

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held as a Virtual Meeting
on Monday, 20th July, 2020 at 7.30 pm

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual Finance, Audit and Risk Committee 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 Officer gave advice regarding the following:

- Attendance;
- Virtual Meeting;
- Noise Interference;
- Rules of Debate;
- Voting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting;
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded and streamed on the Council's YouTube Channel;
- (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 SHARED ANTI-FRAUD SERVICE (SAFS) ANTI-FRAUD REPORT 2019/20 & PROGRESS WITH DELIVERY OF THE 2020/21 ANTI-FRAUD PLAN

RESOLVED: That the report entitled Anti-Fraud Report 2019/20 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to review the following:

- (1) The Council's work to combat fraud in 2019/20;
- (2) The performance of SAFS in meeting its KPIs in 2019/20.

7 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/20

RESOLVED: That the draft AGS Action Plan 2019/20 be noted and any further comments on the drafts be provided to the Policy and Community Engagement Manager in order for it to be finalised for approval (in September 2020).

REASON FOR DECISION: The Committee is the legal body with responsibility for approval of the AGS. Reporting the draft AGS and Action Plan at this stage provides an opportunity for the Committee to assess and comment on the draft, before it is finalised and brought back for approval in September 2020.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Corporate Risks for the quarter, namely the review of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) risk with an unchanged scored of 9 and the review of the Cyber Risks and Data Protection Risk with an unchanged score of 8, be noted;
- (2) That the Annual Report on Risk Management be noted.
- (3) That the Executive Member for Recycling and Waste Management be requested to provide a written response to the following questions to the next meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee on 7 September 2020:

Why the Delivery of the Waste Collection and Street Cleaning Services Contract remained as a Risk Score 8 on the Draft Risk and Opportunities Matrix?

Why the Food and Garden Waste had been be re-classified as Organic Waste?

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That the Annual Report on Risk Management be noted and then referred to Full Council.

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.

9 FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That the forecast financial impact of Covid-19, but that this could be subject to significant change. The Budgets will be formally adjusted as part of the Quarter 1 revenue budget monitor, be noted;
- (2) 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.

That Cabinet recommend to Council:

- (1) 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, be noted;
- (2) The £350k is added to the Capital Programme for the resurfacing of the top deck of the Lairage Car Park, Hitchin, be approved;
- (3) 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, be approved.

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

10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following report will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

11 FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19

RESOLVED: That the contents of the Part 2 Report entitled Financial Impacts of Covid-19 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.

12 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair requested that, should any Members have any suggestions for agenda items for future meetings, they were welcome to email her.

RESOLVED: That the Financial Impacts of Covid-19 be a standing item on future Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Agendas.