

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**MEETING HELD IN THE REMOTE MEETING**  
**ON TUESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 2022 AT 7.30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** *Councillors: Councillor Steve Jarvis and Councillor Amy Allen (Chair), Val Bryant, George Davies, Sarah Dingley, Gerald Morris, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Tom Tyson and Michael Muir.*

**In Attendance:**

*Reuben Ayavoo (Policy and Community Engagement Manager), Georgina Chapman (Policy Officer), Louis Mutter (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer)*

**Also Present:**

*At the commencement of the meeting approximately 10 members of the public, including registered speakers.*

**35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

*Audio recording – 2:10*

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Juan Cowell.

**36 MINUTES - 16 NOVEMBER 2021**

*Audio Recording – 2:23*

Councillor Amy Allen proposed, Councillor Gerald Morris seconded, and it was:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Panel held on 16 November 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

**37 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Audio recording – 2:50*

- (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 5 which had been published containing an updated version of the Action Tracker owing to an administrative error with the original document.

**38 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

*Audio recording – 3:35*

There was no other business notified.

### 39 **INFORMATION NOTE: WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER**

*Audio Recording: 5:10*

The Policy and Community Engagement Manager and Policy Officer presented the Information note entitled Work Programme and Action Tracker for 2021/22 and drew attention to the following:

- Contributions made to the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership. Work is now being assigned to officers;
- An action in the Biodiversity Action Plan was around a creation of a biodiversity baseline;
- Have completed a delegated decision for a county-wide 'Solar Bulk Buy Scheme'. This is waiting for approval at HCCSP, and is due to be considered shortly;
- Continuing to attend meetings as part of the Behaviour Change subgroup at HCCSP;
- Hertfordshire Energy Advice Tool – Energy saving app for residents which can be downloaded in the App Store;
- Attended a session on engaging the public on climate change as part of the HCCSP;
- Having identified adaptation as a key priority, the HCCSP set up an adaptations subgroup;
- North Herts Policy Team has been working with the Communications Team to produce a climate change communication plan for the year.
- Involved in reviewing the upcoming Greenspace Management Strategy to make sure it aligns with NHC policies.
- 10,000 free trees being provided to residents have all been given away.
- Set up an environmental inbox to allow the public and organisations to provide suggestions for the Panel's consideration.

**RESOLVED:** That the Information note entitled Work Programme and Action Tracker for 2022 was updated.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure the Cabinet Panel on the Environment is able to plan its workload and monitor actions.

### 40 **PRESENTATION ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Lynne Ceeney, Herts LEADS, gave a presentation on Adaptation to Climate Change.

Some key points from the presentation were:

- Climate change adaptation is identifying the risks that climate change causes and either removing them completely or reducing them to a manageable level;
- Determining incremental risks as a result of climate change can be difficult compared to sudden events;
- A case study was provided, which highlighted the risk analysis of climate change impact by Cardiff Airport;
- How to prioritise climate change risk;
- How to create an adaptation action programme.

The Chair lead a discussion following the presentation.

The following Members and members of the public took part:

- Kimberly Hare
- Councillor Steve Jarvis
- Nicky Clark
- Georgina Chapman
- Reuben Ayavoo
- Councillor Amy Allen

The discussion covered a range of points including:

- The HEART report on adaptation;
- Adaptation to climate change on a community level;
- Backup plans due to effects to communication from climate change;
- HCCSP's progress in these issues;
- Switching from prevention to management depending on the frequency of events.

The Chair thanked Lynne Ceeney for her presentation.

#### **41 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & DISCUSSION**

*Audio recording – 1:07:30*

The Chair invited Sue Lines to speak about upcoming eco festivals in the area.

Sue Lines and Diane Ketcher provided a background of events and gave a list of upcoming events including:

- Baldock is planning an eco-fest on 7 May;
- Hitchin on 14 May;
- Letchworth are looking at hosting something on 10 September.

The following Members took part in a discussion:

- Councillor Val Bryant
- Councillor Steve Jarvis

Some of the points discussed included:

- Taking part in organisation of these festivals;
- Issues around officer availability;
- The Council's role in these events.

The Chair thanked Sue Lines and Diane Ketcher for their contributions to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Chair