

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

**Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
on Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022 at 7.30 pm**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Terry Hone, Gary Grindal, Lisa Nash, Raj Bhakar, Sam North, Simon Harwood, Carol Stanier, Terry Tyler, Juan Cowell, Faye Frost, David Barnard, Jean Green and Adam Compton

2 MINUTES - 10 FEBRUARY 2022

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10 February 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;

(2) Members were reminded that this Council had declared a Climate Emergency. This was a serious decision and meant that, as this was an emergency, all of us, officers and Members had that in mind as we carried out our various roles and tasks for the benefit of our District;

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

(4) The Chair advised that the usual debate in respect of debate and times to speak would apply;

(5) The Chair advised that there had been a change to the order of business and that items 10, 11 and 12 be taken before items 8 and 9.

(6) The Chair advised that there was no longer a requirement for Members to stand while addressing the Council;

(7) The Chair advised that there would be a comfort break at 9pm or a suitable break in business thereabouts;

(8) The Chair advised that the fundraiser in support of her chosen charities would be taking place on 22 May at The Orange Tree in Baldock, and that tickets would be available soon on the Council website.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions submitted by Members.

7 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were 2 motions on notice submitted in accordance with Standing Orders 4.8.12 and 4.8.15(b).

a) MOTION ON HYBRID MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

(1) That Council supports the petition launched by ADSO and LLG on 5 January with regard to remote and hybrid meetings.

(2) That Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling on the Government to change the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deem appropriate within agreed rules and procedures.

b) MOTION SIMILAR TO ONE PREVIOUSLY REJECTED

RESOLVED: That Full Council considers a report and recommendation on an offer to acquire the Churchgate leasehold on its meeting on 23 March.

8 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no items referred from other Committees.

9 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

RESOLVED:

(1) That Council approves the 2022/23 Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix 1.

(2) That Council delegates the authority for revisions made in year to the Pay Policy Statement, to the Service Director – Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council. Revisions which might arise in the year include changes in structure, changes to employment benefits, subsequent pay awards agreed nationally and new legislative requirements.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, Statutory Guidance issued under s40 and the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.

10 CHURCHGATE UPDATE

RESOLVED: That having considered the report, Full Council confirms that its position on respect of the future of the Churchgate Shopping Centre is: -

(1) That in principle the Council should purchase the leasehold interest for the Churchgate Shopping Centre, subject to the economic case for doing so.

(2) That any regeneration of Churchgate and the surrounding area must be a viable investment that maintains a return for the Council.

(3) That a Council led approach should be adopted where following consultation with the public and other stakeholders, the Council will come to a decision on what it considers is most appropriate vision for the future of the site.

(4) That the Council then decides how to deliver that vision for the site and any necessary delivery partners for the work.

Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022

REASON FOR DECISION: The previous developer led approaches for the regeneration of the Churchgate Shopping Centre, and often the surrounding area, have not produced a proposal that has met the aspirations of the Council to (at least) maintain its existing income through a sympathetically designed scheme that is financially viable and acceptable

11 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

12 CHURCHGATE UPDATE - PART 2

Details of decisions taken on this item are restricted due to the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.