

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the To be advised  
on Wednesday, 16th March, 2022 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adem Ruggerio-Cakir, Sean Prendergast and Morgan Derbyshire.

### 2 MINUTES - 17 JANUARY 2022

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17 January would be approved at the next Committee meeting, due to it not being included in the agenda pack.

### 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.

### 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

### 6 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee is recommended to approve the amended AGS and Action Plan (Appendix A)

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The AGS must be considered and approved by this Committee before the Statement of Accounts under Regulation 6(4)(a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations ('AAR') 2015/234.

### 7 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2022

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee approves the Local Code of Corporate Governance 2022 (Appendix A)

**REASON FOR DECISION:** It is recommended practice to review the Local Code of Corporate Governance each year to ensure it remains up to date and relevant.

### 8 AUDIT RESULTS REPORT

**RESOLVED:** That the Audit Results Report be noted by the Committee.

**9 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21**

**RESOLVED:**

(1) That the draft 2020/21 Annual Statement of Accounts, as set out in Appendix A, be approved based on the draft Audit Results report.

(2) That, subject to the final Audit Results report not requiring any substantial changes, the Committee delegates to the Chair of the Committee the final approval of the 2020/21 Annual Statement of Accounts. This will include confirming that the Chair of the Committee can sign the Statement of Accounts to confirm that they have been approved by the Committee.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure that the Council abides by the Audit and Account Regulations 2015, which require the approval and publication of audited Statement of Accounts.

**10 SAFS PROPOSED ANTI-FRAUD PLAN 2022/23 AND PROGRESS WITH DELIVERY OF 2021/22 PLAN**

**RESOLVED:**

(1) That the Committee approves the Anti-Fraud Plan 2022/23;

(2) That the Committee notes the activity to protect the Council against fraud and corruption in 2021/22.

**11 UPDATED FRAUD POLICY**

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee approve the amended Fraud Prevention Policy as attached at Appendix A.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The policy is kept under regular review. As explained in section 8 it is beneficial for SAFS to take on the MLRO role for the Council.

**12 AUDIT PLAN 2022/2023**

**RESOLVED:**

(1) That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee approve the proposed North Herts Council Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23;

(2) That the Committee agree on the Medium Priority Audits to be completed in Quarter 1 and 2.

**13 Q3 2021/22 AUDIT UPDATE REPORT**

**RESOLVED:**

(1) That the Committee notes the SIAS Progress Report for the period to 18 February 2022.

(2) To note the plan amendments to the 2021/22 Annual Audit Plan

**14 RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee notes that there were no changes to Corporate Risk scores in this quarter.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

- (1) The responsibility for ensuring the management of risks is that of Cabinet;
- (2) This Committee has responsibility to monitor the effective development and operation of Risk Management.

**15 THIRD QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22**

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:**

- (1) The Committee recommends to Cabinet to note the report;
- (2) The Committee recommends to Cabinet to approve the changes to the 2021/22 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a £510k decrease in net expenditure;
- (3) The Committee recommends to Cabinet to approve the changes to the 2022/23 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a total £238k increase in net expenditure.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** Members are able to monitor, make adjustments within the overall budgetary framework and request appropriate action of Services who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process.

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

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:**

- (1) The Committee recommends to Cabinet to note the forecast expenditure of £2.424M in 2021/22 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers;
- (2) The Committee recommends to Cabinet to approve the adjustments to the capital programme for 2021/22 onwards, as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2 and 3, increasing the estimated spend in 2022/23 by £0.823M;
- (3) The Committee recommends to Cabinet to note the position of the availability of capital resources, as detailed in table 4 paragraph 8.6 and the requirement to keep the capital programme under review for affordability;
- (4) The Committee recommends to Cabinet to note the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of December 2021

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

- (1) Cabinet is required to approve adjustments to the capital programme and ensure the capital programme is fully funded.
- (2) To ensure the Council's continued compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management and the Local Government Act 2003 and that the Council manages its exposure to interest and capital risk.

**17 TAX COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK**

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee comment on and note the proposed Tax Compliance Framework.

**Wednesday, 16th March, 2022**

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The Council will benefit from having a Tax Compliance Framework, as it means that it will be allocated a contact at HMRC to discuss any relevant issues. This will support ongoing tax compliance. It also demonstrates best practice.

**18 COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN**

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:** That Cabinet considers and formally approves the Council Delivery Plan and any associated targets, to be monitored throughout 2022/2023 by Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

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

**19 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.