

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

**Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
on Wednesday, 15th September, 2021 at 7.30 pm**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adem Ruggiero-Cakir and Sean Prendergast.

Having given due notice, Councillor Nigel Mason advised he would be substituting for Councillor Adem Ruggiero-Cakir.

2 MINUTES - 12 JULY 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 July 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

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 YouTube.

(3) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair invited Roger Lovegrove, of Transition Town Letchworth, to give a presentation on Risk Management.

6 SIAS ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

RESOLVED: That the SIAS Annual Report for 2020-2021 be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION: To update the Committee on the Annual Report 2020-2021 from SIAS.

7 SIAS PROGRESS REPORT 2021-22

RESOLVED:

(1) That the SIAS Progress Report for the period to 27 August 2021 be noted;

(2) That the planned amendments to the 2021-2022 Annual Audit Plan be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To update the Committee on the SIAS Progress Report.

8 QUARTERLY RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

RESOLVED: That the update on the Corporate Risks for the quarter be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) The responsibility for ensuring the management of risks is that of Cabinet;
- (2) Tis Committee has a responsibility to monitor the effective development and operation of Risk Management.

9 FIRST QUARTER REVENUE MONITORING REPORT 2021/22

RECOMMEND TO CABINET:

- (1) That this report be noted by Cabinet;
- (2) That Cabinet approve the changes to the 2021/22 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a £560k increase in net expenditure;
- (3) That Cabinet note the changes to the 2022/23 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a total £226k increase in net expenditure. These will be incorporated in the draft revenue budget for 2022/23;
- (4) That Cabinet delegates to the Service Director: Resources (in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT) authority to enter in to a Business Rate Pooling arrangement (if available) if it is estimated that it will be in the financial interests of the Council.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: Members are able to monitor, make adjustments within the overall budgetary framework and request appropriate action of Services who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process.

10 FIRST QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2021/22

RECOMMEND TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet note the forecast expenditure of £16.144 million in 2021/22 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers;
- (2) That Cabinet approve the adjustments to the capital programme for 2021/22 onwards as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2, increasing the estimated spend in 2022/23 by £0.312million.
- (3) That Cabinet note the position of the availability of capital resources, as detailed in table 4 paragraph 8.6 and the requirement to keep the capital programme under review for affordability;
- (4) Cabinet note the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of June 2021.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) Cabinet is required to approve adjustments to the capital programme and ensure the capital programme is fully funded;
- (2) To ensure the Council's continued compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management and the Local Government Act 2003 and that the Council manages its exposure to interest and capital risk.

11 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That they recommend to Full Council the adoption of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2027 as outlined in Appendix A.

REASON FOR DECISION: Adoption of a MTFs and communication of its contents will assist in the process of forward planning the use of Council resources and in budget setting for 2022/2023 to 2026/2027, culminating in the setting of the Council Tax precept for 2022/23 in February 2022. This will (alongside the Council Plan) support the Council in setting a budget that is affordable and aligned to Council priorities.

12 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REVIEW

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL: The proposed changes should be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISION: The constitution requires that the Financial Regulations are kept under review. Minor changes can be approved by the Chief Financial Officer, but more significant changes are approved by Council.

13 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE AND BALANCE SHEET INSIGHT

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted this report.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) To enable the Committee to assess how the Council is performing against the Financial Management Code, in line with the Terms of Reference;
- (2) To provide training to the Committee to help them understand the Council's Balance Sheet (as part of the Statement of Accounts).

14 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was decided that there would be discussion between the Chair of this Committee and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to see which was best placed to consider the Commercial Update.