

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chambers, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Tuesday, 14th March, 2023 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sean Prendergast.

2 MINUTES - 31 JANUARY 2023

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 31 January 2023 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 this meeting would be audio recorded.
- (2) The Chair reminded Member that the Council has declared a Climate Emergency. This was a serious decision and means 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. More details were included on the agenda front sheet.
- (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 advised that for the purposes of clarification Clause 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution does not apply to this meeting.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The Chair advised that each referral would be considered under the relevant agenda item.

7 SUSTAINABILITY SPD

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposed structure and breadth of the draft Sustainability SPD was approved.
- (2) That the issues and points raised by the Cabinet Panel on the Environment were noted.
- (3) That, for the purposes of developing the draft SPD, Cabinet endorsed the principles of:
 - A tiered approach to assessing the sustainability of new buildings in terms of both built fabric and operational efficiency; and

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- Investigation of the application of parking standards, both residential and non-residential, with a view to reducing or offsetting them where appropriate.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: To allow the Sustainability SPD to be progressed so that it may be publicly consulted upon with a view to being adopted.

8 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Council's current Statement of Community Involvement should be revised and replaced having regard to the factors outlined in this report.
- (2) That the revised draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) as attached as Appendix A to this report, be noted and approved for a six week public consultation.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: Officers consider that the SCI should be updated to reflect the change in emphasis from preparing the local plan to its implementation, particularly through masterplanning.

9 THIRD QUARTER 2022/23 INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY)

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the forecast expenditure of £8.370M in 2022/23 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers.
- (2) Approved the adjustments to the capital programme for 2022/23 onwards, as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2 and 3, increasing the estimated spend in 2023/24 by £1.554M.
- (3) Noted 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) Considered the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of December 2022.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (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.

10 THIRD QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the report.

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- (2) Approved the changes to the 2022/23 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.3, a £1.060million decrease in net expenditure.
- (3) Approved the changes to the 2023/24 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.3, a total £532k increase in net expenditure.
- (4) Approved the use of £140k of salary budget carry-forward for additional Service Director capacity for an 18- month period, and that the allocation of the remainder (if needed) will be delegated to the Managing Director (as Head of Paid Service), in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance and IT.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS: 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.

11 Q3 UPDATE ON COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the:

- (1) Progress against Council projects as set out in the Council Delivery Plan (Appendix A) including changes to milestone dates and risks.
- (2) Completion of the Business Recovery Grants, EV Charging for Council Vehicles and the Help Residents make payments at convenient Location milestones for this year.
- (3) Reduction in the Local Plan risk score from a 9, to a risk score of 6 following the end of the Judicial review period.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS: The Council Delivery Plan (CDP) monitoring reports provide Cabinet with an opportunity to monitor progress against the key Council projects, and understand any new issues, risks, or opportunities.

12 2023-24 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEASURES - COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN

RESOLVED: Cabinet considered and formally approved the Council Delivery Plan to be monitored throughout 2023/2024 by Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

REASONS 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 2023/24.

13 RIPA POLICY UPDATE

RESOLVED: The Cabinet approved the RIPA Policy as amended (Appendix A).

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with best practice guidance.

14 LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT UPDATE

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved:

- (1) A Competitive Procedure with Negotiation (CPN) procedure for the procurement of the Leisure Management contract.
- (2) The delegation of powers to the Director of Place in consultation with project board, in relation to decisions associated with the development of the procurement strategy.
- (3) The letting of a 10-year contract with an option to extend by up to 5 years.

- (4) The combining of the existing three contracts into a single contract, using the nationally recognised Sport England contract format, in order to secure economies of scale and to attract the most interest from the operator market.
- (5) To continue with the principle of the existing contractual shared risk approach to utilities and maintenance.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS: the leisure management contract. expire on 31 March 2024. These recommendations ensure the procurement will be managed effectively to ensure the successful ongoing provision of leisure services in North Herts. The Procurement offers an opportunity to review the existing specification and provide a clear policy position on its approach to the future delivery of sports, leisure, physical activity and wellbeing across the district.