

# **NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **DECISION SHEET**

**Meeting of the Council held as a Virtual Meeting  
on Thursday, 8th October, 2020 at 7.30 pm**

### **1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual Extraordinary Council 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 and view proceedings.

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

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

The Chair of the Council, Councillor Terry Tyler started the meeting proper.

### **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Barnard, John Bishop, Bill Davidson, Faye Frost, Gary Grindal, Val Shanley, Kay Tart and Michael Weeks.

Councillor David Levett informed Council that sadly Councillor Barnard's wife, Sue, had passed away on 7 October 2020 and expressed condolences on behalf of the Members.

### **3 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **(1) Audio Recording**

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.

#### **(2) 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.

The Service Director- Legal and Community reminded Members that she had issued dispensations in respect of interests in property ownership and membership of various bodies in relation to the items on the agenda.

Councillor Muir advised that he had an interest as a Baldock County Councillor. It was expected that 3,300 houses would be built in Baldock on County Council Land, despite the dispensation, he would listen to the debate but would not be voting this evening.

(3) Rules of Debate

Members were reminded that the normal procedure rules in respect of debate and times to speak would apply.

No speeches may be made after the mover had moved a proposal and explained the purpose of it until the motion had been seconded.

When seconding a motion or amendment, a Member may reserve their speech until later in the debate.

In accordance with the Constitution no speech should exceed five minutes without the consent of the Chair

(4) Comfort Break

The Chair advised that a comfort break would be called if the meeting was still in progress at 9pm.

(5) Order of Business

The Chair advised that, to aid discussion the order of business would be amended as follows:

- Items 3 and 4 would be considered together;
- The motion would be introduced, proposed and seconded;
- Then the Part 2 Item would be considered;
- The Part 1 report, motion and amendment would then be considered and debated as one discussion, after the Part 2 item.

#### **4 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SUBMISSION LOCAL PLAN**

Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb proposed and Councillor Ian Mantle seconded the recommendations contained in the report.

*NB: Discussion regarding this report and the resolutions regarding the recommendations are recorded in Minute 52.*

#### **5 NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

In accordance with the Constitution, Paragraph 4.8.3. a(iv), an extraordinary Council meeting had been called by the following Councillors: Ruth Brown, Paul Clark, Sam Collins, Keith Hoskins, Steve Jarvis, Lisa Nash, Sam North, Sean Prendergast, Carol Stanier and Tom Tyson to consider a motion regarding the Local Plan.

##### North Herts Local Plan

Councillor Sam Collins introduced the motion

A number of points of order were raised.

Councillor Sam Collins proposed the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Ruth Brown.

“The council notes that the projected housing need for North Hertfordshire has reduced as a result of the latest predictions by the Office for National Statistics.

**Thursday, 8th October, 2020**

The council believes that the proposed allocation of housing sites in the Local Plan should be reduced to reflect this reduction in projected need and instructs officers to convey this to the Inspector as soon as possible and carry out any review work requested by the Inspector as a result.”

*NB at this point the Part 2 and then Part 1 reports were considered.*

*NB the presentation of the Part 1 report and it being proposed by Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb and seconded by Councillor Ian Mantle is detailed in Minute 51.*

Councillor Tom Tyson proposed and Councillor Paul Clark seconded that the following amendment to the motion:

That an additional sentence be added to the end of the motion to read:

“The work to be conducted by the officers in consultation with the Executive Member and Deputy Executive Member for Planning and Transport.”

Councillor Sam Collins, Proposer of the motions and Councillor Ruth Brown, seconder of the motion, accepted the amendment in full.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the contents of this report be noted;
- (2) That the Council’s current position on the matters of objectively assessed housing need and housing supply as submitted to the Examination in August 2020 and attached as Appendices A & B respectively, be noted;
- (3) That, should Members be minded to approve the substantive motion, officers are advised of the broad scope and scale of the modification(s) being sought and the planning justification(s) for these to forward to the Inspector.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) To ensure Members are in possession of relevant facts in advance of debate on the substantive motion;
- (2) To date, the Examination of the emerging North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031 (‘Local Plan’) has been conducted in accordance with the resolutions of Full Council of 11 April 2017. Any departure from, amendment to or replacement of those resolutions requires the consent of Full Council through a new decision;
- (3) This report has been written to address the matters raised in the substantive motion only (i.e. the housing need for North Hertfordshire and the proposed allocation of housing sites in the Local Plan to address this). This report does not address any other matters in the Plan and under consideration at the Examination. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the settlement hierarchy, employment, retail, Gypsy & Traveller accommodation, unmet development needs from other authorities, transport, environmental matters, heritage or detailed policy criteria;
- (4) Any amendments to the motion which broaden or alter its scope to cover such matters (or any other relevant matters) could raise new implications which are not covered by this report;

- (5) Should the substantive motion be approved, officers will need to appraise the Inspector of the broad scope and scale of the modifications proposed, as well as the planning reasons, to enable the Inspector to come to a decision with regard the next steps for the Examination.

Councillor Carol Stanier had previously asked for a recorded vote on the Motion, as amended.

Upon the vote the motion, as amended was lost with the votes recorded as follows:

**For:**

Councillors: Daniel Allen, Ruth Brown, Paul Clark, Sam Collins, Keith Hoskins, Steve Jarvis, Ian Moody, Gerald Morris, Lisa Nash, Sam North, Sean Prendergast, Carol Stanier, Terry Tyler and Tom Tyson.

**Total: 14**

**Against:**

Councillors: Ian Albert, Kate Aspinwall, Claire Billing, Judi Billing, Val Bryant, Steve Deakin-Davies, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Morgan Derbyshire, Jean Green, Simon Harwood, Terry Hone, Mike Hughson, David Levett, Ian Mantle, Sue Ngwala, Mike Rice, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Martin Stears-Handscomb and Richard Thake.

**Total: 19**

**Abstain:**

Councillors: George Davies, Tony Hunter, Jim McNally, Michael Muir, Helen Oliver and Claire Strong

**Total: 6**

## 6 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 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

## 7 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT SUBMISSION LOCAL PLAN

*NB: This item was considered following the motion being introduced, proposed and seconded, but before the debate on the Part 1 report and the motion*

**RESOLVED:** That Counsels' advice, attached as Appendices A and B, be noted ahead of debate on the substantive motion.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure Members have the relevant external legal advice from the Council's retained Counsel for the Local Plan in advance of debate on the substantive motion.

*NB: The Council took a comfort break at 20.58.*

*The meeting resumed at 21.04.*

*At this point the meeting returned to Part 1.*