

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the To be advised  
on Monday, 17th January, 2022 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Adem Ruggerio-Cakir.

### 2 MINUTES - 15 DECEMBER 2021

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 15 December 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (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 drew attention to a supplementary agenda pack for item 7 that had been published containing an updated version of Appendix A owing to a technical problem with the original document.

### 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

### 6 UPDATED CONTRACT PROCUREMENT RULES FOR 2022/2023

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee considers the proposed changes and recommends their adoption to Full Council.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** That the Contract Procurement Rules are part of the Constitution (under Section 20) and are revised and updated periodically as part of the Council's governance and procurement review processes, contributing to effective organisational internal control.

### 7 REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23

#### **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:**

- (1) That Cabinet approves the decrease in the 2021/22 working budget of £111k, as detailed in table 5;

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- (2) That Cabinet recommends to Council to note the position on the Collection Fund and how it will be funded;
- (3) That Cabinet recommends to Council to note the position relating to the General Fund balance and that due to the risks identified a minimum balance of £2.95 million is recommended;
- (4) That Cabinet recommends to Council to approve the saving and investments as detailed in Appendix B;
- (5) That Cabinet recommends to Council to approve a net expenditure budget of £18.123m, as detailed in Appendix C.
- (6) That Cabinet recommends to Council to approve a Council Tax increase of £5 or a band D property (other bands with pro-rata increases). This is in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and is equivalent to 2.08%.

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

## **8 INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY)**

### **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:**

- (1) That Cabinet recommends to Council the adoption of the Investment Strategy (as attached at Appendix A), including the capital programme and prudential indicators;
- (2) That Cabinet recommends to Council the adoption of the four clauses in relation to the Code of Practice on Treasury Management (as detailed in paragraphs 8.12 to 8.17)

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

## **9 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Chair requested that, should any Members have any suggestions for agenda items for future meetings, they advise himself, officers or the Committee Clerk