

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

**Meeting of the Cabinet Panel on the Environment held as a Virtual Meeting
on Tuesday, 23rd February, 2021 at 7.30 pm**

1 WELCOME AND REMOTE/PARTLY REMOTE MEETINGS PROTOCOL SUMMARY

The Chair, Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting of the Cabinet Panel on the Environment.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer gave advice on the following:

- Attendance;
- Live streaming;
- Noise interference;
- Voting;

The Chair, Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, started the meeting proper.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ian Moody.

Having given due notice Councillor David Levett advised he would be substituting for Councillor Ian Moody.

3 MINUTES - 5 MARCH 2020 TO 17 NOVEMBER 2020

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet Panel held on 5 March 2020, 7 July 2020, 9 September 2020 and 17 November 2020 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer be authorised to apply the Chair's digital signature.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (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.
- (4) The Chair advised that the theme of the meeting would be a round-up of the Panel's work in the previous year and a discussion of the foregoing Climate Change Strategy;
- (5) The Chair noted that the topic of Air Quality had not been included in the agenda and advised that the Environmental Health team that manage the Monitoring information and produce the Annual Status report had been diverted to work around the COVID pandemic and the withdrawal from the European Union. The aim is to have this as future agenda item to fully explore the impact of COVID on areas with poor air quality.

- (6) The Chair advised that Item 8 – Work Programme & Action Tracker would be taken before Item 6 – Public Participation.
- (7) The Chair advised that item 8 – Work Programme & Action Tracker would aim to include a discussion regarding the review of the Climate Change Strategy.

5 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair invited Julia Sonander, Transition Town Letchworth, to address the Panel.

Julia Sonander thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the panel.

7 DISCUSSION LED BY THE CO-CHAIR

The Policy & Community Engagement manager gave a presentation on the revised Climate Change Strategy.

The Chair led a discussion on contributions to the meeting and the revised Climate Change Strategy.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That the revised Climate Change Strategy be endorsed;
- (2) That the target date for achieving Net Zero Carbon District status be brought forward to 2042.

REASON FOR DECISION:

- (1) To promote policies which allow NHDC to take a leadership role in local efforts to address the climate emergency.
- (2) To ensure the Cabinet Panel on the Environment's feedback on the strategy is heard by Cabinet.

8 INFORMATION NOTE - WORK PROGRAMME & ACTION TRACKER

RESOLVED: That the Information Note entitled Work Programme and Action Tracker be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Cabinet Panel on the Environment is able to plan its workload and monitor actions.