

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held as a Virtual Meeting
on Thursday, 4th June, 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

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Jean Green started the meeting proper.

2 FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ALAN MILLARD

The Chairman of the Council, Leader of the Council and Councillors Clark, Levett and Muir paid tribute to former Chairman of the Council Alan Millard who passed away on Saturday 30 May 2020.

A Minutes silence was held in his memory.

3 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2020/21

RESOLVED: That Councillor Terry Tyler be elected Chair of North Herts District Council for the Civic Year 2020/21

RESOLVED: That the Council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Jean Green for her service as Chairman of the Council during the past year and also her consort, Mr James Graft, for giving help and support during her term of office.

Councillor Terry Tyler took the chair for the rest of the meeting.

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

5 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2020/21

RESOLVED: That Councillor Val Bryant be elected Vice-Chair of North Herts District Council for the Civic Year 2020/21.

Councillor Val Bryant read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair of the Council. She thanked the Council for electing her as Vice-Chair of the Council and announced that her Consort would be Mr Stewart Bryant.

6 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Audio Recording

In accordance with Council policy this meeting was being audio recorded as well as filmed. The audio and film 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 had that in mind as we carried 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 again of the rules of debate that had already been explained by the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager.

(5) Chair's Charity

The Chair advised that he was considering which charity to support and would announce this in due course.

7 SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2020/21

RESOLVED:

(1) That the following programme of ordinary meetings of the Council be approved for the Civic Year 2020/21:

- Thursday, 9 July 2020 – 7.30pm
- Thursday, 10 September 2020 – 7.30pm
- Thursday, 12 November 2020 – 7.30pm
- Thursday, 21 January 2021 – 7.30pm
- Thursday, 11 February 2021 – 7.30pm
- Thursday, 15 April 2021 - 7.30 pm

(2) That the Calendar of Meetings for 2020/21, as attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Members to agree a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2020/21.

8 **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR 2020/21**

RESOLVED:

- (1) That it be noted that the Leader of the Council had appointed Councillor Paul Clark as the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2020/21;
- (2) That it be noted that the following Members be appointed as Executive Members of the Cabinet for 2020/21 responsible for the following areas:

Cabinet Member	Portfolio
Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb	Leader and Cabinet Chairman
Councillor Paul Clark	Planning and Transport and Cabinet Vice-Chairman
Councillor Ian Albert	Finance and IT
Councillor Judi Billing	Community Engagement
Councillor Keith Hoskins	Enterprise and Co-Operative Development
Councillor Steve Jarvis	Environment and Leisure
Councillor Gary Grindal	Housing & Environmental Health
Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg	Recycling and Waste Management

- (3) That it be noted that the following Members be appointed as Deputy Executive Members of the Cabinet for 2020/21 for the following areas:

Deputy Executive Member

Councillor Ian Mantle	Planning and Transport
Councillor Sam North	Finance and IT
Councillor Ruth Brown	Community Engagement
Councillor Helen Oliver	Enterprise and Co-Operative Development
Councillor Kay Tart	Environment and Leisure
Councillor Sean Prendergast	Housing & Environmental Health
Councillor Carol Stanier	Recycling and Waste Management

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and Sections 4.8.1 (vii), 5.2, 5.3.4 and 5.6 of the Council's Constitution

9 **CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION RECOMMENDED BY CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE & FLEXIBILITY OF MEETINGS REGULATIONS CHANGES**

RESOLVED: That, subject to the amendments below, the proposed amendments set out in Appendix A be approved to take effect immediately.

- That the proposed amendment to Paragraph 4.8.9 (d) regarding public presentations be removed;
- That 8.3.1 be amended to read:
Three (3) Councillors shall be appointed to a Licensing Sub-Committee and one non-voting observer reserve Councillor.

Footnote: NB in the event that one of the voting Councillors cannot attend, has a conflict or is unable to participate for the whole of the meeting the reserve shall become a voting participating member of the Sub-Committee for quorum and decision making purpose.

REASON FOR DECISION:

- (1) To ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations and continues to improve its working practices.

- (2) That the decision takes immediate effect, specifically in respect of the updated Committee membership, so that appointments can be approved at this Council meeting to reflect the revised (legally proportionate) membership.

Council adjourned at 20.58 and reconvened at 21.07.

10 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2020/21

RESOLVED:

- (1) That, in line with the feedback from the 2020 Peer Challenge, the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be reduced to 12 (currently 16)
- (2) That, in line with the feedback from the 2020 Peer Challenge, the membership of the Planning Control Committee be reduced to 12 (currently 15).
- (3) That, in line with the agreement of Group Leaders, the membership of the Licensing and Appeals Committee be reduced to 13 (currently 14)
- (4) That the seats allocated to each political party on the Committees to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applied and the seats allocated to each political party on the bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 did not apply be as set out in Appendix A to these Minutes.
- (5) That, Members be appointed to the various Committees and other bodies in accordance with the wishes of the individual groups, as detailed in Appendix B to these Minutes

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To comply with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

11 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2020/21

RESOLVED: That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees for 2020/21 be appointed in accordance with the details set out in the Appendix C to these Minutes.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the provisions of Standing Order 4.8.1(a)(ix) of the Council's Constitution.

12 KEY DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES OF SPECIAL URGENCY

RESOLVED: That the report entitled Key Decisions – Annual Report on Cases of Special Urgency be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with Regulation 19 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

13 NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES FOR 2020/21

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the list of nominations of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2020/21, as detailed in Appendix D to the Minutes be approved;

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- (2) That the Group Leaders be consulted regarding the nomination to Royston Town Twinning.
- (3) That Political Group Leaders notify the Democratic Services Manager of nominations to the remaining vacancies or any changes to the existing representatives on outside organisations.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To comply with the provisions of Standing Order 4.8.1(b)(iv) and (v) of the Council's Constitution.