

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the This will be a Virtual Meeting
on Tuesday, 8th December, 2020 at 7.30 pm

1 WELCOME AND REMOTE/PARTLY REMOTE MEETINGS PROTOCOL SUMMARY

The Chair welcomed everyone to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting that was being conducted with Members and Officers at various locations, communicating via audio/video and online. There was also the opportunity for the public and press to listen to and view proceedings.

The Chair invited the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer to explain how proceedings would work and to confirm that Members and Officers were in attendance.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer undertook a roll call to ensure that all Members, Officers and registered speakers could hear and be heard and gave advice regarding the following:

Extracts from the Remote/Partly Remote Meetings Protocol were included with the agenda and the full version was available on the Council's website which included information regarding:

- Live Streaming;
- Noise Interference;
- Rules of Debate;
- Voting; and
- Part 2 Items

Members were requested to ensure that they were familiar with the Protocol.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor David Levett started the meeting proper.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Terry Hone and Tom Tyson.

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

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be 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) 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.

(3) The Chair advised that he would be taking Items 16 and 17 prior to item 15.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

6 URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS

The Chair advised that he had agreed that an urgent report regarding Business Rate Pooling be considered by Cabinet.

7 CALLED-IN ITEMS

Since the last meeting, no decisions had been called-in by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8 RESOLUTIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the report entitled Resolutions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review and comment on actions and feedback received regarding resolutions previously made.

9 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report entitled Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme be noted;
- (2) That Members be requested to contact the Chair and the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager to advise them of any topics for consideration under the Crime and Disorder agenda item of the January Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting and that the following subjects be considered:
 - Policing during the Covid-19 pandemic;
 - Domestic violence, particularly in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic;
 - Anti-social behaviour, particularly in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (3) That Members be requested to inform the Chair and the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager of any items to be considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 19 January 2021 and beyond.
- (4) That the Task and Finish Protocol attached at Appendix E be approved to include the following paragraphs:

Paragraph 1.10 to read:

“The report of the Leadership Team will accompany the Task and Finish Group report to Cabinet/Council/Executive Member however the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Chairman may opt for this report to also be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the same time as the Task and Finish Group report.”

Paragraph 4.2 to read:

“The Scrutiny Officer will share all drafts of the report with the lead officer. The lead officer will seek the comments of the Leadership Team and prepare a report on their behalf. This report will accompany the Task and Finish Group report to

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Cabinet/Council/Executive Member however the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Chairman may opt for this report to also be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the same time as the Task and Finish Group report.”

REASON FOR DECISION: To allow the Committee to set a work programme which provides focussed Member oversight, encourages open debate and seeks to achieve service improvement through effective policy development and meaningful policy and service change.

10 ANNUAL REVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN AND ADULTS (2019-20)

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the annual report of progress made against the Council’s fulfilment of the statutory duty to maintain an effective safeguarding function with regard to children be noted;
- (2) That the annual report of progress made against the Council’s fulfilment of the statutory duty to maintain an effective safeguarding function with regard to adults be noted;
- (3) That it be agreed that sufficient and robust processes were in place at NHDC for application and review of safeguarding processes, and that an annual review and presentation to this committee should continue.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To fulfil the statutory and lawful obligations within the approved budget and officer resources, and to ensure that a regular corporate review exists.

11 INFORMATION NOTE: HALF YEAR UPDATE ON COMMENTS, COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS (3CS)

RESOLVED: That the Information Note entitled Half Year Update on Comments, Compliments and Complaints (3Cs) and appendices be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To update the Committee on the first six months performance of 2020/21 regarding the Comments, Compliments and Complaints (3Cs) received for the Council and the contractors that provide services on the Council’s behalf.

12 PRIORITIES FOR THE DISTRICT - KEY PROJECTS HALF YEAR MONITORING

12 2ND QUARTER MONITORING REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR 2020/21

RESOLVED: That delivery against the key projects for 2020/21 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To enable achievements against the key projects for 2020/21 to be considered.

13 2ND QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE AGAINST PIs

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Quarter 2 Update on Performance against Performance Indicators be noted;
- (2) That the Executive Member for Recycling and Waste be requested to circulate the spreadsheet containing waste route map information to the Committee;
- (3) That any Members who are aware of any issues with regard to waste collection routes be requested to inform the Executive Member for Recycling and Waste Management so that this information can be passed on to the contractor;

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- (4) That Recommendation No.2 of the Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) report dated November 2020 concerning performance indicators, which concerned the role of Overview and Scrutiny Members in challenging performance data, be noted.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet be requested to consider reviewing the PIs for Environmental Health to allow for the lockdown period where no business was possible;
- (2) That Cabinet be requested to consider revising the PI in relation to usage figures for the leisure centres in line with the revised recovery programme, due to the loss of business caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To update the Committee on the performance indicators as well as other indicators that officers have updated and activated on Pentana Risk.

14 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted.

15 UPDATE OF THE COMMERCIAL DIRECTORATE'S PROGRESS AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

NB This item was discussed after Item 17.

The Committee Member and Scrutiny Manager undertook a roll call to ensure that all present could hear and be heard.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report entitled Update of the Commercial Directorate's Progress and Future Work Programme be noted;
- (2) That the Service Director – Commercial be requested to provide the Committee with the figures for the 'player population' of the Community Lottery;
- (3) That the Service Director – Commercial be requested to consider the potential benefits of using of Think Tanks in the development of future projects.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To update the Committee on the work of the Commercial Directorate and its Future.

16 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).

17 UPDATE OF THE COMMERCIAL DIRECTORATE'S PROGRESS AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME PART II REPORT

NB This was discussed prior to Item 15.

RESOLVED: That the report entitled Update of the Commercial Directorate's Progress and Future Work Programme Part II Report be noted.

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REASON FOR DECISION: To update the Committee on the work of the Commercial Directorate and its Future.