

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held as a Virtual Meeting
on Thursday, 9th July, 2020 at 7.30 pm

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual Council meeting that was being conducted with Members and Officers at various locations, communicating via audio/video and online and advised that there was the opportunity for the public and press to listen and view proceedings.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager gave advice regarding the following:

- Attendance;
- Live Streaming;
- Noise interference;
- Rules of Debate;
- Voting;
- Part 2 Items.

The Chair, Councillor Terry Tyler started the meeting proper.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Bill Davidson, Faye Frost, Gary Grindal, Lisa Nash and Carol Stanier.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Audio Recording

The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council policy this meeting was being audio recorded as well as filmed. The audio recordings would be available to view on Mod.gov and the film recording via the NHDC YouTube channel.

(2) Climate Emergency

Members were reminded that this Council had declared a Climate Emergency. This was a serious decision and meant that, as this was an emergency, all of us, officers and Members have that in mind as we carry out our various roles and tasks for the benefit of our District.

(3) Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded to make declarations of interest before an item, the detailed reminder about this and speaking rights was set out under Chair's Announcements on the agenda.

(4) Rules of Debate

The Chair reminded Members that the normal procedure rules in respect of debate and times to speak would apply:

No speeches may be made after the mover has moved a proposal and explained the purpose of it until the motion has been seconded.

When seconding a motion or amendment, a Member may reserve their speech until later in the debate.

In accordance with the Constitution please could Members ensure that no speech exceeded five minutes without the consent of the Chair

(5) Order of Business

The Chair advised that he would take Items 1-8 as per the agenda. Item 9 would be introduced and then the meeting would go into Part 2 and consider Item 13. Following which the meeting would return to Part 1 to take the vote on Item 9 and consider items 10 and 11

(6) Charities

The Chair advised that his Charities for this year would be Victoria's Promise and Citizen's Advice North Herts.

The Chair declared that, in relation to a potential interest, that Ed Smith was his Son in Law, who now works for Victoria Promise as a fund raiser following my daughter's passing, and have been advised that this does not cause an issue in terms of my support for Victoria's Promise this year.

The Chair invited Fiona Eastman and Ed Smith, Victoria's Promise, to address Council

The Chair invited Rose Waters, Citizens Advice North Herts, to address Council.

5 SREBRENICA COMMEMORATION

Councillors Ruth Brown and Martin Stears-Handscomb addressed Council followed by a minutes silence.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no presentations by members of the public.

7 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

a. Item referred from Cabinet 23 June 2020 – Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Special Reserve be used to fund a small transformation team for a period of 18 months from October 2020, with an estimated total cost of £150k (£50k in 2020/21 and £100k in 2021/22);
- (2) That agreeing the specification for, and intended outcomes of, the transformation programme be delegated to the Leader, Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Finance and IT, Managing Director and Service Director Resources;

- (3) That training be a requirement for elected Members who wish to take part in the planning process.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that the Council responds to the matters identified within the CPC report, ensuring that the benefits of the CPC process are realised.

b. Item referred from Cabinet 23 June 2020 – Revenue Budget Outturn

RESOLVED: That the net transfer to earmarked reserves, as identified in table 8, of £2.161million be approved.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) 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.
- (2) Changes to the Council's balances are monitored and approved.

NB: At 21.01 the meeting was adjourned for a comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 21.06 and the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager undertook a roll call of Members and Officers to ensure that they could hear and be heard.

c. Item referred from Cabinet 23 June 2020 – Investment Strategy (Capital and Treasury) End of Year Review

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the actual 2019/20 prudential and treasury indicators be approved:
- (2) That the annual Treasury Report for 2019/20 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) Cabinet is required to approve adjustments to the capital programme and ensure the capital programme is fully funded.
- (2) 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.

8 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Standards Committee be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS: In line with recommended good governance practice to report the work of Standards Committee to the full Membership, to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and to demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical values.

9 CONSTITUTIONAL (INCLUDING FINANCIAL REGULATION) CHANGES TO FOLLOWING TIER 1 & 2 RESTRUCTURE

RESOLVED: That the proposed amendments set out under 8.1 & 8.3 be approved. Such changes to come into effect on 18 July 2020.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Constitution reflects the new senior management structure and any necessary updated approval process.

10 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY

NB: This item was considered after the Part 2 item (Minute 27 refers).

RESOLVED: That the proposed amendments set out under 8.1 & 8.3 be approved. Such changes to come into effect on 18 July 2020.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Constitution reflects the new senior management structure and any necessary updated approval process.

11 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions from Members

12 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were no motions considered.

13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 Paragraphs 1 - 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

14 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY

NB: This item was considered prior to the Part 1 item (Minute 23 refers).

RESOLVED: That the information contained in the Part 2 report entitled Voluntary Redundancy be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To meet the financial challenges to the Council in light of reducing Government support and assist in meeting the budgetary requirements in the long term.