

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City  
on Tuesday, 7th December, 2021 at 7.00 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bishop, Jean Green, Kay Tart, Keith Hoskins, Sean Prendergast, David Barnard, Faye Frost, Carol Stanier, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Paul Clark, Terry Tyler and Lisa Nash.

### 2 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) It was with great sadness that the Chair announced that former Councillor Bill Davidson had passed away earlier this month.

A minutes silence was held in his memory.

- (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) Members were reminded of the rules in respect to debate and speaking times;

- (4) 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.

### 3 RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE 6 MONTH RULE – SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

**RESOLVED:** That Council approves an extension of the six-month rule for Councillor John Bishop, on ill-health grounds, for an additional six-month period, until 15 July 2022, subject to re-election in May 2022.

#### **REASONS FOR DECISION:**

- (1) Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that *'if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority'*. Despite attempts for this to be changed (the Local Government Association previously lobbied for this to be dealt with potentially under the Coronavirus Bill 2020), this remains the current situation.
- (2) To enable Cllr Bishop to continue to serve as a District Councillor.