

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

**Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 25th January, 2022 at 7.30 pm**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Amy Allen, Sam Collins and Gary Grindal.

2 MINUTES - 21 DECEMBER 2021

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21 December 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no notification of other business.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that the meeting was being audio and video recorded, in line with Council policy.
- (2) 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) 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.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

6a. Referral from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 December 2021 – Commercial Update

The Chair advised this referral would be taken with Item 11.

6b. Referral from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 December 2021 – Commercial Update

The Chair advised this referral would be taken with Item 11.

6c. Referral from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee - 17 January 2022 – Revenue Budget 2022/23

The Chair advised this referral would be taken with Item 9.

6d. Referral from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee – 17 January 2022 – Investment Strategy (Integrated Capital and Treasury)

The Chair advised this referral would be taken with Item 8.

6e. Referral from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 December 2022 – Q2 Performance Indicators

The Chair noted that Councillor David Levett, as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was not in attendance to present to Members. The Chair advised Members that she had received confirmation that Councillor Levett was satisfied with responses received prior to the meeting and that these can be conveyed back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7 CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT POLICY UPDATE

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the amended Policy contained at Appendix A (supplied as a supplementary document).

REASON FOR DECISION: To bring the Council's Corporate Enforcement Policy up to date.

8 INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY)

RESOLVED: That the capital allocation for the North Herts Leisure Centre: Sauna Steam Refurbishment be reduced to £150k and brought forward to 2022/23 in the draft budget report to Council in February.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That Council adopt the Investment Strategy (as attached at Appendix), including the capital programme and prudential indicators.
- (2) That Council adopt of four clauses in relation to the Code of Practice on Treasury Management (as details in paragraphs 8.12 to 8.17).
- (3) That Council approve bringing forward the £150k capital allocation for North Herts Leisure Centre: Sauna Steam Refurbishment forward in to 2021/22.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) To ensure that the capital programme meets the Council's objective and officers can plan the implementation of the approved schemes.
- (2) To ensure the Council's compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management, the Local Government Act 2003, statutory guidance from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the CIPFA Prudential Code. As well as determining and managing the Councils risk appetite in respect of investments.

9 REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the decrease in the 2021/22 working budget of £111k, as detailed in Table 5.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That Council note the position on the Collection Fund and how it will be funded.

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- (2) That Council note the position relating to the General Fund balance and that due to the risks identified a minimum balance of £3.05 million is recommended.
- (3) That Council approves the savings and investments as detailed in Appendix B.
- (4) That Council approves a net expenditure budget of £18.123m, as detailed in Appendix C.
- (5) That Council approves a Council Tax increase of £5 on a Band D property (other bands with pro-rata increases). This is in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and is equivalent to 2.08%.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: To ensure that all relevant factors are considered in arriving at a proposed budget and Council Tax level for 2022/23, to be considered by Full Council on 10 February 2022. To ensure that the budget is aligned to Council priorities for 2022/23 as set out in the Council Plan.

10 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 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

11 COMMERCIAL UPDATE

RESOLVED: That Cabinet notes the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's concerns and confirms that the issues raised by the Committee have been considered.