

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,  
Letchworth  
on Tuesday, 22nd March, 2022 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gary Grindal.

### 2 MINUTES - 25 JANUARY 2022

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 25 January 2022 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 advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded.
- (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.

### 6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

#### 6a. Referral from Hitchin Area Committee – 1 Potential Town Twinning – Ayensuako, Ghana

**RESOLVED:** To authorise further work to be done involving Members, Officers, the local community, and the Hitchin Town Twinning Association.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To explore the possibility of twinning Hitchin Town with Ayensuako, Ghana.

#### 6b. Referral from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 March 2022 and Finance, Audit and Risk Committee – 16 March 2022 – Performance Management Measures 2022-23 – Council Delivery Plan

The Chair advised this referral would be taken with Item 7.

6c. Referral from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 March 2022 – Shared Waste Service Governance

The Chair advised this referral would be taken with Item 12.

6d. Referral from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 March 2022 – Greenspace Management Strategy 2022-27

The Chair advised this referral would be taken with Item 10.

**7 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEASURES 22-23 - COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN**

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet considered and formally approved the Council Delivery Plan and any associated target, to be monitored throughout 2022/2023 by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** An approved Council Delivery Plan provides the Cabinet with assurance that progress against achievement of the Council Plan objective, will be monitored throughout 2022/23.

**8 THIRD QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2021/22**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Cabinet noted the forecast expenditure of £2.424M in 2021/22 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers.
- (2) That Cabinet approved the adjustments to the capital programme for 2021/22 onwards, as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2 and 3, increasing the estimated spend in 2022/23 by £0.821M.
- (3) That Cabinet noted 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) That Cabinet noted the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of December 2021.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (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.

**9 THIRD QUARTER REVENUE MONITORING 2021/22**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Cabinet noted this report.
- (2) That Cabinet approved the changes to the 2021/22 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a £510k decrease in net expenditure.

- (3) That Cabinet approved the changes to the 2022/23 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a total £238k increase in net expenditure.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** 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 GREENSPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022-27**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Cabinet adopted the Vision, Objectives and Aims for managing Greenspace as detailed at 7.5 below.
- (2) That Cabinet reviewed and adopted the Greenspace Management Strategy 2022-27 at Appendix A.
- (3) That Cabinet agreed the delegation for creating an Action Plan arising from the GSMS and an annual review of the Action Plan to the Greenspace Manager in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure and the Service Director – Place.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) These recommendations are put forward to ensure there is an ongoing proactive and pragmatic approach for the future management and maintenance of Greenspace within North Herts for the period April 2022 – March 2027.
- (2) Additionally, the GSMS 2022 – 2027 provides the strategic link between the previous Greenspace strategies and the future demands placed upon North Herts Council, specifically; managing the environment and biodiversity, finance and planning while delivering high quality greenspace services to our existing and newly developed infrastructure.

## **11 KNEBWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Examiner's report for the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan was noted.
- (2) That following the inclusion of the Examiner's proposed modifications to the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in Appendix B, it was approved to proceed to a referendum.
- (3) That the Counting Officer was instructed to conduct a referendum on the Knebworth Parish Neighbourhood Plan.
- (4) That the decision to "make" the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan was delegated to the Service Director – Regulatory in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning, as previously agreed by Cabinet in July 2018 (Minute 21).

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** To progress the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan, enable a referendum to take place and, if more than 50% of those voting in favour of the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan to "make" the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan.

## 12 SHARED WASTE SERVICE GOVERNANCE

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) The Cabinet agreed to the new overarching aim of the shared services and principles outlined in 8.10 and 8.12.
- (2) That the Cabinet endorsed the formation of a joint cross party working group. The terms of reference for which are outlined in Appendix A and the outline work programme described in 8.19.
- (3) That the Cabinet agreed to explore all options for the future governance of the Shared Waste Service, with a further report to Cabinet in due course to consider any proposals.
- (4) To establish the Joint Cross Party Working Group prior to the start of the new contract negotiations.
- (5) To ensure that relevant Governance and scrutiny processes are in place prior to the start of new contract negotiations.

### **REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) Waste services are one of the largest services provided to residents in both Councils, a “one service” approach promotes resilience and flexibility ensuring residents and customers receive a high-quality service. The recommendations are being made to enable the further alignment of services, through joint decision making, and consequently the long term efficient and optimal management of the services.
- (2) A new aligned governance structure would promote a unified, stable and long-term strategic vision for the shared service and ensures:
  - a service that is agile and responsive to changes.
  - reduction in customer confusion.
  - better engagement/ use of skills/talent and retention of staff and therefore service delivered to customers.
  - continuous improvement within the services.
  - improved resource visibility and flexibility.
  - aligned timeframes and increased speed for decision making.
  - greater consistency and stability leading to greater interest and competitiveness from the market.
- (3) To identify areas where there may be difficulties or issues faced with the merging of the services in East and North Herts.

## 13 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the report on strategic planning matters was noted.
- (2) That the correspondence and information in Appendices A to C were noted and endorsed by Cabinet.
- (3) That the interim approach to First Homes set out in paragraphs 8.31 to 8.35 was endorsed.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** To keep Cabinet informed of recent developments on strategic planning matters and progress on the North Hertfordshire Local Plan.