the evenings procedures would take place; and
- (5) The Chairman informed the Committee of the options open to them in respect of recommendations as follows:
 - (a) To accept all of the recommendations in the report;
 - (b) Suggest amendments to any recommendations;
 - (c) Delete recommendations.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - CATHRYN HENRY

Ms Cathryn Henry thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - DAVID LEAL-BENNETT

Mr David Leal-Bennett thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - STEPHEN PIKE

Mr Stephen Pike thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation.

7 REVIEW OF THE HITCHIN TOWN HALL AND DISTRICT WIDE MUSEUM PROJECT

RESOLVED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Express appreciation to the Independent Chairman of the Hitchin Town Hall Review Panel and Members of the Panel for their hard work in producing the Report.
2. Notes the report of Hitchin Town Hall and District Wide Museum Review Panel (Appendix A) and accepts the recommendations in Part D of the report.
3. Express its profound disappointment that Appendix B of the Report, (Comments of The Leadership Team) was included in the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

1. That the Report of the Hitchin Town Hall Review Panel, (Appendix A) be reviewed and the recommendations, as contained in part D of the report, be accepted.
2. That the following recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be considered:
 - (i) When reviewing the recommendations of the Hitchin Town Hall Review Panel the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be taken into account, particularly the way in which the Council works with Community Groups/Partners;
 - (ii) Ensure that a robust system of mediation is established;
 - (iii) That an effective intervention process is put into place that results in suitable progressive remedial action following any mediation;
 - (iv) That dedicated Project Management is put in place that is adequately resourced as recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
 - (v) That a summarised version of the recommendations, (Part D of the Report) is incorporated into all large briefing documents to enable the production of a Code of Conduct which could inform any future projects;
 - (vi) That a clear Intervention Protocol is written and adopted within a reasonable timescale, and included within the Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (a separate stand alone paragraph that the Committee will understand to be the process followed when it is deemed necessary for a decision regarding a project is "called in"); and
 - (vii) That the Council's Procurement Procedures are reviewed as part of the review of the Constitution and continue to be followed and updated regularly to ensure it is adequately robust.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on the review into Hitchin Town Hall and District Wide Museum Project.