

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



18 May 2021

Our Ref Council- 26.05.21
Contact. Committee Services
Direct Dial. (01462) 474655
Email. committee.services@north-herts.gov.uk

To: The Chair and Members of North Hertfordshire District Council

**This will be a Quorate meeting
(Group Leaders will discuss with members who will be required to attend)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERONON
ROAD, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY**

on

WEDNESDAY, 26 MAY 2021

at

7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
Service Director – Legal and Community

****MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING****

Agenda **Part I**

Item		Page
1.	WELCOME	
2.	ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2021/22 To elect a Chair of the Council to hold office until the election of a successor at the next Annual Meeting of the Council.	
3.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
4.	ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2021/22 To elect a Vice-Chair of the Council to hold office until the appointment of a successor at the next Annual Meeting of the Council.	
5.	MINUTES - 15 APRIL 2021 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 15 April 2021.	5 - 24
6.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS <u>Climate Emergency</u> The Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to achieving a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030 and helping local people and businesses to reduce their own carbon emissions. A Cabinet Panel on the Environment has been established to engage with local people on matters relating to the climate emergency and advise the council on how to achieve these climate change objectives. A Climate Change Implementation group of councillors and council officers meets regularly to produce plans and monitor progress. Actions taken or currently underway include switching to green energy, incentives for low emission taxis, expanding tree planting and working to cut food waste. In addition the council is a member of the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership, working with other councils across Hertfordshire to reduce the county's carbon emissions and climate impact. The Council's dedicated webpage on Climate Change includes details of the council's climate change strategy, the work of the Cabinet Panel on the Environment and a monthly briefing on progress.	

Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chair of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.

- 7. DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS (INCLUDING ALL POLLS) - 6 MAY 2021** 25 - 34
REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

To receive the report of the Returning Officer as to the results of the District Council Elections (including all Polls) held on 6 May 2021.

- 8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**
To elect the Leader of the Council for the period until May 2025.

- 9. NOTING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR 2021/22** 35 - 38
REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

To note the Leader of the Council's appointment of a Deputy Leader of the Council, the Executive Members making up the Membership of the Cabinet and Deputy Executive Members for 2021/22.

- 10. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR 2021/22** 39 - 42
REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

To determine the Committees to be appointed for 2021/22, the number of places on each and allocation thereof to the respective Groups and to appoint Members in accordance with their nominations.

- 11. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2021/22** 43 - 46
REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

To appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Area Committees) for 2021/22.

- 12. KEY DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES OF SPECIAL URGENCY** 47 - 54
REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

To inform the Council of any occasions over the past year where the provisions relating to "Special Urgency" have been used in connection with the publication of an intention to make a Key Decision, as required by legislation.

- 13. APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS FOR THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2021/22** 55 - 62
REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
- To seek approval to a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the Civic Year 2021/22 and approve the calendar of meetings for 2021/22.
- 14. NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES FOR 2021/22** 63 - 66
REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
- To nominate the Council's representatives on outside organisations and other bodies for 2020/21.
- 15. RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE 6 MONTH RULE - SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972** 67 - 70
REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
- To consider an extension of the six-month rule for Councillors unable to attend Committee meetings due to the cessation of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 and the requirement for Local Authorities to hold meetings in person for reasons related to the pandemic, including health reasons.
- 16. CONSTITUTIONAL REPORT TO COUNCIL UNDER SECTION 2.6.6** 71 - 82
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND COMMUNITY & MONITORING OFFICER
- To present a report to Council regarding amendments to the Constitution following legislative changes and virtual meeting arrangements as per section 2.6.6, with effect from 7 May 2021. Further amendments were made under 2.6.2 with regards the NHDC Code of Conduct.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting of the Council held as a Virtual Meeting
on Thursday, 15th April, 2021 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Terry Tyler (Chair), Val Bryant (Vice-Chair), Ian Albert, Daniel Allen, Kate Aspinwall, David Barnard, Clare Billing, Judi Billing, John Bishop, Ruth Brown, Paul Clark, Sam Collins, George Davies, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Morgan Derbyshire, Faye Frost, Jean Green, Gary Grindal, Simon Harwood, Terry Hone, Keith Hoskins, Mike Hughson, Tony Hunter, Steve Jarvis, David Levett, Ian Mantle, Ian Moody, Gerald Morris, Michael Muir, Lisa Nash, Sue Ngwala, Sam North, Mike Rice, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Val Shanley, Carol Stanier, Martin Stears-Handscomb, Claire Strong, Kay Tart, Richard Thake, Tom Tyson and Michael Weeks

IN ATTENDANCE: Anthony Roche (Managing Director), Jeanette Thompson (Service Director - Legal and Community), Ian Couper (Service Director - Resources), Hilary Dineen (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager), Matthew Hepburn (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer) and William Edwards (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer)

ALSO PRESENT: Representatives from the Letchworth Heritage Foundation joined for item 104 only.

93 WELCOME AND REMOTE/PARTLY REMOTE MEETINGS PROTOCOL SUMMARY

Audio Recording – 56 Seconds

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

The Chair invited the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer to explain how proceedings would work and to confirm that Members and Officers were in attendance.

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

The meeting was being streamed live onto You Tube and recorded via Zoom.

Extracts from the Remote/Partly Remote Meetings Protocol was included with the agenda and the full version was available on the Council's website which included information regarding:

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

Members were requested to ensure that they were familiar with the Protocol.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer reminded Members that, due to a software update by Zoom, our usual voting procedure had been disrupted and would no longer work as required, therefore all voting would take place using raise hand function.

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

94 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio Recording – 56 Seconds

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim McNally, Helen Oliver and Sean Prendergast.

It was notified that Councillors Keith Hoskin and Simon Harwood would be joining the meeting later.

95 MINUTES - 21 JANUARY 2021 - 11 FEBRUARY 2021

Audio Recording – 6 Minutes 13 Seconds

Councillor Terry Tyler proposed and Councillor Val Bryant seconded and upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21 January 2021 and 11 February 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair;
- (2) That, with the authorisation of the Chair, their electronic signature and initials be attached to the Minutes approved in (1) above.

96 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio Recording – 7 Minutes 44 Seconds

The Chair advised that he had agreed to an urgent item of business to be considered in Part 2 regarding the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation.

97 HRH PRINCE PHILIP, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Audio Recording – 8 Minutes

The Chair announced that following the passing of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Flags in north Hertfordshire were being flown at half mast.

98 RICHARD TIFFIN & CHRIS PARKER

Audio Recording - 9 Minutes 40 Seconds

The Chair advised that Members and Officers had been informed of the sudden passing of Richard Tiffin, Principal Planning Officer, on 20 January at the age of 57.

Richard was a long standing and well known friend and colleague to many, whether through his work first in planning policy and then development management, or his role with UNISON or at lunchtime football, he would be sorely missed.

The Planning department was inundated with messages of support from within and outside the authority which was a testament to Richard's character and the professional and personal impact he had on those he met.

Richard started with NHDC on 10 July 1989, before taking a short break in early 1995 to take up a position as a lecturer at DeMontfort University, before then re-joining the Council.

His most recent role at NHDC was as Team Leader for the East Team in Development Management. He was an excellent line manager who supported his colleagues during challenging times and particularly over the last year when people needed extra support.

His contribution as a planning professional at NHDC was second to none in terms of his creative thinking, problem solving and encouragement and support to his colleagues. He would be sorely missed within his team and across the Council as a whole.

Our thoughts are with his wife Katharine and son Bradley.

The following Councillors paid further tribute to Richard:

- Councillor Martin Stears-Handscorn;
- Councillor Michael Muir;
- Councillor David Levett;
- Councillor Paul Clark;
- Councillor Gerald Morris.

Following the tributes Council held a minute's silence in his memory

The following Councillors paid further tribute to Chris:

- Councillor Judi Billing.

Following the tributes Council held a minute's silence in his memory.

99 25 YEAR SERVICE AWARD - KAREN PULHAM

Audio Recording – 21 Minutes 36 Seconds

The Chair announced that Karen Pulham, Accounting Technician, had worked for North Herts District Council for 25 Years.

Karen started at NHDC as a Word Processor Operator.

After a short while she was seconded to Accountancy to cover maternity leave and was successful in her application for an Assistant Management Accountant role, covering Performance, which included the very first Local Performance Plan, Council Tax and Fundamental Service Reviews.

The Team was later merged with Admin and became the Management Support Unit for Finance and Regulatory Services, covering a variety of work, including HR for the directorate.

Being HR Officer for the directorate gave Karen the most contact with everyone in the council.

In 2005, she took Maternity leave and while on Maternity Leave the MSU was centralised and Karen became the Technical Assistant to the Director of Finance, working closely with Norma Atlay until her retirement.

Karen is now a valued member of the Controls, Risk and Performance Team in her role as Accounting Technician – Technical, and is responsible for a variety of areas including compliance and VAT.

The following Members paid tribute to Karen's Service at North Herts District Council

- Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb

Councillor Terry Tyler proposed, Councillor Val Bryant seconded and upon being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That it be placed on record the Council's sincere thanks and appreciation to Karen Pulham for her long and valuable service to Local Government.

100 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio Recording – 24 Minutes 35 Seconds

- (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 Mod.gov and the film recording via the NHDC YouTube channel.
- (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) 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.
- (4) The Chair reminded Members that the normal procedure rules in respect of debate and times to speak would apply:

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

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

In accordance with the Constitution please can Members ensure that no speech exceeds five minutes without the consent of the Chair.
- (5) The Chair advised that, if the meeting was still in progress at 9pm, he would call a comfort break at an appropriate place.
- (6) The Chair advised that the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation would be joining the meeting. However, they were unable to join until 8pm. Therefore, the order of business may need to be amended to ensure that the urgent item of business was heard as soon as the Heritage Foundation were available.

101 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio Recording – 26 Minutes 50 Seconds

There was no public participation.

102 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Audio Recording – 26 Minutes 57 Seconds

The Chair of the Standards Committee, presented the item referred from the Standards Committee meeting held on 3 March 2021 regarding the Local Government Association ('LGA') Model Code of Conduct together with the following appendix:

- North Herts District Council Code of Conduct for Councillors (and Voting / Non-Voting Co-Optees) based on the Local Government Association Model Code.
- That the Standards Committee and the LGA had done a fantastic amount of work, helped by Independent Members;
- There had been a mixed reaction across the Country to a common code of conduct;
- There was wide support from Parish and Town Councils to take forward a the LGA code of conduct model in order to create uniformity;
- The code was not a perfect model, however Members of the Standards Committee felt it was worth adopting;
- It would be good to have a new code of conduct to start the new Civic year; and
- Training for Members on the code would be undertaken in the new Civic year.

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Claire Strong;
- Councillor David Levett; and
- Councillor Michael Muir.

Points raised by Members included:

- The importance of offering Code of Conduct Member training; and
- The code would provide better consistency.

In response to a Member's question regarding offering training to Parish Councils, the Chair of the Standards Committee advised that training could not be made compulsory. However, Parish Councils would be encouraged to complete training and advised on the importance of it.

It was proposed by Councillor Judi Billing, seconded by Councillor Ruth Brown and upon being put to the vote, was:

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the LGA Model Code of Conduct be adopted with the following amendments:
 - (i) Appendix B to include the replacement Table 1, which includes the NHDC definition of DPs and links to guidance/ statutory instrument;
 - (ii) Replacement of the Appendix C good practice recommendations with Appendix C grounds for a Dispensation;

- (iii) Definition of 'room' to include a footnote explanation that this includes 'virtual meeting' room and typographical changes to use the words: 'Registrable' and 'behaviours';
- (2) That the Code take effect from the day after the election poll in 2021 (7 May) or such day if the election is postponed, as the case may be;
- (3) That training on the new code be compulsory for all District Councillors during the 2021-2022 municipal year.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure good governance within the Council, which is reflective of a national governance model.

103 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Audio Recording – 34 Minutes 20 Seconds

Councillor Ian Mantle asked the reason that the item was in Part 2.

In response, the Service Director – Legal and Community/Monitoring Officer explained that the information was confidential to the organisation.

Councillor Terry Tyler proposed and Councillor Val Bryant seconded.

It was thus:

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

104 PRESENTATION FROM LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY HERITAGE FOUNDATION

NB: No audio or film recording was taken owing to the item being Part 2.

NB: The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer undertook a roll call to ensure all present could hear and be heard

Councillor Terry Hone disclosed a Declarable Interest in that he was on the Board of Trustees at Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. He advised that he would not take part in the item and left the 'virtual' room.

Mr Graham Fisher and Mr Chris Pattison, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation gave a verbal presentation.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor David Levett;
- Councillor Ian Mantle;
- Councillor Kay Tart;
- Councillor Martin Stears-Handscorn.

The Chair thanked Mr Fisher and Mr Pattison for their presentation.

Mr Fisher and Mr Pattison left the meeting.

105 LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Audio Recording – 1 Hour 48 Minutes 14 Seconds

NB: No audio or film recording was taken regarding this Part 2 Item.

Councillor Terry Hone had previously disclosed a Declarable Interest in that he was on the Board of Trustees at Letchworth Garden City Heritage Fund. He had advised that he would not take part in the debate or vote and remained outside of the 'virtual' room.

The Managing Director presented the report entitled Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation together with the following appendices:

- Appendix A - LGCHF Governor Report;
- Appendix B - Initial assessment of the Code for the Foundation (June 2019).

The following Members asked questions and took part in the debate:

- Councillor Richard Thake;
- Councillor Paul Clark;
- Councillor David Levett;
- Councillor Sue Ngwala;
- Councillor Judi Billing;
- Councillor Ian Albert;
- Councillor Daniel Allen.

Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb proposed, Councillor Gary Grindal seconded and it was:

RESOLVED: That a member working group consisting of the Group Leader of each political party and the Members of Letchworth Area Committee be delegated the power to consider and agree the Council's response to the proposals of Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure Council is able to respond to the consultation in a timely manner.

NB: The Chair announced that there would be a 10 minute break before the meeting returned to Part 1

Audio Recording – 1 Hour 48 Minutes 14 Seconds

NB: Council reconvened in Part 1 at 21:13.

NB: Councillor Faye Frost left the meeting at 21:14.

NB: The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer undertook a roll call to ensure that all present could hear and be heard..

For transparency the Part 2 vote was repeated and it was:

RESOLVED: That a member working group consisting of the Group Leader of each political party and the Members of Letchworth Area Committee be delegated the power to consider and agree the Council's response to the proposals of Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure Council is able to respond to the consultation in a timely manner.

106 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Audio Recording – 1 Hour 45 Minutes 30 Seconds

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11(b), three questions had been submitted by the deadline date for questions set out in the Council's Constitution.

(A) Union Flag to be flown outside all public buildings

Councillor David Levett to Councillor Martin Stears-Handscorn (Leader of the Council).

'The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport recently announced that changes in legislation allow the Union Flag to be flown outside all public buildings every day as "a proud reminder of our history and the ties that bind us" and has called on local authorities to routinely fly the flag.

Could the Leader of the Council confirm it is the administration's intent to follow that request and fly the Union Flag outside all of its buildings where it has the ability to do so.'

Councillor Martin Stears-Handscorn responded as follows:

'Thank you for your question. Our joint administration's view is that this should be a matter for a cross party discussion following the elections and we hope a consensus achieved – having taken account of views from our communities.

Our current practise, that we inherited from the previous administration, is to fly the Union flag on special occasions and I believe personally that has served us well. If we are to make a change, members of all parties and staff colleagues will have their views on this, and they should have the opportunity to express them. When this was raised by a member of our staff at a staff briefing, some concerns were raised which should be considered.

Of course, since this question was raised, His Royal Highness Prince Philip has died. As soon as we heard of his death, I was in touch with the Managing Director and things were already in train to fly the flag at half-mast on all our buildings as a mark of respect as we all would want.

In the same way we flew the flag at half-mast when we heard of the death of Captain Tom.

Flags are flown at other times when we have good reason. That's how we do it at the moment. It seems to us that any change to that is best handled by a local discussion and not by Government imposition.'

As a welcoming and inclusive Council I know this is the way we would want to take this forward after the election'

NB: at 1 hour 42 minutes the Managing Director advised that there was a potential issue with the YouTube live streaming of the meeting. In accordance with the Remote/Partly Remote Meetings Protocol, the meeting was adjourned briefly whilst the matter was investigated/

NB: at 1 hour 53 minutes the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager confirmed that the live stream had not in fact been interrupted and the meeting could there for resume.

Councillor Judi Billing raised a point of order in that Questions from Members was not a debatable item. The Service Director- Legal and Community confirmed this.

(B) Percentage increase of the County Council precept

Councillor Sue Ngwala to Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb (Leader of the Council).

'Could the Leader of the Council explain why the percentage increase of the County Council precept shown on the Council tax bill sent out is shown as 2%, when the actual increase is close to 4%?'

Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb responded as follows:

'Cllr Ngwala is correct the overall increase for the County Council is 3.99%, this is made up of two percentage changes, which we are required by the Government to show separately on the bill.

One is for the part of the overall change attributable to the adult social care precept (2.00%) shown on the bill as Herts CC Adult Social Care Precept and one for the part attributable to general expenditure 1.99% - shown as Herts County Council on the bill and rounded up to 2.0%'

Councillor Sue Ngwala asked a supplementary question:

'Would the Leader agree with me that this is misleading and rather dishonest?'

Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb responded as follows:

'Yes I do agree.

It is one thing for Conservative Councillors to vote against the 2% increase in North Herts, an increase forced on us by the Government, and then vote for a 4% increase at the County Council the next day. Perhaps that is all part of the 'to and fro' of local politics. But it is quite another thing to deliberately mislead the public on their council tax bills. Perhaps another example of when local government works to a higher standard than national government.'

(C) Safety of women and girls in our communities

Councillor Clare Billing to Councillor Gary Grindal (Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health) and Councillor Judi Billing (Executive Member for Community Engagement).

'Following concerns raised with me about how safe women and girls in our communities feel, both within and outside their homes. Could the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health and the Executive Member for Community Engagement outline what is being done in North Herts to support women and girls locally?'

Councillor Gary Grindal (Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health) responded as follows:

'Yes if I can kick it off Chair. Thank you Councillor Billing for the question.

It shouldn't really be a surprise to Members that questions are being asked by the public to Councillors about our response to the appalling statistics that emerged in the aftermath of the shocking murder of Sarah Everard. Clearly, there is a community side to this which Judi [Executive Member for Community Engagement] will address.

But if I can just focus on the area that covers off violence against women, and not just women because we partner with SADA [Survivors Against Domestic Abuse] which I know all the Members will be familiar with, whose role it is, across North Herts, based in Stevenage, to work and deal with cases of violence within the home, which is their main focus of attention. It is quite staggering that, when you see figures that 71% of female murder victims are killed in their home, the importance of the work that SADA perform can never be underestimated. In recent conversations with SADA, since the violence against women and girls campaign started in the aftermath of the recent murder, it was pleasing to note that SADA had not reported any spike around harassment crimes and it is not an area that they would normally cover. But in recognition of the importance of this, SADA have informed me that there would be an extraordinary meeting of the RAG, the Regulatory Authority Group, which will specifically be held to focus on women's safety and what can be done in order to try and offer some sort of protection to women.

Following that meeting, there will be a media campaign which should hopefully be launched next week. At North Herts, we will be included in the posts shared that come out of that meeting.

So, I haven't got any more that I can specifically say at this time but hopefully over the next week, we will see what the results of that particular extraordinary meeting were.

Also, we know that the Home Secretary declared that every woman should feel safe to walk the street and again we wait Government to see if there will be new laws introduced and I know they were looking at harassment crimes and certainly relating to sexual harassment'

Councillor Judi Billing responded as follows:

'I will just very briefly add to that.

Shortly after the horrific death of Sarah Everard, there was obviously a heightened awareness of the sorts of issues of women's safety which we should all be concerned about all the time but it takes an event like that for the emotions to come to the surface.

I know that questions were asked at the Letchworth Councillor Surgery shortly after that. In response, I have asked the Community Engagement Team to work with our Community Safety Team to look at what more we should be doing as a local authority to ensure the safety of women.

Interestingly, I was briefed by Becky Coates today for a completely different reason and the material we got from our annual survey on community safety in February and March, before this event, actually put women's feelings of safety quite low on the reported issues that were coming through our survey.

We do know that this event has made people think really long and hard about their own situations, although sometimes there has been a regrettable politicisation of one family's grief which I think is not always helpful.

We are doing absolutely all we can to look at what is going to be needed and to speak to women in the District in more depth than we normally do in just our annual survey of what really worries you.

As it happens, next week is also National Stalking Awareness Week and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust that some of you may know about their work, is doing a great deal next week that you can find online to see the sorts of stuff they are doing including, an online conference next Wednesday from 9 until 12 if people are interested in that. They have a number of fine speakers including the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.

So, there is a great deal going on and there is a great deal for us as a local authority to do with our duty of care for people and we will be exploring in greater depth what the women in North Herts think should be made available for them and making sure that we do our best to meet their needs.'

107 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Audio Recording – 2 Hours 6 Minutes

Three motions had been submitted, due notice of which had been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

(a) Fly-tipping

Councillor Sam North moved the altered motion which was seconded by Councillor Tom Tyson.

'The Council notes:

1. Fly-tipping increased in North Hertfordshire by 100% between 2013 and 2019. In the last year, the monthly average fly tips in our district have increased by an unprecedented 59% compared with 2019/20201 . This is a situation mirrored nationally.
2. The new powers the Labour and Liberal Democrat administration implemented in late 2019 to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to those not disposing of their waste responsibly, which have led to a record number of fines being issued by the council for fly tipping.
3. The excellent work of NHDC officers in stepping up the effort to tackle fly-tipping even under the very difficult circumstances of the pandemic.
4. The concerns raised by residents over the closure, and inconsistent operation, of the County Council's waste and recycling centres during the pandemic, and the impact this has had on residents' ability to dispose of household waste responsibly.
5. The impact that fly-tipping has on the environment, and our rural and urban communities.

The Council resolves:

1. To continue to review its fly-tipping and waste management policies and work with relevant external stakeholders (such as landowners, contractors and the Police & Crime Commissioner) to increase this council's and our district's resilience to this crime through a programme of effective communications and preventive and remedial actions.
2. To conduct a further review of our bulky waste collection service to ensure it is well known by and accessible to the greatest number of residents, serving as an effective incentive against the use of unlicensed or unscrupulous waste collectors.
3. To request that Hertfordshire County Council reaffirm that waste and recycling is an essential service by pledging not to close Household Waste Recycling Centres except in the direst public health emergency and undertaking to provide alternative solutions to residents and support districts and boroughs in dealing with the consequences of any such closure.
4. To ask Hertfordshire County Council to extend the opening hours of the Household Waste Recycling Centres in North Hertfordshire as it has done for other facilities in the county.

5. To continue public information and engagement campaigns on the responsible disposal of waste and deterrence of all fly-tipping, including littering, to support our communities in doing the right thing.

6. To ask Hertfordshire County Council to consider providing an amnesty for private landowners who can take the waste to a Waste and Recycling Centre, on recommendation from district council officers.'

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor David Barnard

Councillor David Levett proposed an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor George Davies. The amendment was in relation to the resolutions only.

The amendment was as follows:

'The Council Resolves to:

1. To review its fly-tipping and waste management policies and continue its work with the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP), the fly tipping group and relevant external stakeholders (such as landowners, contractors, the NFU and the Police & Crime Commissioner) to increase this council's and our district's resilience to this crime through a programme of effective communications and preventive and remedial actions.
2. No Change
3. To request that Hertfordshire County Council reaffirm that waste and recycling is an essential service by pledging not to close Household Waste Recycling Centres except where the law requires to do so or the safety of staff and visitors is being compromised.
4. The Council welcomes the changes already announced for changes at 3 major HWR sites in Hertfordshire (including Stevenage) and asks Hertfordshire County Council to review the opening hours of the Household Waste Recycling Centres in North Hertfordshire.
5. No change.
6. No change.
7. NHDC promotes the funding available from the Police & Crime Commissioner and the advice and guidance to dealing with fly tipping on private land.

The following Members took part in the debate regarding the amendment:

- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg;
- Councillor Judi Billing;
- Councillor Carol Stanier;
- Councillor Sam Collins;
- Councillor Terry Hone;
- Councillor Claire Strong; and
- Councillor Ruth Brown.

NB: The Chair announced that there would be a 7 minute break at 22:21. The meeting resumed at 22:26.

NB: Owing to technical issues, Councillor Claire Strong left the meeting and rejoined.

NB: The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer undertook a roll call to ensure that all present could hear and be heard.

Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg proposed an amendment to Paragraph 1 of the amendment so that it read:

1. To review its fly-tipping and waste management policies and continue its work with the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP), the Hertfordshire Fly Tipping Group and relevant external stakeholders (such as landowners, contractors, the NFU and the Police & Crime Commissioner) to increase this council's and our district's resilience to this crime through a programme of effective communications and preventive and remedial actions.

Councillors David Levett and George Davies as proposer and seconder accepted the amendment

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

A Point of Order was raised as to whether a substantive motion could be debated. The Monitoring Officer responded by directing Members to the Council's Constitution – Standing Order 4.8.14 (g) (v) '*After an amendment has been carried, the Chair may if requested read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put the substantive motion as amended for debate and to the vote*'

The following Members debated the substantive motion:

- Councillor Sam Collins;
- Councillor David Levett;
- Councillor Gerald Morris;
- Councillor David Barnard;
- Councillor Sam North;
- Councillor Carol Stanier;
- Councillor Val Bryant; and
- Councillor Claire Strong.

Once debate had concluded, the substantive motion was put to the vote.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Claire Strong, in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.16 (e)

Following the recorded vote, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Council notes:

1. Fly-tipping increased in North Hertfordshire by 100% between 2013 and 2019. In the last year, the monthly average fly tips in our district have increased by an unprecedented 59% compared with 2019/2020. This is a situation mirrored nationally.
2. The new powers the Labour and Liberal Democrat administration implemented in late 2019 to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to those not disposing of their waste responsibly, which have led to a record number of fines being issued by the council for fly tipping.
3. The excellent work of NHDC officers in stepping up the effort to tackle fly-tipping even under the very difficult circumstances of the pandemic.

4. The concerns raised by residents over the closure, and inconsistent operation, of the County Council's waste and recycling centres during the pandemic, and the impact this has had on residents' ability to dispose of household waste responsibly.
5. The impact that fly-tipping has on the environment, and our rural and urban communities.

That the Council resolves:

1. To review its fly-tipping and waste management policies and continue its work with the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP), the Hertfordshire Fly Tipping Group and relevant external stakeholders (such as landowners, contractors, the NFU and the Police & Crime Commissioner) to increase this council's and our district's resilience to this crime through a programme of effective communications and preventive and remedial actions.
2. To conduct a further review of our bulky waste collection service to ensure it is well known by and accessible to the greatest number of residents, serving as an effective incentive against the use of unlicensed or unscrupulous waste collectors.
3. To request that Hertfordshire County Council reaffirm that waste and recycling is an essential service by pledging not to close Household Waste Recycling Centres except where the law requires to do so or the safety of staff and visitors is being compromised
4. The Council welcomes the changes already announced for changes at 3 major HWR sites in Hertfordshire (including Stevenage) and asks Hertfordshire County Council to review the opening hours of the Household Waste Recycling Centres in North Hertfordshire.
5. To continue public information and engagement campaigns on the responsible disposal of waste and deterrence of all fly-tipping, including littering, to support our communities in doing the right thing.
6. To ask Hertfordshire County Council to consider providing an amnesty for private landowners who can take the waste to a Waste and Recycling Centre, on recommendation from district council officers.
7. NHDC promotes the funding available from the Police & Crime Commissioner and the advice and guidance to dealing with fly tipping on private land.

The recorded vote was as follows:

For:

Councillors: Ian Albert, David Barnard, John Bishop, Paul Clark, Sam Collins, George Davies, Morgan Derbyshire, Jean Green, Simon Harwood, Tony Hunter, Steve Jarvis, David Levett, Ian Moody, Gerald Morris, Michael Muir, Lisa Nash, Sam North, Mike Rice, Val Shanley, Claire Strong, Richard Thake, Terry Tyler and Tom Tyson.

Total: 23

Against:

Councillors: Daniel Allen, Kate Aspinwall, Clare Billing, Val Bryant, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Mike Hughson, Ian Mantle, Sue Ngwala, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir and Kay Tart.

Total: 10

Abstain:

Councillors: Judi Billing, Ruth Brown, Gary Grindal, Terry Hone, Keith Hoskins, Carol Stanier, Martin Stears-Handscomb.

Total: 7

(b) 20mph Speed Limits

Councillor Paul Clark proposed the altered motion which was seconded by Councillor Sam Collins.

‘That Council:

1. Welcomes the work done by North Herts District and County Councillors to develop and introduce 20mph zones in parts of their towns and villages.
2. notes that the United Nations have mandated the setting of 30kph (20mph) maximum speed limits wherever pedestrians, cyclists or other vulnerable road users mix in a frequent manner with motor vehicles.
3. supports the “20’s Plenty” for Hertfordshire campaign and their call for the introduction of a 20mph default speed limit in the residential and central areas of towns and villages.
4. notes research from the UK and abroad that has shown wide-area default speed limits of 20mph/30kph have:
 - reduced traffic speeds in the first year of operation, with the largest speed reductions on the fastest roads;
 - reduced road traffic collisions by up to 40% and town and village casualties by 20%;
 - increased journey times by just 10 seconds per mile;
 - made streets quieter - a 10mph reduction in speed halves traffic noise;
 - encouraged walking and cycling, especially for older people and young children;
 - benefited communities, with residents more likely to stop and talk on footpaths;
 - been popular, as 75% of residents and motorists feel that, after installation, 20mph limits have benefitted the local community.
5. notes that the Integrated Plan of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) earmarks £7m for the establishment of 20mph zones across the county over a four-year period but recognises that this will be insufficient to introduce widespread 20mph limits if each scheme requires complex traffic calming.
6. further notes that wide-area 20mph limits that make effective use of signage, road markings, technology, and public engagement provide significant budgetary benefits and are more popular with motorists and residents than engineered calming methods such as speed humps whilst recognising that additional measures may be required in some locations.
7. believes that the implementation of a wide-area 20mph speed limit in North Herts towns and villages, combined with a public information campaign, would have beneficial impacts on road safety, active transport and community well-being at substantially lower cost than the County Council’s proposals, and would support this Council’s climate emergency objectives.
8. resolves that the Leader of the Council should write to HCC proposing the establishment of wide-area 20mph speed limit project across Hertfordshire, involving officers and councillors at both County and District levels’

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Gerald Morris;
- Councillor Sam North;
- Councillor George Davies;
- Councillor Ian Albert;
- Councillor Judi Billing;
- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Terry Hone; and
- Councillor David Barnard.

Councillor George Davies proposed an amendment to the wording which was seconded by Councillor Claire Strong:

- Point 2 – replace ‘mandated’ to ‘endorse’ so that it reads ‘notes that the United Nations have endorsed the setting of 30kph [...]’
- Point 7 – after village, add ‘where appropriate and where desired by residents’ so that it reads ‘believes that the implementation of a wide-area 20mph speed limit in North Herts towns and villages, where appropriate and where desired by residents, combined with a public information campaign [...]’.

Councillors Paul Clark and Sam Collins as proposer and seconder accepted the amendment

Councillor Ian Albert proposed an amendment to the motion by adding in the word ‘some’ before motorists and residents on Point 6 so that it reads ‘more popular with some motorists and some residents’.

Councillors Paul Clark and Sam Collins as proposer and seconder accepted the amendment

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Sam Collins, in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.16 (e)

Following the recorded vote, it was:

RESOLVED:

That Council:

- (1) Welcomes the work done by North Herts District and County Councillors to develop and introduce 20mph zones in parts of their towns and villages.
- (2) Notes that the United Nations have endorsed the setting of 30kph (20mph) maximum speed limits wherever pedestrians, cyclists or other vulnerable road users mix in a frequent manner with motor vehicles.
- (3) Supports the “20’s Plenty” for Hertfordshire campaign and their call for the introduction of a 20mph default speed limit in the residential and central areas of towns and villages.
- (4) Notes research from the UK and abroad that has shown wide-area default speed limits of 20mph/30kph have:
 - Reduced traffic speeds in the first year of operation, with the largest speed reductions on the fastest roads;
 - Reduced road traffic collisions by up to 40% and town and village casualties by 20%;
 - Increased journey times by just 10 seconds per mile;
 - Made streets quieter - a 10mph reduction in speed halves traffic noise;

- Encouraged walking and cycling, especially for older people and young children;
 - Benefited communities, with residents more likely to stop and talk on footpaths;
 - Been popular, as 75% of residents and motorists feel that, after installation, 20mph limits have benefitted the local community.
- (5) Notes that the Integrated Plan of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) earmarks £7m for the establishment of 20mph zones across the county over a four-year period but recognises that this will be insufficient to introduce widespread 20mph limits if each scheme requires complex traffic calming.
- (6) Further notes that wide-area 20mph limits that make effective use of signage, road markings, technology, and public engagement provide significant budgetary benefits and are more popular with some motorists and some residents than engineered calming methods such as speed humps whilst recognising that additional measures may be required in some locations.
- (7) Believes that the implementation of a wide-area 20mph speed limit in North Herts towns and villages, where appropriate and where desired by residents, combined with a public information campaign, would have beneficial impacts on road safety, active transport and community well-being at substantially lower cost than the County Council's proposals, and would support this Council's climate emergency objectives.
- (8) Resolves that the Leader of the Council should write to HCC proposing the establishment of wide-area 20mph speed limit project across Hertfordshire, involving officers and councillors at both County and District levels.

The recorded vote was as follows:

For:

Councillors: Ian Albert, Daniel Allen, Kate Aspinwall, David Barnard, Clare Billing, Judi Billing, John Bishop, Ruth Brown, Paul Clark, Sam Collins, George Davies, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Morgan Derbyshire, Jean Green, Gary Grindal, Simon Harwood, Terry Hone, Keith Hoskins, Mike Hughson, Tony Hunter, Steve Jarvis, David Levett, Ian Mantle, Ian Moody, Gerald Morris, Michael Muir, Lisa Nash, Sue Ngwala, Sam North, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Carol Stanier, Martin Stears-Handscomb, Claire Strong, Richard Thake, Terry Tyler and Tom Tyson.

Total: 36

Against:

Total: 0

Abstain:

Total: 0

(c) Hybrid Meetings

Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb moved the motion which was seconded by Councillor Paul Clark.

Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb advised that he and Councillor Paul Clark, as proposer and seconder of the motion would accept Councillor Judi Billing's amendment which had been given notice. Therefore, the motion being proposed would read:

'This Council is astonished and disappointed that the Government could not find time to amend legislation allowing Councils to continue to carry out meetings using virtual technology where and when they see fit to do so.

It notes that the experience of holding meetings remotely has improved engagement with residents, improving inclusion, diversity and accountability as well as contributing to our response to the climate emergency and reducing the need for officers and members to travel to meetings.

It further notes the request by the Minister for evidence as to why remote or hybrid meeting should be permitted and instructs officers to respond to the government questionnaire, assembling evidence from our recent experience of the benefits of such meetings, including quantitative data relating to increased engagement and cost savings, within the requested timescale.

This council further calls upon the government to bring forward legislation as a matter of urgency to remove the need for central government to determine how local councils conduct their business at the level of meetings arrangements and allows us to find the most appropriate ways to both conduct essential business and engage with the communities that we represent.'

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor David Levett;
- Councillor Gerald Morris;
- Councillor Lisa Nash;
- Councillor Sam Collins; and
- Councillor Judi Billing.

Councillor David Levett moved the Closure Motion 'to ask that the question be now put', in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.14 (l) (i) B, which was seconded by Councillor Paul Clark.

Councillor Martin Stears-Handscorn exercised his right to reply

Councillor Gerald Morris made some points of personal clarification.

The Closure Motion was voted upon and it was carried that the motion be put.

The Chair then requested Members to vote on the Hybrid Meeting motion.

The vote was carried.

Members then voted on the amendment (as amended)

Having been voted upon, it was:

RESOLVED that:

This Council is astonished and disappointed that the Government could not find time to amend legislation allowing Councils to continue to carry out meetings using virtual technology where and when they see fit to do so.

It notes that the experience of holding meetings remotely has improved engagement with residents, improving inclusion, diversity and accountability as well as contributing to our response to the climate emergency and reducing the need for officers and members to travel to meetings.

It further notes the request by the Minister for evidence as to why remote or hybrid meeting should be permitted and instructs officers to respond to the government questionnaire, assembling evidence from our recent experience of the benefits of such meetings, including quantitative data relating to increased engagement and cost savings, within the requested timescale.

This council further calls upon the government to bring forward legislation as a matter of urgency to remove the need for central government to determine how local councils conduct their business at the level of meetings arrangements and allows us to find the most appropriate ways to both conduct essential business and engage with the communities that we represent.

The meeting closed at 0.04 am

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
26 MAY 2021**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

**TITLE OF REPORT: DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS (INCLUDING ALL POLLS)
– 6 MAY 2021**

REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

The report is attached.

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX A

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS – 6 MAY 2021

WARD	CANDIDATES	PARTY	VOTES	
BALDOCK EAST	CHAPMAN, Leo James	Labour	212	
	COWELL, Juan Timothy	Conservative	495	Elected
	TURNER, Jane Louise	Green	133	
	WINTER, Richard William	Liberal Democrats	302	
BALDOCK TOWN	LEE, Tim	Green	223	
	THOMAS, Steve	Liberal Democrats	242	
	WEEKS, Michael	Conservative	1120	Elected
	WILLOUGHBY, Alistair Kieran Oliver	Labour and Cooperative	734	
CHESFIELD	GRIFFITHS, Dominic John Crean	Conservative	727	
	HOGAN, Tom	Labour	251	
	TYLER, Terry	Liberal Democrats	728	Elected
HITCHIN BEARTON	ALBERT, Ian Clive	Labour and Cooperative	1314	Elected
	CLAYDEN, Jonathan	Liberal Democrats	378	
	MUNCER, Ralph Gerald	Conservative	586	
	SANDER, Anni Elke	Green	383	
HITCHIN HIGHBURY	CLARK, Paul	Liberal Democrats	1416	Elected
	ELTRINGHAM Deolinda Maria	Green	242	
	GRIGGS, Angela Jean	Labour	412	
	MANGAT, Gulshan Deep Singh	Conservative	820	
	SMITH, Leigh	Christian Peoples Alliance	33	
HITCHIN OUGHTON	GRUNSHAW, Thomas James	Liberal Democrats	101	
	MARSHALL, Mary Karin	Green	245	
	MASON, Nigel David	Labour and Cooperative	501	Elected
	MCDONALD, Jacqueline Mary	Independent	65	
	PATMORE, Steven	Conservative	369	
HITCHIN PRIORY	BHAKAR, Raj	Liberal Democrats	548	
	CORDLE, Sid	Christian Peoples Alliance	20	
	STEPHENS, Des	Green	233	
	TAYLOR, Peter Malcolm	Labour	286	
	THAKE, Richard Arthur Charles	Conservative	787	Elected

WARD	CANDIDATES	PARTY	VOTES	
HITCHIN WALSWORTH	DENNIS-HARBURG, Elizabeth Louise	Labour and Cooperative	1154	Elected
	LAING, Charles	Conservative	1042	
	LARSEN, Sam	Green	293	
	TOWNSEND, Liz	Liberal Democrats	301	
HITCHWOOD, OFFA & HOO	CLAIRE, Adina	Green	787	
	JUNGREUTHMAYER, Anton	Labour	304	
	STRONG, Claire Patricia Annette	Conservative	1436	Elected
	WRIGHT, Philippa	Liberal Democrats	214	
KNEBWORTH	JENNER, Doug	Labour	185	
	MALCOLM, Davina Ruth	Green	97	
	MUÑOZ MANIEGA, Susana	Liberal Democrats	629	
	TANDI, Mandi	Conservative	1235	Elected
LETCHWORTH EAST	DURSTON, James	Conservative	467	
	MANTLE, Ian	Labour and Cooperative	711	Elected
	MORRIS, David Paul	Green	205	
	ROSS, Paul	Independent	102	
	SPENCER, Mark Robert Patrick	Liberal Democrats	115	
LETCHWORTH GRANGE	BLOXHAM, Simon Nicholas	Conservative	1059	Elected
	FINCH, Amy Elizabeth	Liberal Democrats	200	
	HANCOCK, Elizabeth Susan	Green	215	
	NOLAN, Sean	Labour and Cooperative	733	
LETCHWORTH SOUTH EAST	LEVETT, David Charles	Conservative	966	Elected
	MARMENT, Paul Anthony James	Liberal Democrats	175	
	MIDDLETON, Hazel Tracy	Green	155	
	STEARNS-HANDSCOMB, Martin John	Labour and Cooperative	726	
	WARREN, Garry Edward	Reform UK	59	
LETCHWORTH SOUTH WEST	BORGARS, Alan Edmund	Green	245	
	HONE, Terry	Conservative	1276	Elected
	MCGETRICK, Michael	Social Democratic	39	
	PLATER, Tom	Labour and Cooperative	474	
	WEEDER, Phil	Liberal Democrats	724	

WARD	CANDIDATES	PARTY	VOTES	
LETCHEWORTH WILBURY	ALLEN, Amy Dawn	Labour and Cooperative	771	Elected
	BLOXHAM, Monica Madeline	Conservative	536	
	JARVIS, Sal	Liberal Democrats	121	
ROYSTON MERIDIAN	COMPTON, Adam	Conservative	889	Elected
	PARKER, Hugh David	Green	154	
	PROSSER-SNELLING, Alex	Liberal Democrats	579	
	REES, John Ivor	Labour	176	
ROYSTON PALACE	BROWNJOHN, Cathy	Labour and Cooperative	458	
	DINGLEY, Sarah Anne	Conservative	708	Elected
	RAINEY, Hugo John	Liberal Democrats	205	
	TURNER, Steven Andrew	Green	120	

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS – 6 MAY 2021

DIVISION	CANDIDATES	PARTY	VOTES	
BALDOCK AND LETCHEWORTH EAST	CHAPMAN, Leo James	Labour	1251	
	LEE, Tim	Green	516	
	MUIR, Michael Douglas Robert Mackenzie	Conservative	1963	Elected
	WINTER, Richard William	Liberal Democrats	624	
HITCHIN NORTH	BILLING, Judi	Labour and Cooperative	2701	Elected
	BISHOP, John Cyril	Conservative	1366	
	CORDLE, Sid	Christian Peoples Alliance	71	
	IRCHA, Andrew	Liberal Democrats	484	
	MARSHALL, Mary Karin	Green	530	
HITCHIN RURAL	APPOH, Daisy	Christian Peoples Alliance	53	
	BARNARD, David John	Conservative	2127	Elected
	JUNGREUTHMAYER, Anton	Labour	818	
	PARKIN, Marilyn Margaret	Liberal Democrats	413	
	SANDER, Anni Elke	Green	980	
HITCHIN SOUTH	ASHLEY, Derrick Alan	Conservative	1888	
	CLARE, Barbara Jane	Trade Unionists & Socialists Against Cuts	22	
	CLARK, Paul	Liberal Democrats	1930	Elected
	DENNIS-HARBURG, Elizabeth Louise	Labour and Cooperative	765	
	LARSEN, Sam	Green	455	
	SMITH, Leigh	Christian Peoples Alliance	54	
KNEBORTH AND CODICOTE	JENNER, Doug	Labour	647	
	NICE, Katrina Margaret	Green	473	
	THAKE, Richard Arthur Charles	Conservative	2504	Elected
	TYLER, Terry	Liberal Democrats	886	
LETCHEWORTH NORTH	BHARTWAS, Tina	Labour and Cooperative	2044	Elected
	BLOXHAM, Simon Nicholas	Conservative	1998	
	EVANS, Jerry	Liberal Democrats	426	

DIVISION	CANDIDATES	PARTY	VOTES	
LETCHWORTH SOUTH	ALLEN, Amy Dawn	Labour and Cooperative	1163	
	BORGARS, Alan Edmund	Green	384	
	HONE, Terry	Conservative	2254	Elected
	WARREN, Garry Edward	Reform UK	91	
	WEEDER, Phil	Liberal Democrats	830	
ROYSTON EAST AND ERMINE	BROWN, Ruth Gillian	Liberal Democrats	1255	
	HILL, Fiona Ronan	Conservative	2317	Elected
	LOCKETT, Stephen James	Labour	669	
	TURNER, Steven Andrew	Green	311	
ROYSTON WEST AND RURAL	DAVIES, George Edmund Rhys	Conservative	1900	
	GARLAND, Ken	Labour and Cooperative	519	
	JARVIS, Steve	Liberal Democrats	2591	Elected

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER: HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE ELECTION
RESULTS – 6 MAY 2021

The total number of first preference votes given for each candidate were as follows :

CANDIDATES	PARTY	FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES
LLOYD, David Edward	Conservative	155,114
NORTH, Sam	Liberal Democrats	87,524
ROSS, Philip Edward	Labour and Cooperative	76,941

The total number of second preference votes given for each candidate remaining in the contest after the count of the first preference votes were as follows:

CANDIDATES	PARTY	SECOND PREFERENCE VOTES
LLOYD, David Edward	Conservative	12,761
NORTH, Sam	Liberal Democrats	48.172

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS – 6 MAY 2021

PARISH	CANDIDATES	VOTES	
ROYSTON TOWN MERIDIAN	BEARDWELL, Elizabeth Mary Liberal Democrats	803	Elected
	HAUGH, Luke John	604	
	WEST, Vaughan Labour	255	

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING REFERENDUM RESULTS – 6 MAY 2021

AREA	QUESTION		VOTES
BALDOCK, BYGRAVE AND CLOTHALL	'Do you want North Hertfordshire to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'	Yes	3101 (88.15%)
		No	413 (11.85%)

This page is intentionally left blank

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
26 MAY 2021**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: NOTING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR 2021/22

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT COUNCIL / BUILD THRIVING AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES / RESPOND TO CHALLENGES TO THE ENVIRONMENT / ENABLE AN ENTERPRISING AND CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY / SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF GOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOMES

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the Leader's appointment of members of the Cabinet for 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2021/22 be noted.
- 2.2 That the Members to be appointed as Executive Members of the Cabinet for 2021/22 and the areas for which they will be responsible as detailed in Appendix A be noted.
- 2.3 That the Members to be appointed as Deputy Executive Members for 2021/22 and the areas for which they will act as Deputy Executive Member as detailed at Appendix A be noted.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and Sections 4.8.1 (vii), 5.2, 5.3.4 and 5.6 of the Council's Constitution.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 The Leader of the Council will inform the Council of the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members for 2021/22.

5.2 The Leader will inform the Council of the appointment of Deputy Executive Members for 2021/22.

6. FORWARD PLAN

6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

7.1 As required as one of the choices of political model set out in the Local Government Act 2000, North Hertfordshire District Council has adopted a Leader and Cabinet form of executive governance.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Under Section 5.2 of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that the Cabinet will consist of:

“5.2.1 the Leader of the Council (the “Leader”); and

5.2.2 at least two but not more than nine (or other parameters set by legislation) Councillors appointed to the Cabinet as Executive Members by the Leader.”

8.2 Under Section 4.8.1 of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that Annual Council will:

(vii) note the number of Members to be appointed to the Cabinet and the appointment those Members;

8.3 Under Section 5.6 of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that:

“in a joint administration a ‘deputy’ to an Executive portfolio holder may be appointed. That deputy will be invited to attend relevant meetings of the Executive (formal or informal) where executive functions are discussed, give their opinion and for this to be taken into account by the Executive decision maker or Cabinet, although they are not formally part of the Cabinet Executive nor an Executive decision maker. This does not apply to the Deputy Leader who is appointed to acts as per section 5.4. Functions of Cabinet”

8.4 Appendix A to the report sets out the Leader's appointments to the Cabinet Executive Member positions for 2021/22 and the appointment of Deputy Executive Members for the same period.

8.5 In accordance with Section 5.3.4 of the Council's Constitution, it is also required that “within two weeks of being elected as Leader, the Leader will submit to the Proper Officer a Cabinet Scheme of Delegations setting out the responsibilities and delegated authority of each member of the Cabinet and any other delegation of any Executive Function the Leader chooses to make.”

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Section 5.2 of the Council's Constitution sets out that the Cabinet will consist of:

“5.2.1 the Leader of the Council (the “Leader”); and

5.2.2 at least two but not more than nine (or other parameters set by legislation) Councillors appointed to the Cabinet as Executive Members by the Leader.”

9.2 Section 4.8.1(vii) of the Council's Constitution states that Annual Council will:

“note the number of Members to be appointed to the Cabinet and the appointment those Members”

9.3 Section 5.3.4 of the Council's Constitution sets out that:

“Within two weeks of being elected as Leader the Leader will submit to the Proper Officer a Cabinet Scheme of Delegations setting out the responsibilities and delegated authority of each member of the Cabinet and any other delegation of any Executive Function the Leader chooses to make.

9.4 Section 5.6 of the Council's Constitution sets out that:

“in a joint administration a ‘deputy’ to an Executive portfolio holder may be appointed. That deputy will be invited to attend relevant meetings of the Executive (formal or informal) where executive functions are discussed, give their opinion and for this to be taken into account by the Executive decision maker or Cabinet, although they are not formally part of the Cabinet Executive nor an Executive decision maker. This does not apply to the Deputy Leader who is appointed to acts as per section 5.4.Functions of Cabinet

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no human resource implications.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix A – Appointment of Members of the Cabinet (Including Deputy Executive Members) for 2021/22 – (Appendix A will be circulated separately).

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

17.1 Hilary Dineen, Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager
hilary.dineen@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474353

Contributors

17.2 Melanie Stimpson, Democratic Services Manager
melanie.stimpson@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474208

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 None.

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
26 MAY 2021**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR 2021/22

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT COUNCIL

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the appointment of Members of Committees for 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That, for 2021/22, the seats allocated to each political party on the Committees to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies and the seats allocated to each political party on the bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 does not apply, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be noted.

2.2 That, for 2021/22, Members be appointed to the various Committees and other bodies in accordance with the wishes of the individual political groups, as detailed in Appendix B to this report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To comply with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1 The Leaders of the Political Groups have been consulted and have been requested to inform the Democratic Services Manager of their Committee Member nominations for 2021/22.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the Act”) imposed a duty for the Council to review the representation of the different Political Groups on the Council’s Committees. The representation needs to be broadly proportional to the number of seats held by each Political Group of the Council. The Committees to which Section 15 of the Act applies are:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee;
- Planning Control Committee;
- Licensing & Appeals Committee;
- Standards Committee;
- Council Tax Setting Committee;
- Employment Committee;
- Employment Appeals Committee; and
- Joint Staff Consultative Committee.

- 7.2 The Council is also required to appoint to various other bodies, to which Section 15 of the Act does not apply, in accordance with the nominations received from the Political Groups.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Appendix A to the report (circulated subsequent to the agenda publication) sets out political balance of Committees, as required under the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the proposed allocation of seats for those bodies to which Section 15 does not apply, for 2021/22.

- 8.2 Appendix B to the report (circulated subsequent to the agenda publication) will set out the proposed appointment of Members to Committees for 2021/22, in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.

- 8.3 In respect of substitutes to committees the constitution states at Paragraph 4.8.4:

“(b) For Committees or Sub-Committees listed at 4.8.4(d) below and Panels, but not the Cabinet, the Council will appoint a proportionate number of substitutes in respect of each political group as that group holds ordinary seats on that Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel. The number of substitutes shall be a minimum of two substitutes per group and a maximum of 50% of the total of each group’s full committee or Panel membership rounded up to the nearest whole number.”

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no human resource implications.

15. APPENDICES

15.1 Appendix A – Appointment of Committees, including those to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies. (Appendix A will be circulated separately).

15.2 Appendix B – Appointment of Members of Committees for 2021/22. (Appendix B will be circulated separately).

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

16.1 Hilary Dineen, Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager
hilary.dineen@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474353

Contributors

16.2 Melanie Stimpson, Democratic Services Manager
melanie.stimpson@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474208

16.3 Nurainatta Katevu
Legal Regulatory Team Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
nurainatta.katevu@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474364

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 None

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
26 MAY 2021**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES
FOR 2021/22**

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT COUNCIL

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Area Committees) for 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Area Committees) for 2021/22 be appointed in accordance with the details set out in Appendix A to the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To comply with the provisions of Standing Order 4.8.1(a)(ix) of the Council's Constitution.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1 The Leaders of the Political Groups have been consulted and have informed the Democratic Services Manager of their nominations for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Area Committees) for 2021/22.

6. FORWARD PLAN

6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 Standing Order 4.8.1(a)(ix) of the Council's Constitution states that the Annual Council will:

“appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees, with the exception of the Area Committees, subject to any requirements of this Constitution concerning who may be appointed to such positions”.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Appendix A to the report comprises nominations for the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Area Committees) for 202/22.
- 8.2 Usually the Annual Council meeting would adjourn to allow for the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs for the Area Committees. However, due to the meeting being delivered as quorate plus, and for reasons of expediency, the Chairs and Vice Chairs will be appointed at the first Area Committee meetings to be convened subsequent to this meeting.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.
- 9.2 The appointments are due to be made in line with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) (Amendment) Regulations 1991.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct financial implications arising directly from this report

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. However, equalities implications from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no human resource implications.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix A – Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Area Committees) for 2021/22. (Appendix A will be circulated separately).

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

17.1 Hilary Dineen, Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager
hilary.dineen@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474353

Contributors

17.2 Melanie Stimpson, Democratic Services Manager
melanie.stimpson@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474208

17.3 Isabelle Alajooz
Legal Legal Commercial Team Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Isabelle.alajooz@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 484346

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 None.

This page is intentionally left blank

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
26 MAY 2021**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: KEY DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES OF SPECIAL URGENCY

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT COUNCIL

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of any occasions over the past year where the provisions relating to “Special Urgency” have been used in connection with the publication of an intention to make a Key Decision, as required by legislation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To comply with Regulation 19 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 came into force on 10 September 2012. The Regulations, inter alia, revised the procedures for publicity in connection with Key Decisions.

- 7.2 A Key Decision means an executive decision which is likely –
- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority.
- 7.3 The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, Regulation 9(2) requires that at least 28 clear days notice is given by the Council before a Key Decision is made. This requirement is ordinarily met at NHDC by the regular publication of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.
- 7.4 Regulation 10 requires that, where the publication of the intention to make a Key decision under regulation 9(2) is impracticable, that decision may only be made –
- (a) where the proper officer has informed the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee or, if there is no such person, each member of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee by notice in writing, of the matter about which the decision is to be made;
 - (b) where the proper officer has made available at the offices of the relevant local authority for inspection by the public and published on the relevant local authority's website, if it has one, a copy of the notice given pursuant to sub-paragraph (a); and
 - (c) after five clear days have elapsed following the day on which the proper officer made available the notice referred to in sub-paragraph (b).
- 7.5 In cases of Special Urgency, Regulation 11 requires that where the date by which a key decision must be made, makes compliance with regulation 10 impracticable, the decision may only be made where the decision maker has obtained agreement from -
- (a) the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee; or
 - (b) if there is no such person, or if the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee is unable to act, the Chair of the relevant local authority; or
 - (c) where there is no Chair of either the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee or of the relevant local authority, the Vice-Chair of the relevant local authority, that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.
- 7.6 Regulation 19(1) requires that the Executive Leader must submit to the relevant local authority at such intervals as may be determined by the relevant local authority a report containing details of each executive decision taken during the period since the last report was submitted to the authority where the making of the decision was agreed as urgent in accordance with Regulation 11.

- 7.7 As contained within the Council's Constitution it is stated that the Executive Leader will submit a report annually to Council.
- 7.8 Regulation 19(2) requires that a report submitted for the purposes of Regulation 19(1) must include –
- (a) particulars of each decision made; and
 - (b) a summary of the matters in respect of which each decision was made.
- 7.9 Regulation 19(3) requires that the Executive Leader must submit at least one report under Regulation 19(1) annually to the relevant local authority.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 In 2020/21, the following Key Decisions required the Special Urgency procedure outlined in Regulation 11 to be invoked:

Subject Matter: Commercial Waste Arrangements (Part 1 and Part 2 reports)

Decision:

- (1) That the Q1 invoices for all customers who suspended their service with us and only resume charges upon the start of services be withdrawn (and reduce the invoices for those that asked for a temporary reduction in service level), leading to an estimated budget deficit of £34,000 for Q1.
- (2) That Cabinet note that for customers who are still liable to pay, where necessary, the Council will work with the customer to identify suitable alternative payment arrangements. This is in accordance with the Council's debt management processes.
- (3) That extended payment terms for Q2 to 60 days, and to 30 days for Q3 be agreed.

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Date of Decision: 23 September 2020.

Reason for urgency:

The Covid 19 pandemic has led to several necessary changes to be implemented operationally as well as decisions being made to support residents and local businesses during these difficult times. A decision was made to delay the production of Q1 invoices for commercial waste and recycling collections and to contact businesses who may be experiencing hardship, this decision was made under delegated powers however the financial impacts of options regarding Q1 invoicing has, in part, been determined by the response from businesses. This information has only recently been available and consequently that combined with initial uncertainty regarding the scheduling of Cabinet meetings has meant this item has not met the requirements for notification to the forward plan. This item cannot be delayed to the next meeting of Cabinet due to the uncertainty this creates for businesses in receiving invoices from the Council.

Subject Matter: Covid-19 Leisure Contracts Recovery (Part 1 and Part 2 reports)

Decision:

- (1) That Cabinet note and agree the approach set out in SLL's recovery plan and support SLL using the Open Book approach as recommended in the PPN 02/20, and further support included within LGA Options for councils in supporting leisure providers through COVID-19 Guidance from service closure;
- (2) That Cabinet note and agree that Officers will continue to work with SLL to agree ways in which income can be maximised and costs minimised whilst ensuring that operations continue to meet COVID-19 and other safety requirements.
- (3) That the recommendations contained in the Part 2 report entitled Covid-19 Leisure Contracts Recovery be agreed.

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Date of Decision: 21 July 2020.

Reason for urgency:

It is not possible to defer consideration of this decision because decisions regarding the effect of Covid-19 on Leisure Facilities and operators and consideration of the way forward cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting in September 2020.

Subject Matter: Business Rates Pooling.

Decision:

- (1) That Cabinet approve that the Council is part of a Hertfordshire Business Rates pool in 2021/22;
- (2) That Cabinet delegate to the Service Director: Resources (in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT) authority to approve the detailed arrangements in relation to the Pool, such as a Memorandum of Understanding.

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Date of Decision: 22 October 2020.

Reason for urgency:

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have issued an invitation for groups of Authorities to become Business Rate pools. The deadline for applications is 23rd October 2020.

Urgent work needs to be carried out to determine whether it is worth Hertfordshire Authorities forming a pool and then who the optimum members of that would be. The economic impacts of Covid-19 make it very difficult to determine Business Rate forecasts for future years. Any gains from pooling will be significantly less than they have in previous years, and also subject to much greater risk.

If relevant, an addendum report will be provided in advance of the Cabinet meeting to update on the latest position.

Subject Matter: Contract Procurement Waiver Referral (Part 1 & Part 2 reports)

Decision:

That a waiver to the Council's Contract Procurement Rules to appoint the nominated specialist services as set out in the Waiver Report (Part 2 exempt Appendix A) without carrying out a tender exercise be approved.

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Date of Decision: 16 March 2020.

Reason for urgency:

The report refers to a Part 2 waiver (of rule 8) of the Council's Contract Procurement Rules relating to the appointment of the specialist services in order to continue investigations and urgent due diligence into a high value property purchase, with a view that this would be referred to Full Council for consideration post-election. The potential purchase at this stage and related work is considered to be urgent and confidential exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and therefore exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 Schedule 12A into the Local Government Act 1972.

- 8.8 All Notices of Special Urgency can be viewed on the Council's Website: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/decisions>

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This report is a requirement of the Council Procedure Rules as set out in Part 15.16.3 of the Council's Constitution.
- 9.2 The requirements of the Regulations are set out in the main body of this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. In the event of the use of Special Urgency procedures, financial (and other) implications would be considered in the decision making process and reported to Full Council.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2 This is a noting report, the intention of which is to ensure transparency of decision making. Equalities Implications in relation to each decision will have been set out in the reports concerned.

12.3 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

14 HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no human resource implications.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 None.

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

17.1 Hilary Dineen
Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager
hilary.dineen@north-herts.gov.uk

Contributors

17.2 Melanie Stimpson
Democratic Services Manager
melanie.stimpson@north-herts.gov.uk

17.3 Nurainatta Katevu
Legal Regulatory Team Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Nurainatta.katevu@north-herts.gov.uk

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 None.

This page is intentionally left blank

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
26 MAY 2021**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS FOR THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2021/22

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT COUNCIL

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the Civic Year 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the following programme of ordinary meetings of the Council be approved for the Civic Year 2021/22:

Thursday, 8 July 2021 – 7.30pm
Thursday, 23 September 2021 – 7.30pm
Thursday, 11 November 2021 – 7.30pm
Thursday, 20 January 2022 – 7.30pm
Thursday, 10 February 2022 – 7.30pm
Wednesday, 23 March 2022 - 7.30 pm

2.2 That the Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22, as attached as Appendix A, be approved.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To enable Members to agree a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2021/22.

3.2 To enable Members to agree the Calendar of meetings for 2021/22.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 A number of alternative dates were considered during consultation.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the political Group Leaders.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 Standing Order 4.8.1(a)(xi) requires the Council, at its Annual meeting, to approve a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the ensuing Civic Year.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Following consultation with the political Group Leaders, the following dates are recommended for ordinary meetings of the Council during the Civic Year 2020/21:

Thursday, 8 July 2021 – 7.30pm

Thursday, 23 September 2021 – 7.30pm

Thursday, 11 November 2021 – 7.30pm

Thursday, 20 January 2022 – 7.30pm

Thursday, 10 February 2022 – 7.30pm

Wednesday, 23 March 2022 - 7.30 pm

- 8.2 Should circumstances dictate that any extraordinary meetings of the Council are required to deal with time critical issues in addition to the above programme of meetings then these will be arranged as necessary.
- 8.3 Following consultation with the political Group Leaders, the Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22, as attached as Appendix A, is recommended for the Civic Year.
- 8.4 The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 ('the Regulations'), which allowed Council and Committee meetings to be held virtually, expired as of 7 May 2021.
- 8.5 On 21 April 2021 Lawyers in Local Government (LLG), the Association of Democratic Services Officers and Hertfordshire County Council asked the High Court to declare that the Local Government Act 1972 empowers local authorities to hold meetings remotely, including whether press and public could also be permitted to attend remotely under the Act.
- 8.6 On 28 April 2021 judgement was handed down by the high court that "*the Secretary of State was correct in November 2016 and July 2019 to say that primary legislation would be required to allow local authority "meetings" under the 1972 Act to take place remotely. In our view, once the Flexibility Regulations cease to apply, such meetings must take place at a single, specified geographical location; attending a meeting at such a location means physically going to it; and being "present" at such a meeting involves physical presence at that location. We recognise that there are powerful arguments in favour of permitting remote meetings. But, as the consultation documents show, there are also arguments against doing so. The decision whether to permit some or all local authority meetings to be conducted remotely, and if so, how, and subject to what safeguards,*

involves difficult policy choices on which there is likely to be a range of competing views. These choices have been made legislatively for Scotland by the Scottish Parliament and for Wales by the Senedd. In England, they are for Parliament, not the courts". The result of this judgment is that Council and Committee meetings can no longer be held virtually from 7 May 2021.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The terms of reference for the Annual Council include "approving a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year".
- 9.2 Provisions for calling meetings, enabling the public to be present and making documents available are contained in two principal pieces of legislation: the Local Government Act 1972, ss 100A to 100K for meetings of the full council and for non-executive committees and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 for executive meetings, in particular cabinet.
- 9.3 The Local Government Act 1972 requires members to be physically present in order for a meeting to take place.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 No financial implications arise directly from this report. A schedule of meetings forms part of the Council's usual business arrangements.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no equalities implications in this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 There are no human resource implications.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix A – Calendar of Meetings 2021/22

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

17.1 Hilary Dineen, Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager
hilary.dineen@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474353

Contributors

17.2 Melanie Stimpson, Democratic Services Manager
melanie.stimpson@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474208

17.3 Nurainatta Katevu
Legal Regulatory Team Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Nurainatta.katevu@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474364

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 None.

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 20 MAY 2021

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2021/2022

7.30pm start unless stated	Regular Meeting day	MAY 2021	JUNE 2021	JULY 2021	AUG 2021	SEPT 2021	OCT 2021	NOV 2021	DEC 2021	JAN 2022	FEB 2022	MAR 2022	APR 2022
COUNCIL													
COUNCIL	Thurs	20 Annual		8		23		11		20	10**	23	
Council Tax Setting Cttee (5.00pm)	Thurs									13 Publish papers 05.01.21	28***		
EXECUTIVE													
CABINET	Tues		29	20		21			21	25*		22	
Cabinet Sub-Committee (Council Charities) (3.00pm)									13				
Cabinet Sub-Committee (Local Authority Trading Companies' Shareholder)													
REGULATORY													
Licensing and Appeals Committee				5							7		
Planning Control Committee	Thurs	27	17 & 30	15 & 22	19	2 & 16	14	4 & 18	2 & 16	19 & 27	9 & 24	17 & 31	20 (Wed)
Standards Committee	Tues						19 (Tue)					2 (Wed)	
SCRUTINY													
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Tues		22	13		14			14	18		15	

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 20 MAY 2021

7.30pm start unless stated	Regular Meeting day	MAY 2021	JUNE 2021	JULY 2021	AUG 2021	SEPT 2021	OCT 2021	NOV 2021	DEC 2021	JAN 2022	FEB 2022	MAR 2022	APR 2022
AREA COMMITTEES													
Baldock and District Committee	Mon		21				4		6			14	
Hitchin Committee	Tues		15				12	30				1	
Letchworth Committee	Wed		16				13		8			9	
Royston & District. Committee	Wed		9				20		1			8	
Southern Rural Committee	Thurs		24				21		9			3	
OTHER COMMITTEES													
Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Mon/ Wed		23	12 (Mon)		15 (Wed)			15	17 (Mon)		16	
Joint Staff Consultative Cttee (10.00am)	Wed		9			22			15			9	
PARTNERSHIPS, PANELS AND LIAISON MEETINGS													
Cabinet Panel on Community Engagement and Cooperative Development	Mon		7	19		6		8		31			
Cabinet Panel on the Environment	Tues		8	6		7		16			22		
Cabinet Panel on Housing, Strategic Planning and Transport	Wed		28	14		1		24			2		
CCTV Partnership Joint Executive													
Highways Liaison (7.00pm)				21							23		

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 20 MAY 2021

7.30pm start unless stated	Regular Meeting day	MAY 2021	JUNE 2021	JULY 2021	AUG 2021	SEPT 2021	OCT 2021	NOV 2021	DEC 2021	JAN 2022	FEB 2022	MAR 2022	APR 2022
BUDGET WORKSHOPS:													
Administration								1 (Mon.)					
Opposition								3 (Wed.)					
CIVIC AND ELECTORAL EVENTS													
District Council, County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections		6											
Civic Dinner and Awards Ceremony											25		

* Cabinet to consider Budgets; ** Council to set Budgets; *** To set Council Tax.

2022 – 2023

District Council Elections – Thursday 5 May 2022
 Annual Council Meeting – Thursday, 19 May 2022
 Civic Dinner and Awards Ceremony – Friday 25 February 2022

School Holidays Hertfordshire

School year (2020/21)

Start of term: 2 September 2020
 Half term holiday: 26 October 2020 - 30 October 2020
 Christmas holiday: 21 December 2020 - 3 January 2021
 Half term holiday: 15 February 2021 - 19 February 2021
 Easter holiday: 29 March 2021 - 9 April 2021
 Half term holiday: 31 May 2021 - 4 June 2021
 Summer holiday: 23 July 2021 - 31 August 2021

School Year (2021/22)

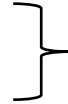
Start of term: 1 September 2021
 Half term holiday: 25 October 2021 - 29 October 2021
 Christmas holiday: 22 December 2021 - 4 January 2022
 Half term holiday: 14 February 2022 - 18 February 2022

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 20 MAY 2021

Easter holiday: 4 April 2022 – 18 April 2022
Half term holiday: 30 May 2022 - 3 June 2022
Summer holiday: 25 July 2022 - 31 August 2022

Conferences

Labour Conference: 26 September 2021 – 29 September 2021
Conservative Conference: 5 October 2021 – 8 October 2021
Liberal Conference: 26 September 2021 – 29 September 2021



NB: These dates have not yet been confirmed

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY COUNCIL

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
26 MAY 2021**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES FOR 2021/22

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT COUNCIL / BUILD THRIVING AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a list setting out the nomination of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the list of nominations of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

2.2 That Political Group Leaders notify the Democratic Services Manager of nominations to the remaining vacancies or any changes to the existing representatives on outside organisations.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To comply with the provisions of Standing Order 4.8.1(b)(iv) and (v) of the Council's Constitution.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1 The Leaders of the Political Groups have been consulted regarding the nomination of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2021/22.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 Standing Order 4.8.1(b)(iv) of the Council's Constitution states that at the Annual Meeting, the Council will

“receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and outside body”.

- 7.2 Standing Order 4.8.1(b)(v) states that at the Annual Meeting, the Council will also

“make appointments to those Committees and nominations to outside bodies, except where nomination to those bodies has been delegated by the Council or is exercisable by the Cabinet”.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 A review of outside bodies with the respective organisations has been undertaken. The result of this review was referred to the Group Leaders, who were asked to consider the results when nominating Members to these bodies.

- 8.2 We have been advised that the North Herts Local Strategic Partnership and Sport North Herts are in the process of being closed down. Therefore both organisations are to be removed from the list of outside organisations.

- 8.3 Appendix A to the report sets out the nomination of representatives to Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2021/22.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.

- 9.2 It is a constitutional requirement to review the appointments to outside organisations at the Annual Meeting.

- 9.3 Appointments are made by the Council in the interests of openness and transparency.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. However, equalities implications from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 There are no human resource implications.

16. APPENDICES

- 16.1 Appendix A – Nomination of Representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2021/22. (Appendix A will be circulated separately).

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

- 17.1 Hilary Dineen
Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager
hilary.dineen@north-herts.gov.uk
Ext 4353

Contributors

- 17.2 Melanie Stimpson
Democratic Services Manager
melanie.stimpson@north-herts.gov.uk
Ext 4208
- 17.3 Isabelle Alajooz
Legal Legal Commercial Team Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Isabelle.alajooz@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 484346

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 None.

**COUNCIL
26 MAY 2021**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

**TITLE OF REPORT: RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE 6 MONTH RULE – SECTION 85
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: THE LEADER OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRIORITY: RESPOND TO CHALLENGES TO THE ENVIRONMENT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider an extension of the six-month rule for Councillors unable to attend Committee meetings (for reasons related to the pandemic, including health reasons) following the cessation of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 and the requirement for Local Authorities to hold meetings in person.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That Council approves an extension of the six-month rule for Councillors unable to attend Committee meetings owing to the Coronavirus, or health related reasons following the cessation of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 and the requirement for Local Authorities to hold meetings in person. The six-month period will end on 26 November 2021.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that *'if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority'*. Whilst the Local Government Association has been lobbying for this issue to be dealt with, this has so far not been addressed by central government.
- 3.2. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 allowed Local Authorities to hold remote meetings until 7 May 2021. This has now expired and Local Authorities are required to hold meetings in person.

- 3.3. The recommendation at 2.1 is therefore required to enable Councillors to continue to serve as District Councillors whilst they feel too vulnerable to attend meetings in person and social distancing is required due to the pandemic.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1. This report has been brought forward following informal discussions with Group Leaders at the Response and Recovery Board and previously as an issue raised at the Political Liaison Board.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 allowed for the Council to hold Committee meetings remotely. However, the provisions in relation to remote / virtual meetings ceased on 7 May 2021. Therefore, the Council is now required to hold Council/ Committee meetings in person.
- 7.2. The Association for Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) along with Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) and Hertfordshire County Council, made an application to the High Court in relation to virtual meeting provision for local authorities. The question being asked was 'whether the 1972 Act would permit remote meetings in England when the Flexibility Regulations cease to have effect'.
- 7.3. The High Court hearing took place on 21 April 2021, with the outcome being given on 28 April 2021. The court concluded that *'the Secretary of State was correct in November 2016 and July 2019 to say that primary legislation would be required to allow local authority "meetings" under the 1972 Act to take place remotely. In our view, once the Flexibility Regulations cease to apply, **such meetings must take place at a single, specified geographical location; attending a meeting at such a location means physically going to it; and being "present" at such a meeting involves physical presence at that location.***' The Court also ruled that 'local authority meetings must be open to the public in a physical sense'.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. The Council can determine whether to extend the 6 month rule. The Government has a current 'Roadmap out of lockdown' and vaccination programme in progress. The Council will be better able to reconsider this issue at its meeting on 11 November and whether potential health issues have been resolved.

- 8.2. In reaching this conclusion now and at the later date in November, it is relevant to note that informal meetings of the Council may count towards attendance as per the legal implications below.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. Council is required to determine this matter as per Paragraph 1.2.1 of the Council's Constitution:

'The Council is comprised of forty nine Councillors each elected for a four year period. Elections are held in three out of four years with a third of the seats contested in each year. Each Councillor is democratically accountable to the residents of their electoral ward as well as all of those who live in the District of North Hertfordshire. The overriding duty of Councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those that did not vote for them. Councillors who do not attend at least one Council or Committee meeting in a six-month period cease to be a Councillor, unless their absence is approved by Full Council within that period'.

- 9.2. Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that *'if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority'.*

- 9.3. Section 85 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides guidance as to attendance at a meeting. *'Attendance as a member at a meeting of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or at a meeting of any joint committee, joint board or other body by whom for the time being any of the functions of the authority are being discharged, or who were appointed to advise the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions, and attendance as representative of the authority at a meeting of any body of persons, shall be deemed for the purposes of subsection (1) above to be attendance at a meeting of the authority'. For the purposes of clarification this will also include the Cabinet Panels.*

- 9.4. Section 85(2B) also provides –
(a) the discharge by a member, acting alone, of any function which is the responsibility of the executive; and
(b) in respect of a mayor and cabinet executive or leader and cabinet executive, attendance as a member at a meeting of a committee of the executive,

shall each be deemed to be in attendance at a meeting of the executive.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are no financial implications arising from the report. However, should the agreement to the dispensation not be granted could result in a by-election/s and therefore the costs would be incurred by the Authority.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. None contained within this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2. The six-month extension to a term of office provides an opportunity for those Councillors to continue in the role as District Councillor until such a time that they feel safe to attend in person meetings. By 20 November it is hoped that social distancing requirements will not be as stringent and that everyone will have been offered the vaccine. Whilst the advice to shield has ended at the time of writing, the clinically vulnerable people are urged continue to take extra steps to protect themselves. This currently includes take up of vaccination, the continuing of social distancing, minimising social and work interaction.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Services Manager monitors attendance and notifies Group Leaders when a Member has not attended a meeting for 4 consecutive months.

16. APPENDICES

- 16.1 None.

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 17.1 Melanie Stimpson, Democratic Services Officer,
Melanie.stimpson@north-herts.gov.uk ext. 4208
- 17.2 Jeanette Thompson, Service Director; Legal and Community and Monitoring Officer
Jeanette.thompson@north-herts.gov.uk, ext. 4370

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 18.1 None.

**COUNCIL
26 MAY 2021**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: CONSTITUTIONAL REPORT TO COUNCIL UNDER Section 2.6.6

REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND COMMUNITY & MONITORING OFFICER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL: COUNCILLOR MARTIN STEARS-HANDSCOMB

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE COUNCIL

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 To present a report to Council regarding amendments to the Constitution following legislative changes and virtual meeting arrangements as per section 2.6.6, with effect from 7 May 2021. Further amendments were made under 2.6.2 with regards the NHDC Code of Conduct which have to be notified to all Members (as opposed to reported to Full Council). These are included in the appended Delegated Decision and Appendix A Schedule.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That Full Council noted and endorses the amendments made to the Constitution¹.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. To ensure the Constitution reflects legislative change and minor amendments required following Council resolution of 15 April 2021.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1. None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1. As per the attached consultation with Group Leaders.

6. FORWARD PLAN

6.1 As per the attached delegated decision.

¹ Updated version on internet: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/council-constitution>

7. BACKGROUND

7.1 As per the attached delegated decision.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 As per the attached delegated decision.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1. As per the attached.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 As per the attached delegated decision.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1. As per the attached delegated decision.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 As per the attached delegated decision.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1. As per the attached delegated decision.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

14.1 As per the attached delegated decision.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1 As per the attached delegated decision.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Delegated Decision & Appendix A Schedule of amendments.

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

17.1 Jeanette Thompson, Service Director Legal and Community, Monitoring Officer
jeanette.thompson@north-herts.gov.uk; ext 4370

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 None.

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted N/A

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: LEGAL & COMMUNITY

1. DECISION TAKEN

To make amendments to the NHDC Constitution as per Appendix A.

2. DECISION TAKER

Jeanette Thompson, Monitoring Officer (Service Director: Legal & Community).

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

6 May 2021 – Constitutional amendments from 7 May 2021.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To ensure wording of the NHDC Constitution does not conflict with the Local Government Act 1972 requirements (therefore delegated decision under 2.6.6 of the Constitution).
- 3.2. Amendments to wording following Full Council's decision of 15 April 2021 to adopt a new Code of Conduct for NHDC Members from 7 May 2021 (therefore delegated decision under 2.6.2(c) of the Constitution).

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1. The proposed changes to the Constitution were sent to the Group Leaders for comment before the decision was published, and the updated Constitution uploaded with the amendments in Appendix A.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This decision does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

Flexible Meetings:

- 7.1. Following the coronavirus pandemic, The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 'Flexibility of Meetings Regulations 2020'¹ came into force on 4 April 2020 and applied to meetings from that date until those held before 7 May 2021. These Regulations introduced new ways to hold Local Authority meetings, including wholly or partly virtual meetings of Members, officers, the press and public. Amendments to the Constitution were then approved by Full Council in 2020 to comply with the Flexibility of Meetings Regulations 2020.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/392/made>

- 7.2. Such provisions would cease unless new legislation came into effect on or before 7 May 2021. In 2021 Central Government indicated that it did not have sufficient time to introduce new legislative provisions.
- 7.3. The Lawyers in Local Government, Association of Democratic Services Officers and Hertfordshire County Council (with support of the Local Government Association and National Association of Local Councils) mounted a legal challenge against the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government – seeking a declaration in High Court as to the interpretation of certain provisions under the Local Government Act 1972 (principally “meetings”, “attending”; and being “present”). This sought a more accommodating interpretation to allow virtual meetings to continue (if a Local Authority wished to do so on or after 7 May 2021).
- 7.4. This was heard by the High Court on 21 April 2021 and the challenge was unsuccessful, with the main Judgment handed down on 28 April, and a supplementary Judgment being published on 4 May 2021 regarding public access. This essentially means a reversion to pre-Flexibility of Meeting Regulations 2020 requirements, subject to any public health or Government guidance/ further legislation to the contrary.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

Flexible Meetings

- 8.1. Whilst this issue is still under review by Members and officers (with a view to seeking feasible and legal methods to conduct meetings and to cover issues for those Members who cannot attend), the amendments have been made to ensure that the Constitutional wording does not conflict with the Local Government Act 1972 requirements as from 7 May 2021, until or unless this situation is resolved.
- 8.2. The Government has called for evidence to potentially support new legislation.
- 8.3. This delegated decision will be reported to Council.
- 8.4. A further Constitutional review and amendment report will be undertaken and presented to Council during 2021.
- 8.5. Note that according to leading Counsel (Philip Kolvin QC), this does not apply to Licensing Act 2003 Committee ‘hearings’ – as they are subject to different legislative requirements, and those virtual hearings may continue. This will be something for the Council to determine.

NHDC Code of Conduct from 7 May 2021

- 8.6. Following Full Council’s decision on 15 April to adopt a new Code of Conduct for Members from the above date, some amendments have been identified in terms of terminology and the Constitution has therefore been updated as set out in Appendix A. The new Code will be part of the Constitution from 7 May and any further amendment (if necessary) will be dealt with in the subsequent review in 2021.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. Full Council’s terms of reference include “approving or adopting the Policy Framework”. The Policy Framework includes the Constitution.
- 9.2. Section 37 Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to have in place a Constitution and to keep that under review. The Local Government Act 2000 section 9P sets out the requirements of a local authority’s Constitution, including the requirements

to prepare it and keep it up to date and the requirement to make it available for public inspection.

- 9.3. Section 2.6.2(c) provides:

2.6.2 Minor Changes

If, in the reasonable opinion of the Monitoring Officer or the Chief Finance Officer, a change is:

(c) required to be made so as to put into effect any decision of the Council or its committees or the Cabinet; or..

the Monitoring Officer or the Chief Finance Officer may make such a change.

Changes under 2.6.2 must be notified to all Members.

- 9.4. Section 2.6.6 provides:

2.6.6 Legislative Change

Any part of the Constitution may be amended by the Monitoring Officer where such amendment is required to be made so as to comply with any legislative provision. Such amendments shall take effect when the Monitoring Officer so decides or the legislation (where relevant) so provides. Such changes shall be reported to the next full Council meeting.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this decision.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. Ensuring the Council has appropriate governance arrangements in place is an important risk mitigation measure. The Council's Constitution is a fundamental part of those governance arrangements.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 12.2 The Flexibility of Meetings Regulations 2020 have been of benefit for those with disabilities, or clinically vulnerable, in allowing Members, officers or the public to attend a meeting remotely during the pandemic. The Council will therefore continue to allow (in so far as it is technically able) public and press access remotely. It is also considering Hybrid provisions for Member and officers – albeit in respect of Members, their attendance in that way would not count toward the quorum of a formal meeting or ability to make a decision in a formal meeting.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this decision.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 In respect of the Flexibility of Meetings Regulations 2020 changes, these had perceived environmental benefits for the public, Members and Officers - by removing the

requirement to physically travel to and attend a meeting. In so far as the Council is able it will continue to promote such measures where practical even after the Flexibility of Meetings Regulations 2020 provisions lapse.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix A – Table of constitutional changes.

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Jeanette Thompson, Service Director Legal and Community, Monitoring Officer
jeanette.thompson@north-herts.gov.uk; ext 4370

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

NOTIFICATION DATE

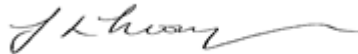
14 May 2021

Signature of Executive Member Consulted



.....

Signature of Decision Taker ...



.....

Date6.5.21.

Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.

Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS – THIS IS A NON-EXECUTIVE DECISION

Issue	Current Constitution Reference	Changes shown deletion strike through/ new wording in red
Section 3		
3.4 Adverse Weather	3.4.1 If prior to a meeting of any Committee adverse weather conditions are expected which will affect the ability of those attending the meeting (public, Councillors or Officers) to travel safely, it shall be the responsibility of the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the most senior Officer attending the Committee to determine whether to postpone the meeting, or hold this as a virtual meeting only. The Proper Officer shall be responsible for advising the public, Councillors and Officers of the postponement and setting a new date to re-convene the meeting, or that it will be a virtual meeting, in order to conclude the original agenda as soon as possible. done	3.4.1 If prior to a meeting of any Committee adverse weather conditions are expected which will affect the ability of those attending the meeting (public, Councillors or Officers) to travel safely, it shall be the responsibility of the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the most senior Officer attending the Committee to determine whether to postpone the meeting, or hold this as a virtual meeting only, where legally necessary to request that a delegated decision / decisions are made under urgency provisions. The Proper Officer shall be responsible for advising the public, Councillors and Officers of the postponement and setting a new date to re-convene the meeting, or that it will be a virtual meeting, in order to conclude the original agenda as soon as possible where applicable.
Section 4		
4.6 Council meetings	4.6 Council Meetings There are three types of Council meeting:- 4.6.1 the annual meeting; 4.6.2 ordinary meetings; and 4.6.3 extraordinary meetings. For all purposes of the Constitution the term "meeting" is not limited in meaning to a meeting of persons all of whom, or any of whom, are present in the same place and may be wholly or partly through remote means including (but not limited to) video conferencing,	4.6 Council Meetings There are three types of Council meeting:- 4.6.1 the annual meeting; 4.6.2 ordinary meetings; and 4.6.3 extraordinary meetings. For all purposes of the Constitution the term "meeting" is not limited in meaning to a meeting of persons all of whom, or any of whom, are present in the same place and may be wholly or partly through remote means including (but not limited to) video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming provided such remote means are legally permissible under relevant legislation.

Issue	Current Constitution Reference	Changes shown deletion strike through/ new wording in red
	live webcast, and live interactive streaming provided such remote means are legally permissible under relevant legislation.	
	<p>4.8.5 Time and Place of Meetings and Agenda setting the Agenda and Recording of Meetings by the Council</p> <p>(a) The time and place of meetings will be determined by the Proper Officer and notified in the summons. Place is to be interpreted as where a meeting is held, or to be held, and includes reference to more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations through remote means such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.</p>	<p>(a) The time and place of meetings will be determined by the Proper Officer and notified in the summons. Place is to be interpreted as where a meeting is held, or to be held, and includes reference to more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations through remote means such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.</p>
	<p>4.8.6 Notice of and Summons to Meetings</p> <p>(b)(iii)(iii) “open to the public” includes access to the meeting being through remote means including (but not limited to) video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming and where a meeting is accessible to the public through such remote means the meeting is open to the public whether or not members of the public are able to attend the meeting in person.</p>	<p>(iii) “open to the public” includes access to the meeting being through remote means including (but not limited to) video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming and where a meeting is accessible to the public through such remote means the meeting is open to the public whether or not members of the public are able to attend the meeting in person.</p>
Quorum	<p>Quorum and Members in Remote Attendance of Meetings</p> <p>4.8.8 Quorum and Members in Remote Attendance of Meetings</p> <p>Quorum:</p>	<p>4.8.8 Quorum and Members in Remote Attendance of Meetings</p> <p>Quorum:</p> <p>(a) The quorum of a meeting will be one quarter of the whole number of Members. During any meeting if the Chair counts the number of Members present and declares there is not a quorum present, then the</p>

Issue	Current Constitution Reference	Changes shown deletion strike through/ new wording in red
	<p>(a) The quorum of a meeting will be one quarter of the whole number of Members. During any meeting if the Chair counts the number of Members present and declares there is not a quorum present, then the meeting will adjourn immediately. In the event that there is a quorum present for subsequent agenda items, the meeting will resume. Remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chair. If they do not fix a date, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.</p> <p>Remote Attendance of Members: (b) A Member is in remote attendance if the conditions under 4.8.23 (a) (i)-(iii) are met.</p>	<p>meeting will adjourn immediately. In the event that there is a quorum present for subsequent agenda items, the meeting will resume. Remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chair, or where legally necessary to request that the relevant officer make the decision under urgency provisions. If they do not fix a date, or make such a request, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.</p> <p>Remote Attendance of Members: (b) A Member is in remote attendance if the conditions under 4.8.23 (a) (i)-(iii) are met.</p>
	<p>4.8.16 Voting (c) Method of Voting Unless a recorded vote is called for or applied under 4.8.16(e), (f) or (h) the Chair will take the vote by: (i) electronic voting system(s) for remote voting and, or voting in the Chamber; or (ii) roll-call of Members and the number of votes for, against or abstaining will be recorded; or (iii) show of hands; or (iv) if there is no dissent, by the affirmation of the meeting.</p>	<p>(c) Method of Voting Unless a recorded vote is called for or applied under 4.8.16(e), (f) or (h) the Chair will take the vote by: (i) electronic voting system(s) for remote voting and, or voting in the Chamber; or (ii) roll-call of Members and the number of votes for, against or abstaining will be recorded; or (iii) show of hands; or (iv) if there is no dissent, by the affirmation of the meeting.</p>
Remote access for the press and public	<p>4.8.19 Exclusion of Public (b) If during a remote meeting the Chair is made aware that a public</p>	NB (a) remains.

Issue	Current Constitution Reference	Changes shown deletion strike through/ new wording in red
	<p>meeting is not open to the public, due to any technological or other failure, then the Chair shall adjourn the meeting. If the provision of access through remote means cannot be restored within a reasonable period, then the remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chair. If they do not fix a date, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.</p>	<p>(b) — If during a remote meeting the Chair is made aware that a public meeting is not open to the public, due to any technological or other failure, then the Chair shall adjourn the meeting. If the provision of access through remote means cannot be restored within a reasonable period, then the remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chair. If they do not fix a date, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.</p>
	<p>4.8.20 Members' Conduct Where a Member is required to leave under (d) or (e) above, the means of remote attendance and access is to be disconnected whilst any discussion or vote takes place in respect of the item or items of business to which this relates or remainder of the meeting in the case of (d).</p>	<p>Where a Member is required to leave under (d) or (e) above, the means of remote attendance and they are at the meeting virtually, access is to be disconnected whilst any discussion or vote takes place in respect of the item or items of business to which this relates or remainder of the meeting in the case of (d).</p>
	<p>4.8.21 Disturbance by Public (a) Removal of Member of the Public If a member of the public interrupts proceedings, the Chair will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chair will order their removal from the meeting. If this meeting is partly or wholly remote, then use of language, or electronic methods or imagery which disrupts the meeting (whether intended or not) would lead to the person being muted, and or video stream from them being disabled to excluded them from any further participation.</p>	<p>(a) Removal of Member of the Public If a member of the public interrupts proceedings, the Chair will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chair will order their removal from the meeting. If this meeting is partly or wholly remote they are in attendance remotely, then use of language, or electronic methods or imagery which disrupts the meeting (whether intended or not) would lead to the person being muted, and or video stream from them being disabled to excluded them from any further participation.</p>

Issue	Current Constitution Reference	Changes shown deletion strike through/ new wording in red
	<p>4.8.23 Decision Making</p> <p>(a) In order to vote on an agenda item at any meeting of the Council or a Committee or Sub-Committee, a Member must be present for the entirety of the debate and consideration of that item. A Member in remote attendance is present and attends the meeting if at all times they can:</p> <p>(i) hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, the other Members in attendance; and</p> <p>(ii) hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting in order to exercise a right to speak at the meeting; and</p> <p>(iii) be heard when entitled to speak and, where practicable, be seen by any other members of the public attending the meeting.</p> <p>If the above are not met and as soon as the Chair is made aware, the Chair may:</p> <p>(iv) adjourn the meeting for a short period to permit the conditions for remote attendance of a Member contained in (a) above to be re-established; or if quorate</p> <p>(v) continue to transact the remaining business of the meeting in</p>	<p>(a) In order to vote on an agenda item at any meeting of the Council or a Committee or Sub-Committee, a Member must be present for the entirety of the debate and consideration of that item. A Member in remote attendance is present and attends the meeting if at all times they can:</p> <p>(i) hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, the other Members in attendance; and</p> <p>(ii) hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting in order to exercise a right to speak at the meeting; and</p> <p>(iii) be heard when entitled to speak and, where practicable, be seen by any other members of the public attending the meeting.</p> <p>If the above are not met and as soon as the Chair is made aware, the Chair may:</p> <p>(iv) adjourn the meeting for a short period to permit the conditions for remote attendance of a Member contained in (a) above to be re-established; or if quorate</p> <p>(v) continue to transact the remaining business of the meeting in the absence of the Member in remote attendance.</p>

Issue	Current Constitution Reference	Changes shown deletion strike through/ new wording in red
	the absence of the Member in remote attendance.	
Application to Committees and Sub-Committees	4.8.24 Application to Committees and Sub-Committees	Amendment to remove reference to 4.8.8(b).
Section 15		
Access to Information rules	<p>Section 15 Access to information Rules</p> <p>15.3 Members of the public may attend all meetings subject only to the exceptions in these rules. Attendance includes access to the meeting being through remote means including (but not limited to) video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming and where a meeting is accessible to the public through such remote means the meeting is open to the public whether or not members of the public are able to attend the meeting in person.</p>	<p>Members of the public may attend all meetings subject only to the exceptions in these rules. Attendance includes access to the meeting being through remote means including (but not limited to) video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming where applicable and where a meeting is accessible to the public through such remote means the meeting is open to the public whether or not members of the public are able to attend the meeting in person.</p>
Various		
Following adoption of new NHDC Code 15 April 2021 and its new wording	Previous references to ‘Declarable Interests’ in Constitution now refer to ‘Other Registrable Interest’	<p>4.8.20(e); App 2 to Section 8, para 1.3; App 3 to Section 8, 1 & amend “(as set out in Part 2 of the Code of Conduct).” App 3 to Section 8, 2; App 3 to Section 8, 3; App 3 to Section 8, 6; Section 18, 9.</p>