

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

**Meeting of the Cabinet held as a Virtual Meeting
on Tuesday, 21st July, 2020 at 7.30 pm**

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting of Cabinet 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 Martin Stears-Handscornb started the meeting proper.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carol Stanier and Sean Prendergast (Deputy Executive Members).

Councillor Kate Aspinwall, Chair Finance, Audit and Risk Committee offered her apologies for absence.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair welcomed everyone to this meeting of Cabinet;
- (2) 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;
- (3) 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 had that in mind as we carried out our various roles and tasks for the benefit of our District;
- (4) 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;
- (5) The Chair referred to statements made by Councillor David Williams, Leader Hertfordshire County Council in respect of Local Government reorganisation;

- (6) The Chair advised that he would take the agenda in the order published up to and including item 12. The Part 2 items would then be considered following which the meeting would return to Part 1 to take Part 1 decisions on Item 13 at the end of the meeting.

In respect of announcement (5) above a short discussion took place.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no presentations by members of the public.

6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

- 5a Item Referred from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee: 20 July 2020 – Risk Management Update

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report on Risk Management be noted.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Annual Report on Risk Management be noted.

REASONS 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 Management.

- 5b Item referred from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee: 20 July 2020 – Financial Impacts of Covid-19

RESOLVED: That the referral from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee regarding Financial Impacts of Covid-10 be taken with Item 13

7 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report on strategic planning matters be noted;
- (2) That the submission in Appendix A of the report be noted and endorsed;
- (3) That the Executive Member for Planning and Transport be requested to write to the Government minister to express concern, on behalf of the residents of North Herts District Council, at the turn of events regarding the proposed changes to planning legislation that will adversely affect employment areas.

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

8 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Developer Contributions SPD, attached as Appendix A to this report be adopted, subject to the adoption of the new Local Plan within 12 months of the date of this Cabinet meeting;

- (2) That, in the interim, the proposed adoption version of the Developer Contributions SPD, be published and used as a material consideration in the determination of relevant schemes.
- (3) That authority to make minor amendments to the Developer Contributions SPD prior to its formal adoption be delegated to the Service Director - Regulatory in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport as and when any further updates to the new Local Plan require alterations.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To allow the Developer Contributions SPD to be progressed so that it may be:

- (i) adopted at the same time as, or shortly after, any future decision to adopt the new Local Plan and
- (ii) taken into account in relevant planning decisions.

9 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the consultation response be noted;
- (2) That the changes to the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) be approved and that the Statement of Community Involvement, attached as Appendix A be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the Council consults with the local community in preparing the Local Plan, other local planning documents, and in determining planning applications. It also sets out guidelines for those communities involved in neighbourhood planning.

10 COUNCIL PLAN 2021 - 2026 AND COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOR 2021-2026

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Cabinet confirms its intention to recommend the retention of its five Objectives, other than a slight amendment to the first overarching Council Objective:
 - Continue to be a welcoming, inclusive, and efficient council,
 - Build thriving and resilient communities,
 - Respond to challenges to the environment,
 - Enable an enterprising and co-operative economy,
 - Support the delivery of good quality and affordable homes.
- (2) That the intention to finalise a draft of the complete Council Plan for Cabinet to consider in September, for referral on to Full Council for approval be noted. This will follow consideration with the leadership team and further engagement with all Members.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The Council plan is a key element of the corporate business planning process, as a highlevel 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 the Council provide. Confirming the intention to amend the first overarching Council Objective will allow a full draft to be developed that reflects this.

11 MODERN SLAVERY CHARTER UPDATE

RESOLVED: That the actions to date [and proposed actions in the plan Appendix B], and that further updates will be provided as part of the Annual Safeguarding Report to Overview & Scrutiny be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that Cabinet is updated regarding the actions regarding Modern Day Slavery.

12 HITCHIN MARKET CONTRACT EXTENSION

RESOLVED: That the entering into a contract extension with Hitchin Market Limited for a further eight months up to 31 March 2021 be noted

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) To seek approval of the proposed contract extension and to update Cabinet Members on the current position regarding Hitchin Markets Limited.
- (2) To ensure that Hitchin Market continues to operate.
- (3) To allow the Council more time to evaluate its options such as undertaking a tendering/procurement exercise.

13 COVID-19 LEISURE CONTRACTS RECOVERY

NB This report was introduced prior to consideration of the Part 2 report of the same name. The decision was taken following consideration of the Part 2 report of the same name.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Cabinet note and agree the approach set out in SLL's recovery plan and support SLL using the Open Book approach as recommended in the PPN 02/20, and further support included within LGA Options for councils in supporting leisure providers through COVID-19 Guidance from service closure;
- (2) That Cabinet note and agree that Officers will continue to work with SLL to agree ways in which income can be maximised and costs minimised whilst ensuring that operations continue to meet COVID-19 and other safety requirements.

REASON FOR DECISION: To seek approval for the SLL recovery plan and a phased approach toward recovery allowing flexibility through delegation, to ensure business continuity for the leisure contracts and for them to survive beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

14 COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPACTS

NB This report was considered after the Part 2 report of the same name.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the forecast financial impact of Covid-19, but that this could be subject to significant change be noted. The budgets will be formally adjusted as part of the Quarter 1 revenue budget monitor;
- (2) That the delay of the capital spend of £2,809k to 2021/22 onwards, as detailed in table 6 be approved;
- (3) That a letter be sent to the relevant Government Minister and/or Prime Minister asking that the £200k forecasted spend on housing the Homeless for the entirety of the coronavirus pandemic be covered by the Government.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That Council notes the forecast impact of Covid-19 in comparison to available reserves and confirms that these reserves will be used to fund the impact. This means that an emergency budget is not required:
- (2) That Council approves that £350k is added to the Capital Programme for the resurfacing of the top deck of the Lairage Car Park, Hitchin;
- (3) That Council approves an addition to the Investment Strategy that would allow the Council to provide a loan to Hertfordshire Building Control of £65k, if it is required.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the financial impacts of Covid-19 are recognised and make the necessary changes to allow the Council to manage its budgets.

15 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

16 COVID-19 LEISURE CONTRACTS RECOVERY – PART 2

NB This report was considered prior to the decision being taken on the Part 1 report of the same name.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations contained in the Part 2 report entitled Covid-19 Leisure Contracts Recovery be agreed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To seek approval for the SLL recovery plan and a phased approach toward recovery allowing flexibility through delegation, to ensure business continuity for the leisure contracts and for them to survive beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

17 COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPACTS - PART 2

NB This report was considered prior to consideration of the Part 1 report of the same name.

RESOLVED: That the Part 2 report entitled Covid-19 Financial Impacts be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the financial impacts of Covid-19 are recognised and make the necessary changes to allow the Council to manage its budgets.