

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 20th July, 2021 at 7.30 pm

1 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Cabinet meeting that was being held in the Council Chamber and advised that the meeting was being streamed live on the Council's YouTube channel and some Officers were joining online.

The Chair invited the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer to explain how proceedings would work.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer undertook a roll call of those officers joining the meeting online to ensure that they could hear and be heard and gave advice regarding the following:

- Voting; and
- Covid Risk Assessment Measures.

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

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sam Collins and Deputy Executive Members Ruth Brown and Carol Stanier.

Councillor David Levett, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee also sent his apologies for absence.

3 MINUTES - 29 JUNE 2021

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 29 June 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

5 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) 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 the Council's website and the film recording via the NHDC YouTube channel.
- (2) Members were reminded that the Council had declared a Climate Emergency. This was a serious decision and meant that, as this was an emergency, officers and Members should have that in mind when carrying out their various roles and tasks for the benefit of the District. More details were included on the agenda front sheet;
- (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 she would be taking Item 14 (the Part 2 Item) regarding Land to the South of Clare Crescent, Baldock, SG7 6JR before Item 12 (the Part 1 Item on the same subject).

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

7 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

7a. Referral from Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 13 July 2021 – Community Grants Policy Review, NHDC Funding Criteria Health Protection Board Community Use, and Review of Cabinet Panels' Terms of Reference.

The Chair advised that this referral would be considered with Item 9.

8 WAIVER OF ELEMENTS OF THE COUNCIL'S CONTRACT AND PROCUREMENT RULES IN RELATION TO SELECTING TREASURY FUND INVESTMENTS

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Cabinet agree a waiver of the Contract and Procurement Rules to allow the selection process for long-term Treasury Investments (Multi-Asset Funds and Property Funds) to follow the process that has been advised by the Council's Treasury Advisers;
- (2) That the decision on selecting the funds to be invested in, be delegated to the Service Director: Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT.

9 COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY REVIEW, NHDC FUNDING CRITERIA HEALTH PROTECTION BOARD COMMUNITY USE; & REVIEW OF CABINET PANELS' TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That, having reviewed the Grants Policy, the revisions of the Grants Policy criteria as set out in the Report not be taken forward;
- (2) That Cabinet approves the Protocol for the NHDC / Health Protection Board Funding (as set out in Appendix B) and approves the amendments to the District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel (as set out in Appendix C); and
- (3) That Cabinet approves the amendments to the Cabinet Panels' Terms of Reference as set out in Appendices D, E & F.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) Reviewing the new Protocol or revised criteria that have been put in place on a regular basis, provides the Council with assurances that the grant process achieves its stated aim, that the revised criteria has made the funding more accessible to a wider range of organisations who are working to support the community work in North Hertfordshire with vulnerable people or people of protected characteristics;
- (2) The NHDC/Health Protection Board ('HPB') Funding detailed, has been secured and must be used by the end of March 2022. It is proposed that this is to be considered by the District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel, whose terms of reference therefore should be updated to reflect remit;

- (3) The Administration has requested a review of the three other Cabinet Panels to align to the Council's renewed priorities.

10 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY LOTTERY - NEW POLICIES

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the age limit for playing the North Hertfordshire Community Lottery should be raised from 16 to 18, should legislation allow;
- (2) That consideration be given to putting a policy in place which would limit any one person to buying no more than £10 worth of tickets per week;
- (3) That Cabinet approves the implementation of the new policies associated with launching and delivering the North Hertfordshire Community Lottery.

11 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Developer Contributions SPD approved by Cabinet in July 2020 continue to be used as a material consideration in the negotiation and determination of relevant schemes;
- (2) That, pending the updated Green Space Strategy and revised programme of Supplementary Planning Documents, *Fields in Trust* standards be used to assess open space provision in new development;
- (3) That officers, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning, determine whether any areas of the Developer Contributions SPD require additional work prior to adoption and present any revised draft or final version(s) to Cabinet for their approval.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To allow the continued use of the detailed guidance in the Developer Contributions SPD in the negotiation of relevant schemes;
- (2) To ensure the provision of appropriate levels of open space in new development;
- (3) To enable officers, in consultation with the Executive Member and Deputy, to consider whether any matters arising since the July 2020 resolutions of Cabinet necessitate substantive additional work before the Developer Contributions SPD is formally adopted.

12 DESIGNATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FORUM AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AREA FOR CHARLTON

RESOLVED: That delegated authority is granted to the Service Director – Regulatory in consultation with the Executive Members for Community Engagement and Planning to:

- i. determine the current applications for the neighbourhood planning area and neighbourhood planning forum within the statutory 13-week time limit following the conclusion of the public consultation period; and
- ii. work with the Charlton Neighbourhood Forum and other parties interested in neighbourhood planning in the area to address the issues of concern raised in the report and explore the opportunities to progress neighbourhood planning for Charlton.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure the Council meets its statutory duties in relation to neighbourhood planning within the prescribed time periods.
- (2) As part of an unparished area of the District, the application to designate a neighbourhood planning area and neighbourhood planning forum must be considered by the local planning authority. However, for the reasons discussed in Section 8 of the report, it would be appropriate for further discussions to be held with the Charlton Neighbourhood Forum and other (potential) neighbourhood planning bodies before a decision is taken.

13 LAND SOUTH OF CLARE CRESCENT, BALDOCK - PART I

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Cabinet declares the land surplus to NHDC's requirements;
- (2) That Cabinet authorises disposal of the land on the transaction terms presented in the Part 2 Report to Cabinet.

REASON FOR DECISION:

- (1) To release surplus property to provide a financial receipt to help fund the capital programme;
- (2) To enable the development of new homes, including affordable homes for local applicants in North Hertfordshire.

14 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

15 LAND SOUTH OF CLARE CRESCENT, BALDOCK - PART II

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Cabinet declares the land surplus to NHDC's requirements.
- (2) That Cabinet authorises disposal of the land on the transaction terms presented, subject to 2.3 and 2.4.
- (3) That officers negotiate with Foxberry Developments on the Passivhaus BREEAM, or similar standards requirements for the development.
- (4) That the final decision on disposal be delegated to the Executive Member for Enterprise, the Arts and Transport in consultation with the Service Director: Commercial

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) To release surplus property to provide a financial receipt to help fund the capital programme;
- (2) To enable the development of new homes, including affordable homes for local applicants in North Hertfordshire;
- (3) To meet our Climate Change Strategy proposed actions for 2021-2026.