

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City on Tuesday, 15th March, 2022 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daniel Allen and Carol Stanier.

2 MINUTES - 18 JANUARY 2022

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 January 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) 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 no public participation.

6 URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS

There were no Urgent or General Exception Items.

7 CALLED-IN ITEMS

There were no Called-In Items.

8 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Committee considered and commented on the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2021/2022 as attached at Appendix A prior to consideration by Council.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and comment on the report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of the Committee in the 2021/2022 Civic Year prior to consideration by Council

9 RESOLUTIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the report entitled 'Resolutions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee' was noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review and comment on actions and feedback received regarding resolutions previously made

10 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee prioritises proposed topics for inclusion in the work programmes attached as Appendix A and, where appropriate, determines the high-level form and timing of scrutiny input.
- (2) That the Committee, having considered the most recent iteration of the Forward Plan, suggested the Conservation Areas and Corporate Equality Policy items and a regular Commercial Update to be considered at future meetings and any further suggestions could be made to the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager.
- (3) That the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan Extract as attached was considered.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To allow the Committee to set a work programme which provides focussed Member oversight, encourages open debate and seeks to achieve service improvement through effective policy development and meaningful policy and service change.

11 3RD QUARTER MONITORING REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR 2021-22

RESOLVED: That delivery against the key projects for 21/22 was noted and commented on by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable achievements against the key projects for 2021/22 to be considered.

12 3RD QUARTER UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RESOLVED: That the content of the report entitled '3rd Quarter Updates on Performance Indicators' was noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To update the Committee on the performance indicators as well as other indicators that officers have updated and activated on Pentana Risk.

13 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEASURES 2022-23

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: To consider and formally approve the Council Delivery Plan and any associated targets, to be monitored throughout 2022/2023 by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

REASON FOR DECISION: 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

14 SHARED WASTE SERVICE GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) To agree to the new overarching aim of the shared services and principles outlined in 8.10 and 8.12.
- (2) To endorse the formation of a joint cross party working group. The terms of reference for which are outlined in Appendix A and the outline work programme described in 8.19.

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- (3) To agree to explore the future options for governance of the Shared Waste Service, including consideration of a joint committee consisting of representation by both East Herts Council and North Herts District Council.
- (4) To establish the Joint Cross Party Working Group prior to the start of the new contract negotiations.
- (5) To ensure that relevant Governance and scrutiny processes are in place prior to the start of the new contract negotiations.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) Waste services are one of the largest services provided to residents in both Councils, a “one service” approach promotes resilience and flexibility ensuring residents and customers receive a high-quality service. The recommendations are being made to enable the further alignment of services, through joint decision making, and consequently the long term efficient and optimal management of the services.
- (2) A new aligned governance structure would promote a unified, stable and long-term strategic vision for the shared service and ensures:
 - a service that is agile and responsive to changes
 - reduction in customer confusion
 - better engagement/ use of skills/talent and retention of staff and therefore service delivered to customers
 - continuous improvement within the services
 - improved resource visibility and flexibility
 - aligned timeframes and increased speed for decision making
 - greater consistency and stability leading to greater interest and competitiveness from the market.
- (3) To identify areas where there may be difficulties or issues faced with the merging of the services in East and North Herts.

15 GREENSPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022-27

RECOMMEND TO CABINET:

- (1) Adopt the Vision, Objectives and Aims for managing Greenspace as detailed at 7.4 below.
- (2) Review and adopt the Greenspace Management Strategy 2022-27 at Appendix A.
- (3) Agree the delegation for creating an Action Plan arising from the GSMS and an annual review of the Action Plan to the Greenspace Manager in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure and the Service Director - Place.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) These recommendations are put forward to ensure there is an ongoing proactive and pragmatic approach for the future management and maintenance of Greenspace within North Herts for the period April 2022 – March 2027.
- (2) Additionally, the GSMS 2022 – 2027 provides the strategic link between the previous Greenspace strategies and the future demands placed upon North Herts District Council, specifically; managing the environment and biodiversity, finance and planning while delivering high quality greenspace services to our existing and newly developed infrastructure.

16 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted by Members.